

SC-06-15

6th Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC6)

22-25 March 2021

(online)

French territory's Annual Reports 2021

Relates to agenda item: 3. Annual National reports Working paper ☒ Info paper ☐

Delegation of France Territory

Abstract

This report summarizes and updates fishing activity by French Territories flagged vessels by the French Government to operate in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Area for 2020.

The fishing activity has been very low in 2020, only two longliner vessels operated in the area during two cruises for a total of 9 days. It conducted a total of 46 fishing operations with 127 800 hooks set. All catch and effort data for fishing operations during 2020 will be submitted to SIOFA in accordance with CMM 2019/02.

No VME indicator thresholds were triggered during 2020.

This document provides also an overview of the French observer program implemented on bottom longline fishery. The observer coverage is 100%, meaning that they are on board vessels for every fishing event. Data (including both from observer and skipper) are entered daily in an electronic logbook and their consistency is checked on a daily basis by observers at sea and on a weekly basis by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN).

Recommendations *(proposals and working papers only)*

1. That the Scientific Committee considers the National Report provided by French Territory.
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French territory's Annual Reports 2021,

SIOFA 6th Scientific Committee 2021

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This report summarizes fishing activity by France–Territory's vessels in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) area from 2015 to 2020.

In 2020 the French Territories fishing activities in the SIOFA AREA was very low.

Description of fisheries

In 2020, six vessels, from the Southern French Territories, were authorized by the French authorities to fish in the SIOFA's area. The fleet includes 5 longliners and one trawler/potter vessel to target various species with pots, dropline, vertical longlines, automatic longlines and demersal longlines.

The size of vessels is from 55 to 65 meters. The port of registry is "Port-aux-Français", Kerguelen Islands, (Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises, TAAF). Only two longliner operated in the area for the year 2020 during two cruises (Table 1).

2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4: Longline catch (kg) by species for main target, bycatch, associated and depended species (R-retained and D-discarded)

Year	<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>		<i>Macrourus sp</i>		<i>Antimora rostrata</i>		<i>Amblyraja taaf</i>		<i>Etmopterus sp</i>	
	R	D	R	D	R	D	R	D	R	D
2020	5210	10	1132	1220	-	7486	-	117	-	-
2019	9618	20	5103	3607	21	10192	19	502	-	2
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2017	7610	-	5020	2656	-	9500	-	361	-	469
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	17200	60	12300	6700	-	33800	-	400	-	1
2014	13500	-	7700	3800	-	37600	-	3900	-	561
2013	16000	-	13000	5600	-	44200	-	-	-	582
2012	17700	-	3900	2600	1	10900	-	-	-	
2011	22100	-	8800	3500	-	28000	-	-	-	167

CPUE

Fishery data collection and research activities

All the licensed French Territories vessels have on-board a fishing observer to cover 100% of the fishing activities (Annex II). 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 gear deployment) collect data on a fourth of the set to monitor catches

All data are registered in a digital logbook and transferred to the MNHN fishing database "PECHEKER".

Table 5: Details on the scales and resolutions of the fishery data collection

	longliner data collection items			
Year	tow / set <i>(individual or some aggregation)</i>	time scale <i>(set-tow hauling time, daily, etc.)</i>	spatial scale <i>(tow/set exact position or grid, please provide grid resolution)</i>	species details <i>(any aggregation or species grouping)</i>
2011-2020	Individual (set by set)	set hauling time	set exact position	species level

VME Thresholds

Crew must collect and retain all benthic organisms for each segment in numbered buckets, those buckets will be made available for observers. The observers record benthic organisms composition and abundance for each set. This information is also recorded in a digital logbook and transferred to the MNHN fishing database “PECHEKER”.

No VME indicator thresholds were triggered for the period 2011-2020. The move-on protocol didn’t need to be applied.

No interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species were reported in 2020.

Table 6: Threshold levels for encounters with VMEs and move-on protocols for the period 2011-2020

Gear/fishery	Threshold (kgs)	Move-on protocols
Long line	0	None apply

Table 7: Summary VME Taxa (wet) weight (kg), operations exceeding thresholds and effort: gear type identified, 1 table per gear

Year	Unit	Sub-areas for reporting catch and effort data								
		1	2	3.a	3.b	4	5	6	7	8
Year 2011-2020	Weight (kg)	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	-
	N° Operations	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	-
	Effort (Tables 2.1..)	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	-

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 La 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.

Table 9: Observer program design and coverage summary table for period 2011-2020

	trips	total no of	no of	within	incidental
	coverage	sets/hauls	sets/hauls	set/haul	bycatch
	(%)		covered	coverage	(bird, mammal)
				(%)	observation
					coverage
					(% set/haul)
longliner	100			100	25 % for bird 100 % for mammal

Table 10: Reporting of observed bycatch number

bycatch	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
seabird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mammal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sharks (not retained)	0	4	0	462	0	2	853	372	0	314

Description of data verification mechanisms

All the data verification mechanisms are conducted according to the SIOFA CMM and described in the French BFIA 2018. There has been no change in the fishing fleet. The BFIA does not need to be updated. 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 team. The landing and transshipment report is sent to MNHN from the port sampling at the end of the cruise.

Annex I: Sub-areas for reporting catch and effort data.

Table 1

	Area	Lats		Longs	
		NS		E	
1	Mozambique Ridge	S 20°	S 36°	-	40°
2	Madagascar Ridge	S 20°	S 36°	40°	49°
3a	Northern SW Indian Ridge	S 20°	S 36°	49°	65°
3b	Southern SW Indian Ridge	S 36°	S 45°	30°	65°
6	Mid-Indian Ridge	S 20°	S 45°	65°	80°
4	Ninety Degree East Ridge	S 20°	S 36°	80°	90°
5	Broken Ridge	S 25°	S 36°	90°	105°
7	SE Indian Ocean	S 20°	S 55°	80°	120°
8	North of 20°	N 10°	S 20°	-	80°

² Source for Table 1 and Figure 1: Guidelines for submission of annual national reports Rev3.docx

Figure 1

