SC-03-03 (05)

**3rd Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
Scientific Committee
20-24 March 2017, Saint Denis, La Reunion**

National Report – European Union

Relates to agenda item: 3   Working paper ⊠ Info paper ☐

Delegation of the European Union

Abstract

Two vessels, one from EU-France and another from EU-Spain were operating in the SIOFA CA in 2017, in the Saya de Malha Bank - Area 8 (EU-France) and Areas 2 and 3b for EU-Spain vessel. Fishing effort remains stable for EU vessels. EU countries continue the process of recovering accurate and fine scale data from historical fishing activity in the SIOFA CA. EU-Spain implemented a dedicated scientific observation in 2017 and EU-France is training specific observes for this region that will be on board in 2018.

Recommendations *(working papers only)*

1. That the Scientific Committee considers the National Report provided by the European Union.

National Report (European Union)

Submitted to SIOFA SC annual meeting (Saint-Dennis, La Réunion, 20-24 March 2018)

EU Delegation

1. Introduction

The report presents an overview of the fishery data available from the EU fleets operating at SIOFA CA. This information should be considered merely informative, as some inconsistencies were detected in the process of historical data recovery, regarding species identification.

The information is still valuable to provide a general overview of past and present of fishing activity and of the main marine resources with commercial interest in the area. Despite the effort to crosscheck this historical data set still needed, this should not divert attention from the principal task, which is to design and implement a system to collect the appropriate current data using standard forms, to assess the fished populations from the first steps of the organization.

2. Summary of fishing activity in the SIOFA Area

This report includes data from the EU member States active in SIOFA (France and Spain) during the period indicated in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Summary of EU-France fleet activity in the SIOFA Area.

Year	Number of vessels
2009	2
2010	2
2011	2
2012	2
2013	2
2014	1
2015	interruption
2016	1
2017	1

Two EU-France vessels are fishing demersal species in the SIOFA Area, in the Saya de Malha Bank. They are longliners, less than 25m. There has been a directed fishery for demersal species since 2009 (interrupted in

2015 for external reasons). Whereas the longliners's main activity is the tuna fishery, they regularly finish their fishing trip on the Saya de Malha Bank to catch demersal fishes they will send on the fresh market of La Réunion.

Table 2. Summary of EU-Spain fleet activity in the SIOFA Area.

Year	Number vessels	Fishing period	Gear
2000	1	May - November	Bottom trawl / Midwater trawl
2001	1	October - November	Bottom trawl / Midwater trawl
2003	1	May - June	Bottom longline
2004	2	August - November September - December	Bottom longline
2005	2	August - November January-February & November - December	Bottom longline
2006	2	August - December January & November - December	Bottom longline
2007	2	January - December January-February & December	Bottom longline
2008	2	January - May January - December	Bottom longline
2009	1	January - March	Bottom longline
2013	1	January - December	Gillnet
2014	1	January - December	Gillnet
2015	1	January - December	Gillnet: January - March Bottom longline: April -December
2016	1	January - December	Bottom longline
2017	1	January & May-December	Bottom longline

Information on Table 2 summarizes records on trawl, bottom longline and bottom gillnet fisheries conducted by the EU-Spain fleets in the SIOFA CA. Since 2015 only one vessel is present in the area, fishing with bottom longline.

The fishing footprint of EU-Spain fleets is shown in Figure 1, using a 10'x10' grid. This activity took place in Areas 1, 2, 3, 3b and 8, where the greatest density of fishing operations occurred in Area 2 (Walters Shoals).

3. Target species - catch and effort summaries

The target species (in French) of EU-France fleet operating in the SIOFA area were:

- *Colas fil* (PFM)
- *Vivaneaux* (SNA, AVR, ETC, ETA)
- *Dentés* (SBX)
- *Mérous* (GPX, EEP, EWU, EEA, EML)
- *Empereurs* (EMP, LTQ)

In line with confidentiality restrictions that prevent the disclosure of fishing activity by fewer than five vessels, catch data cannot be presented for EU-France operations in the SIOFA area (Table 3).

Table 3. Specific catch composition (proportion) by year and area for the EU-France fleet (2009-2017).

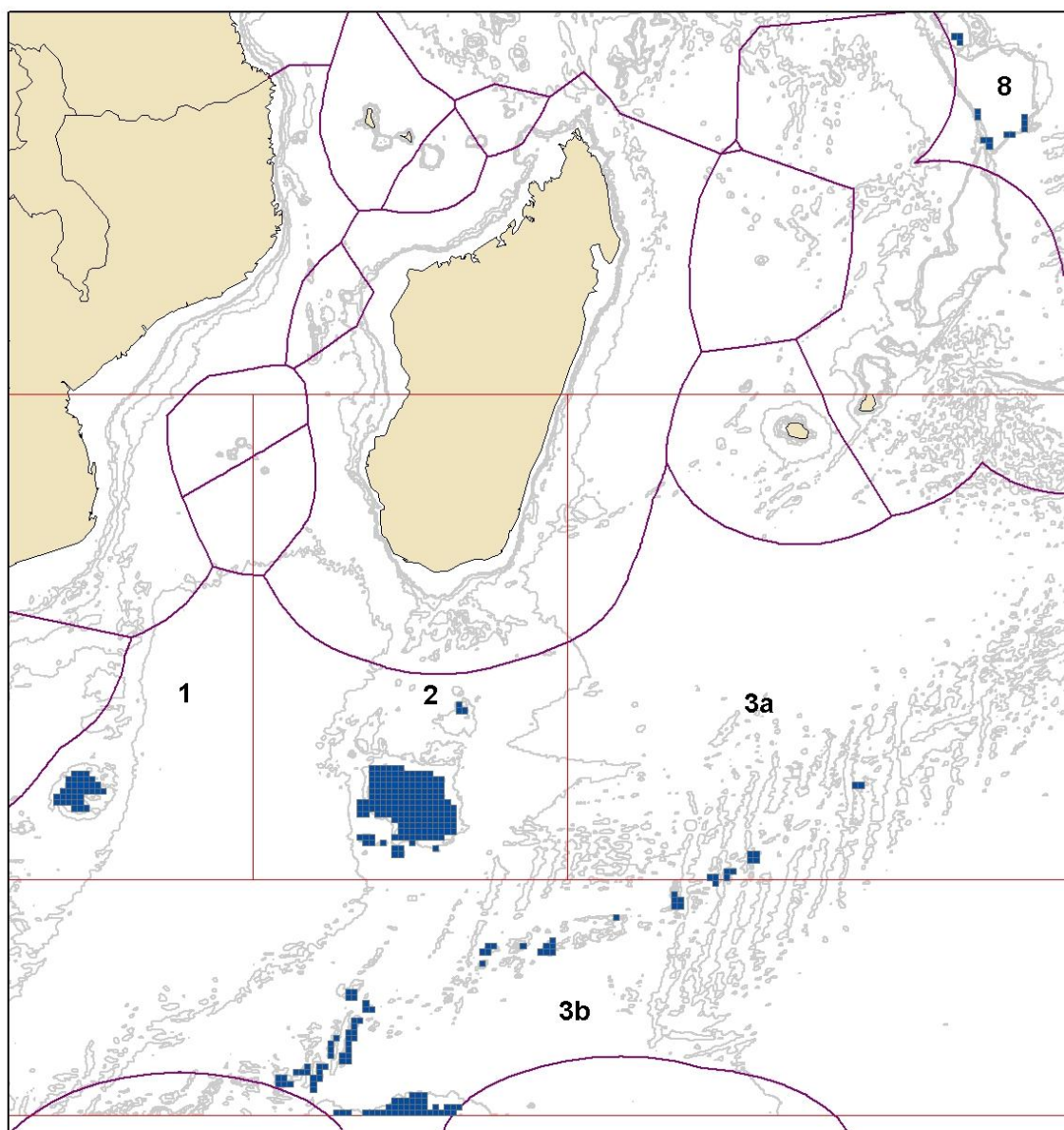| Year	Vivaneaux	Colas fil	Mérous	Empereurs	Dentés	Autres
2009	0,31	0,17	0,13	0,16	0,05	0,18
2010	0,25	0,34	0,15	0,13	0,06	0,07
2011	0,29	0,18	0,14	0,09	0,07	0,22
2012	0,33	0,33	0,06	0,04	0,00	0,24
2013	0,16	0,41	0,07	0,04	0,08	0,25
2014	0,06	0,46	0,06	0,00	0,00	0,42
2016	0,25	0,05	0,17	0,01	0,24	0,28
2017	0.18	0.03	0.45	0.05	0.27	0.8

Figure 1.- EU-Spain fleets fishing footprint (10'x10' grid; 2000-2017).

Historically, the target species of EU-Spain fleets operating in SIOFA seamount were: the Alfonsinos (*Beryx* spp.); Orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*); Wreckfish (*Polyprion* spp.); Portuguese dogfish

(*Centroscymnus coelolepis*); Southern boarfish (*Pseudopentaceros richardsoni*); and Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*). Within the by-catch species of commercial interest it can be highlighted: the Bluenose warehou (*Hyperoglyphe antarctica*); Blackbelly rosefish (*Helicolenus dactylopterus*); Common mora (*Mora moro*); Oilfish (*Ruvettus pretiosus*); Black cardinal fish (*Epigonus telescopus*); Birdbeak dogfish (*Deania calcea*); Kitefin shark (*Dalatias licha*); Lanternshark (*Etmopterus* spp); Roudi escolar (*Promethichthys prometheus*); Violet warehou (*Schedophilus velaini*); Oreo dories (Oreosomatidae) and others.

In Table 4, specific catch composition is shown for the last fishing seasons (2013-2017) and areas were the catches occurred. In figure 2 and 3, graphs presented the species composition on the catches and the evolution of fishing effort, respectively. In this period, the Portuguese dogfish was de main species in the catches and the fishery are mainly concentrated in Area 2. However, during 2017 the only EU-Spain vessel fishing in the CA has conducted its fishing operations in areas 2 and3, targeting deep-sea sharks and Patagonian toothfish respectively.

The fishing effort (Fig. 3) remains stable since 2016 and at a level of around 3200 (Hooks/1000) per year.

Table 4. Specific catch composition (%) by year and area for the EU-Spain fleet (2013-2017). (Under review)

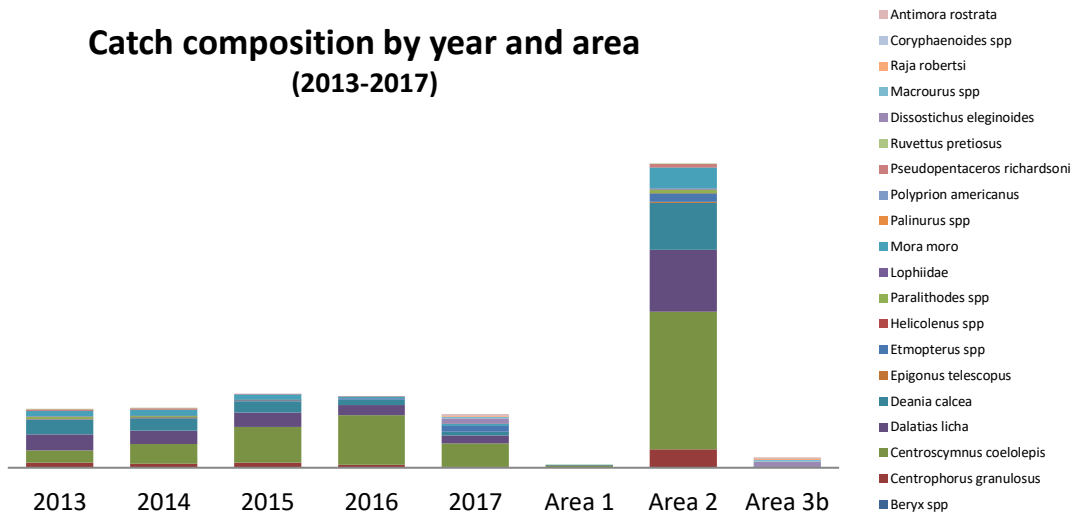| Species/Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3b
Beryx spp	0.35	0.11	0.03				0.09	
Centrophorus granulosus	8.44	6.95	7.04	4.04	1.64		5.93	0.04
Centroscymnus coelolepis	20.90	33.06	48.70	69.35	43.07	85.21	45.33	4.59
Dalatias licha	27.11	22.36	19.27	14.48	15.20	1.31	20.33	0.13
Deania calcea	24.46	20.59	15.31	7.11	7.51		15.43	0.30
Epigonus telescopus	0.96	0.51				0.40	0.28	
Etmopterus spp	1.38	1.35	0.99	1.51	10.25	10.05	2.84	0.52
Helicolenus spp	0.08	0.01	0.00				0.02	
Lophiidae	0.38	0.27	0.58	0.23	0.24		0.36	
Mora moro	9.47	10.42	6.75	3.08	3.88	2.02	6.86	0.85
Palinurus spp	0.03						0.01	
Paralithodes spp	3.39	2.53	0.56			1.01	1.28	
Polyprion americanus	0.07		0.04				0.02	
Pseudopentaceros richardsoni	2.36	1.85	0.73	0.20	0.43		1.12	
Ruvettus pretiosus	0.62	0.01					0.12	
Dissostichus eleginoides					10.07			53.02
Macrourus spp					2.89			15.22
Raja robertsi					1.99			10.49
Coryphaenoides spp					0.01			0.07
Antimora rostrata					2.81			14.77

Figure 2.- Specific catch composition by year and area of the EU-Spain fleet (period 2013- 2017).
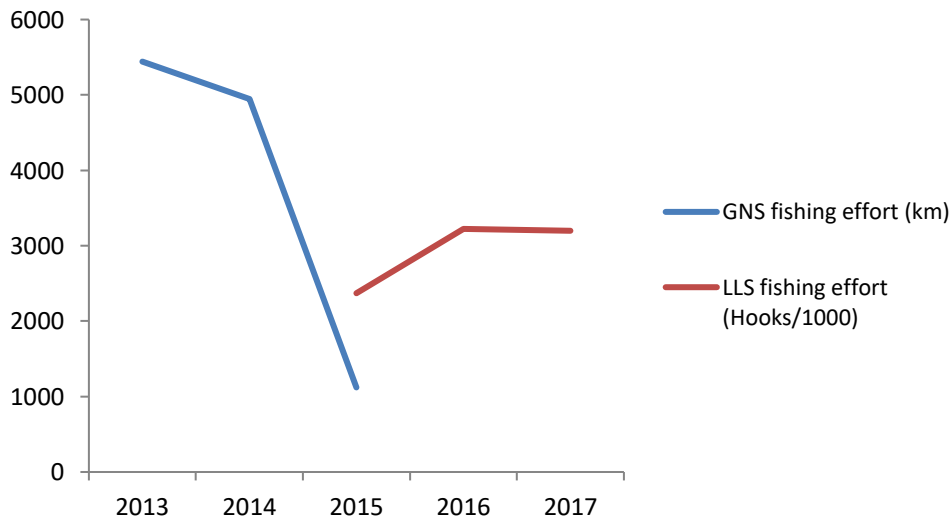

Figure 3.- Evolution of fishing effort on the EU-Spain fleet (period 2013-2017).

4. Fisheries data collection

EU-France data come from the capture declaration system. EU-Spain data were obtained from different sources: declaration system, records from the master and scientific observer when available.

5. VME encounter protocols and thresholds

The EU-Spain bottom longline fleet is applying the rules adopted by the Fishing Administration, similar to those applied in SEAFO and CCAMLR in the definition of the VME encounter and thresholds, together with the protocols adopted in the CMM 2017-01.

6. Observer and port sampling program

Spain and France do not have a port sampling program for vessels fishing SIOFA species. EU-France vessels are under the scientific observation system of the IOTC.

However, in order to mobilize observers on the SIOFA licensed longliners, two observers trained in 2018, domiciled in Reunion Island, will be ready to embark on a 20-day cruise (duration of the trip) in international waters on the Saya of Malha Bank. The coverage of 20% of the two Reunion longliners fishing in international waters for SIOFA species will thus be ensured.

A scientific observer has been deployed on board the Spanish fishing vessel in 2017, since September 15th. At the time of delivering this document the observer is still on board and no consolidated information on the observation are available yet. A report on the scientific observation will be prepared and provided, and also information on toothfish fishery tag recovering will be provided.