

SC-04-24

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement  
(SIOFA) Scientific Committee  
25-29 March 2019, Yokohama, Japan

# Annual National Reports

## French territory

*Please note that National Reports and SC Working Group reports shall be classified as working papers*

*Relates to agenda item: 03*

Working paperFR Info paper

### Delegation of French territory

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#### Abstract

*This report summarizes and update fishing activity by France for French Territories-flagged vessels in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Area for 2018. The fishing activity has been very low in 2018, only one trawler/potter vessel occurs in the area during two days. Traps effort was fifty traps, and vertical longline effort was 2615 hooks hooked.*

*No VME indicator thresholds were triggered during 2018.*

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#### Recommendations *(working papers only)*

- 1. That the Scientific Committee considers the National Report provided by French Territory.**
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**French territory**  
**Annual National Reports**  
**2019**

**SIOFA 4th Scientific Committee 2019**

# French National Report 2019

## Purpose of annual national reports

This report summarizes fishing activity by France for French Territories-flagged vessels in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Area for 2018.

The French Administration gave license to 5 longliners and one trawler/potter vessel to target various species with pot, dropline, minor line, automatic longline and demersal longline. The French Administration defined 7 areas where the fishing activities were allowed (Annex I).

This scientific report described the French licensed fishery in the SIOFA area from 2014 to 2018 and the annual data for 2018.

In 2018 the French Territories fishing activities in the SIOFA AREA was very low.

## Description of fisheries

In 2018, 6 vessels from the Southern French Territories request a license to the French authorities for the SIOFA's area fishing activity include:

- 5 longliner vessels
- 1 trawler/potter vessel.

The size of vessels is from 55 to 60 meters. The port of registry is "Port-aux-Français", Kerguelen Islands, (Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises, TAAF) (Tab. 1).

**TABLE 1: FRENCH SOUTHERN TERRITORIES AUTHORIZED VESSELS FROM 2013 TO 2017**

Gear type	Characteristic	No. authorized vessel	Active vessel				
			2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Longliner	55 to 65 (thousand hooks/line)	7	2	2	0	2	0
Potter	X trap / line	1	0	0	1	0	1

## Catch, effort and CPUE summaries

### Fishing effort

Only one vessel operated in the area for the year 2018 on a single tide. It conducted 34 fishing operations over two days, all in Zone 4, including (Tab.2):

- Two lines of 20 traps between 335 and 370 meters (a total of 40 traps)
- 2 horizontal lines of 5 traps (a total of 10 traps) between 610 and 618 meters
- 30 vertical long lines between 60 and 100 hooks (ie a total of 2615 hooks hooked) between 339 and 750 meters

**TABLE 2: EFFORT IN 2018 IN THE SIOFA AREA BY FRENCH BOTTOM LONGLINERS**

Gear	Trap line	vertical longline	horizontal trap line	Total number of day
2018	2	30	2	2

## Catch

The total catches concern two species (*Polyprion sp.*, and *Helicolenus sp.*) For a total weight (uncorrected landed) of 390 and 13 kg, respectively.

## Fisheries data collection and research activities

All the licensed French Territories vessels have on-board a fishing observer to cover 100% of the fishing activities. The data collection occurs at two different levels:

- Skipper level: have to collect all detailed information on fishing events and catches
- Observer level: independently, fishery observer (covering 100% of vessel deployment) collect data on a fourth of the set to monitor catches (retained and discarded).

All data are registered in a digital logbook and transfer to the MNHN database PECHEKER.

## VME Thresholds

Vessel must collect and retain all benthic organisms for each segments in numbered buckets, those buckets will be made available for observers.

No VME indicator thresholds were triggered during 2018.

No interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species were reported in 2018.

## Biological sampling and length/age composition of catches

The fishery observer is in charge to collect sampling and biological data (length/age composition of catches).

For the year 2018 the fishery observer measured:

- 20 individuals of *Bassanago sp.*
- 1 individual of *Beryx decadactylus*
- 12 individuals of *Beuroisia duhameli*
- 18 individuals of *Cirrhigaleus asper*
- 29 individuals of *Helicolenus sp.*
- 24 individuals of *Polyprion americanus*
- 3 individuals of *Polyprion oxygeneios*

## Description of data verification mechanisms

All the data verification mechanisms are conducted according to the SIOFA CMM and describe in the French BFIA 2018.

The captain and the fishing observer computerize all the data in a digital logbook.

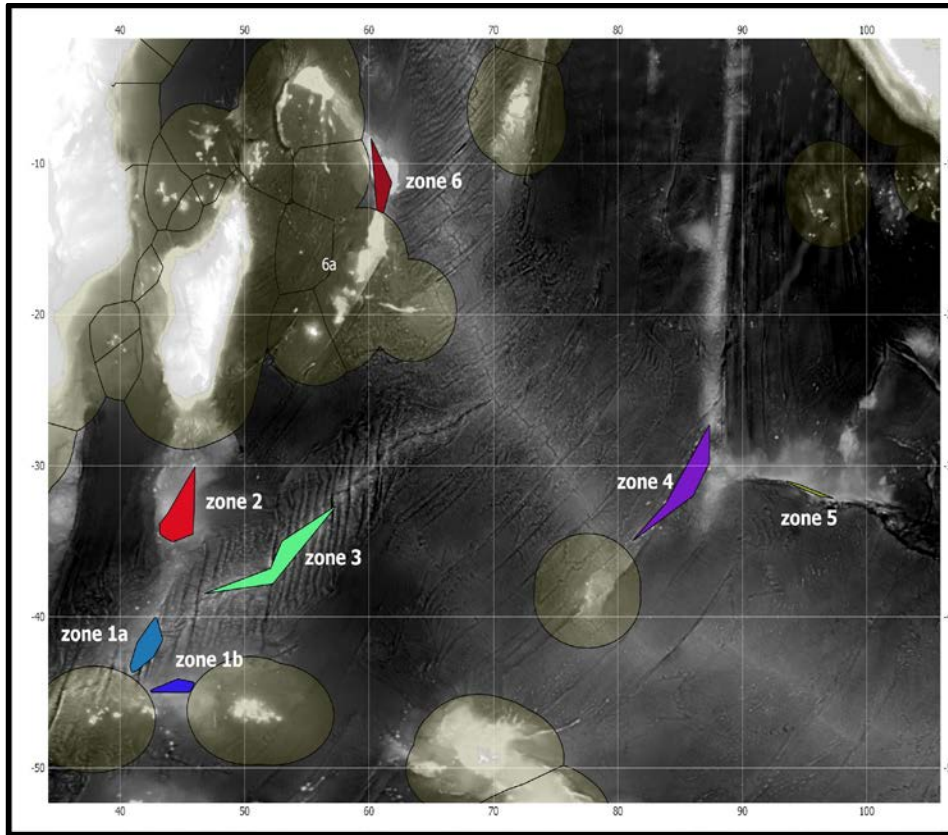
The fishing observer sends weekly the dataset for verification to the MNHN.

The landing and transshipment report is sent to MNHN from the port sampling at the end of the cruise.

## Summary of observer and port sampling programs

In order to keep track of the catch: species and area where the fish were caught are reported on every single box containing the fish to be landed for commercial purpose. An independent company of expert based in Réunion island is tasked to weight a second time (first time being on the factory of the ship at sea) all the fish boxes and report exact weight for each combination of area, species and product. Those data are then used to correct the weights collected at sea. For Patagonian toothfish an official DCD (Dissostichus Catch Document) from CCAMLR is produced at the scale of each trip and contains all needed information on species, products and areas including SIOFA.

# Annex I: French area of authorized activities



Sub-areas for reporting catch and effort data<sup>2</sup>

Table 1

	Area	Lats		Longs	
		N	S	W	E
1	Mozambique Ridge	20°	36°	-	40°
2	Madagascar Ridge	20°	36°	40°	49°
3a	Northern SW Indian Ridge	20°	36°	49°	65°
3b	Southern SW Indian Ridge	36°	45°		65°
6	Mid-Indian Ridge	20°	45°	65°	80°
4	Ninety Degree East Ridge	20°	36°	80°	90°
5	Broken Ridge	25°	36°	90°	105°
7	SE Indian Ocean	20°	55°	80°	120°
8	North of 20°	Undefined			

<sup>2</sup> Source for Table 1 and Figure 1: FAO Fisheries Report No. 677: report of the "SECOND AD HOC MEETING ON MANAGEMENT OF DEEPWATER FISHERIES RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN" held in Fremantle 20 -22 May 2002

Figure 1

