

SERAWG-02-10 (ABSTRACT OF RESTRICTED PAPER)

2nd Meeting of the Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG2)
25-27 March 2020, Saint Gilles, Réunion

Update on an ecological risk assessment for SIOFA teleosts

Relates to agenda item: 8

Working paper Info paper

Delegation of Australia

Abstract

This paper updates the SIOFA SERAWG and SC on an ecological risk assessment (ERA) for SIOFA teleosts. This assessment applies Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) and Sustainability Assessment for Fishing Effects (SAFE) tools to assess the vulnerability of teleosts to demersal trawl, midwater trawl, 'shallow trawl' (Saya de Malha bank fishery), demersal line and demersal gillnet gears in the SIOFA area. The species list was developed using catch records in the SIOFA databases and information from annual reports submitted by SIOFA Contracting Parties. The species list is incomplete due to the developmental nature of the SIOFA databases and associated issues, a number of which were discussed in the paper 'SIOFA species list' submitted to SERAWG1 and SC4. Fishing effort data were provided by most Contracting Parties for the 2012-2016 period; however, some effort data are missing. Species distribution data was sourced from [AquaMaps.org](https://www.aquamaps.org/) and the 80-100% probability of occurrence layer was used. Life history attribute data was sourced from the CSIRO database that underpins the CSIRO ERA online tool and was available for most species. This updated assessment refines the PSA methodology and responds to issues discussed during SERAWG1 and SC4. Progress on some aspects has been limited due in part to the request for funding for this work as part of the SC's workplan not being supported by the Meeting of the Parties in 2019. The prioritisation of further technical work would improve confidence in the ERA results and allow them to be used for potential categorisation of species into the SIOFA assessment framework, or for prioritisation of species for additional data collection, assessment and/or management actions. This would include additional effort to refine the SIOFA species list and resolve underlying database issues. Once the ERA results are finalised they should be considered in the context of information on current conservation and management measures, catches and species biology.
