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Report of lost gears in the SIOFA area

SIOFA Secretariat

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Abstract	
Following the request of SC7, this document provides the annual reports on all lost gears lost reported under CMM 2022/02, annex A. Only the line fisheries reported lost hooks, the loss is variable, with many occurrences of a smaller number of hooks being lost during operations, and a few occurrences of large number of hooks being lost during an operation.	

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

1. Introduction

SIOFA SC7 requested the Secretariat to provide an annual report on all lost gears reported under CMM 2022/02 (Data Standards), Annex A (ref: SIOFA SC7 report, paragraph 139).

Annex A request CCPs to provide lost gear for each operation.

As this is the first report being generated, the report will also provide with lost gear data from past years.

2. Data and Method

2.1. Data used

Source data: catch and effort database

Record filter:

- Fishing operations where a positive number of gears lost has been reported have been retained.
- Period: 2015-2021

Fields retained

- Year
- CCP country code
- fishing operation identifier
- Subarea (calculated from positions)
- Gear
- Longline hooks lost
- Hand line/Drop line hooks lost
- Trap/Pots lost

Note that there is no report of trawl net lost during this period.

2.2. Method

One pivot table and several charts have been generated from the dataset produced (ref paragraph 2.1)

3. Results

Table 1 summarize the number of items lost since 2015 per SIOFA subarea.

Table 1: Gear items lost per SIOFA subarea and year between 2015 and 2021.

Subarea Year	Longline Hooks Lost	Pots/Traps Lost	Hand/Drop Line Hooks Lost
2	6932		10
2018	1263		10
2020	3579		
2021	2090		
4	172		
2016	10		
2020	162		
5	1000		
2017	1000		
7	511		
2020	446		
2021	65		
3a	104		
2020	104		
3b	49830	2	292
2015	1294		
2018	9304		292
2019	1546		
2020	16757		
2021	20929	2	
Grand Total	58549	2	302

The only gears where loss have been reported are hooks and line based and traps. The longline (demersal longline) gear is the most represented, and the next results will focus only on that gear which is the main one in use in the SIOFA area.

For line fishing, the gear lost have been charted in figure1.

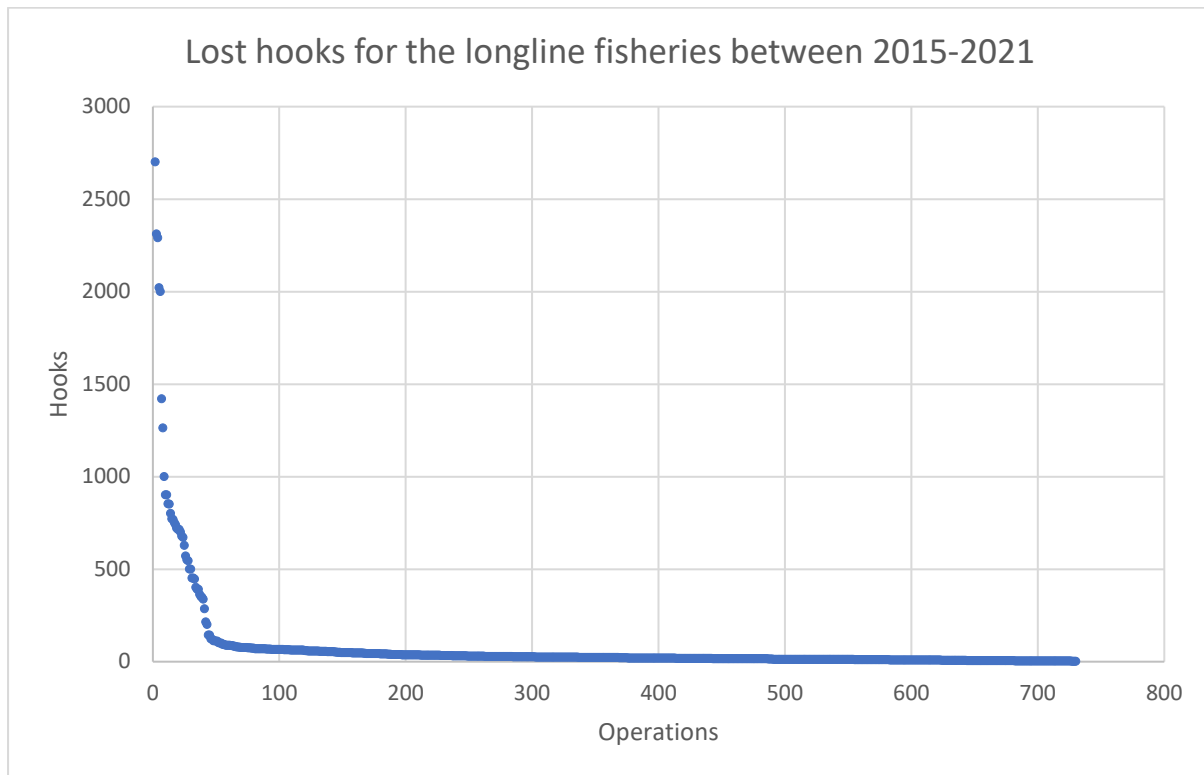


Figure 1: Hooks lost per fishing operation for longline gears between 2015 and 2021.

Hooks have been lost in 732 operations; an outstanding operation reported the loss of 6192 hooks but is not displayed in the chart. About half of the operations reported 20 or less hooks lost.

The next tables provide more figures about the loss of hooks from the demersal longline fishery.

Table 2: Hooks lost (number) for the longline fisheries per year, SIOFA subarea and CCP.

Subarea	2		4		5	7	3a	3b		
year	AUS	ESP	ESP	FR-OT	FR-OT	ESP	ESP	AUS	ESP	FR-OT
2015										1294
2016				10						
2017					1000					
2018	1263							9304		
2019								1546		
2020		3579	162			446	104	8498	7359	900
2021		2090				65		5558	9971	5400

Table 3: Percentage of hooks lost for the longline fisheries per year, SIOFA subarea and CCP.

Subarea	2		4		5	7	3a	3b		
Year	AUS	ESP	ESP	FR-OT	FR-OT	ESP	ESP	AUS	ESP	FR-OT
2015										0.29%
2016				0.83%						
2017					14.81%					
2018	35.08%							41.57%		
2019								3.20%		
2020		0.40%	0.32%			0.09%	0.41%	6.47%	0.70%	0.70%
2021		0.14%				0.15%		7.40%	0.88%	3.64%

Table 4: Total number of hooks set for the longline fisheries per year, SIOFA subarea and CCP.

Subarea	2		4		5	7	3a	3b		
Year	AUS	ESP	ESP	FR-OT	FR-OT	ESP	ESP	AUS	ESP	FR-OT
2015										443,492
2016				1,200						
2017					6,750					
2018	3,600							21,300		
2019								48,300		
2020		891,442	50,789			488,877	25,197	120,150	1,053,255	127,800
2021		1,519,702				42,088		75,129	1,135,298	148,500

4. Conclusion

In the recent years more reports of hooks lost have been recorded.

The data as it stands cannot separated hooks loss due to hooking on seafloor features, to hooks loss due to fish cuts or bycatch of large animals.

However, when many hooks are lost in one operation, it is reasonable to assume that it is because of the seafloor or the sea conditions and not related to catch or bycatch.