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Abundance of Deepwater Shark Bycatch and Frequency of Species Caught by Benthopelagic Trawl in the SWIO During 2012 and 2014: What Does It Tell Managers?

(Abstract of restricted document)

Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA)

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Abstract	
<p>Analysis of the shark bycatch taken during two trips on a benthopelagic factory trawler in 2012 and 2014 provided a first detailed and reliable identification of the shark species composition of the bycatch.</p> <p>Data were collected during two trips and 113 days at sea: data from 3493 deep-sea shark were recorded. 31 species were recorded from 14 genera. Length, maturity, reproduction, distribution and dietary data were recorded. Over a dozen of the species encountered were previously undescribed.</p> <p>The results of this analysis imply that a single, simple conservation measure for deep-sea sharks will not be feasible and that discussion is needed to identify/document the objectives of shark conservation in this fishery, what may be achievable and how it might be obtained.</p> <p>This paper to be considered in conjunction with the Workshop on deepwater sharks in the SIOFA Area (WS2023-DWS).</p>	

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