GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS TO THE IOTC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE IN 2018

The National Report is due to be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the start of the annual regular session of the Scientific Committee.

DEADLINE: 18 NOVEMBER 2018

Purpose: To provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee on fishing activities of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties operating in the IOTC area of competence. The report should include all fishing activities for species under the IOTC mandate as well as sharks and other byproduct/ bycatch species as required by the IOTC Agreement and decisions by the Commission.

NOTE: The submission of a National Report is **Mandatory**, irrespective if a CPC intends on attending the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Explanatory note

This report is intended to provide a summary of the main features of the tuna and billfish fisheries for Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. As such, it does not replace the need for submission of data according to Resolution 15/02 *Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*

Mandatory versus Desirable information

National Reports must include all headings as noted in the template below as [Mandatory]. Where data/information is not available for a given [Mandatory] heading, the reason why it is not available should be clearly stated. These mandatory fields for the *National Reports* were agreed to be the Scientific Committee in 2010.

Where available, CPCs are encouraged to provide additional information under the headings shown as [Desirable].

For clarification on minimum reporting requirements for the National Report, please contact the IOTC Secretariat (IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org).

NOTE

Please use the template below when preparing your National Report. Simply delete this explanatory page and add your own cover page/preliminaries if needed.
Please also delete any text shown in **red** below before submitting your National Report.

MAURITIUS National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2018

Authors

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Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine resources, Fisheries and Shipping

INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, final scientific data for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year, **for all fleets other than longline** [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2018, final data for the 2017 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2018)	YES 29/06/2018
In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional **longline data** for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2018, preliminary data for the 2017 calendar year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2018). **REMINDER:** Final longline data for the previous year is due to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2018, final data for the 2017 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2018).	YES 29/06/2018
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

Executive Summary

In 2017, Mauritius had 2 purse seiners, 1 supply vessel and 12 semi-industrial longliners operating in the tuna fishery in the IOTC area of competence. The two purse seiners are large freezer vessels having an overall length of 89.4 M each. The longliners are semi-industial boats less than 24 Metres in length, operating mostly in the EEZ of Mauritius and some operated outside the EEZ. These vessels carry out short trips of about 9-11 days and land their fish mostly chilled. The purse seiners operated largely outside the EEZ of Mauritius.

The semi-industrial longline fleet operating exclusively inside the EEZ of Mauritius comprised of 9 boats which undertook 69 fishing trips for a total of 824 fishing days and a deployment of 952344 hooks. The majority of the catch consisted of yellowfin and swordfish. Their total catch amounted to 378 tonnes. The CPUE was 0.4kg/ hook.

The three longliners operating outside the EEZ carried out 59 trips for a total of 577 fishing days. They landed 512.6t of fish with a deployment of 701,637 hooks. Majority of their catch consisted of swordfish (40%).

The Mauritian purse seiners operated between latitudes 14°N to 14°S and longitudes 40° to 85°E. Total catch of the two purse seiners amounted to 17,686t comprising of 48% skipjack, 43% yellowfin and 7% bigeye tuna for 678 positive sets out of a total of 719 sets. An observer was deployed on a Mauritian purse seiner for 71 days.

Sampling exercises were carried out at Port Louis on local semi-industrial longliners. About a thousand fish were sampled. Sampling exercises were also carried out on the Mauritian purse seiners.

Mauritius has produced its National Plan of action for sharks. Marine sea turtles and cetaceans are protected under Mauritian law. Mauritius has put in place a Vessel Monitoring System since 2005 and all licensed vessels are monitored.

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1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION

Mauritius has been active in the purse seiner fishery since 1979. A first Mauritian purse seiner, 'Lady Sushil' was launched in 1979 and was joined by a second vessel, 'Lady Sushil II' eight years later. A third purse seiner, 'Cirné', started operations in 1991. Until 1997, the three vessels were operating for the local canning factory. However, due to financial problems and change in the administration of the factory, the vessels were sold off and the factory has to rely on import of raw materials to meet its commitments. In 2013, a Mauritius-flagged vessel restarted operating in the purse seine fishery after an absence of 13 years. At present Mauritius has two purse seiners operating in the IOTC area of competence. In 2017, the two Mauritian purse seiners operated between latitudes 14°N to 14°S and longitudes 40° to 85°E. Total catch of the two purse seiners amounted to 17,686t comprising of48% skipjack, 43% yellowfin and 7% bigeye

The Mauritian longline fishery started in 1970 when a longliner was operated by the local tuna canning factory. Due to various problems, the vessel stopped operation soon after.

The Mauritian surface longline fishery targeting mainly swordfish (Xiphias gladius) started in the eighties. During experimental longlining for tuna in 1986-88, a few swordfish were caught in the coastal waters of Mauritius (Roullot et al, 1988).

In 1996 the feasibility of the swordfish fishery in Mauritian waters was demonstrated by the ex-Regional Tuna Project (RTP) of the Indian Ocean Commission by using the semi-industrial longline fishing techniques. Commercial longline fishing started in 1999 when a small surface longliner started fishing for swordfish in the Mauritian waters. Since then, the number of vessels has been increasing and the fishery is being developed as promoters are encouraged to exploit the swordfish resource. In 2017, there were 12 semi-industrial longliners in operation.

The semi-industrial longline fleet operating inside the EEZ as well as outside the EEZ. They landed a total of 890t of fish. The percentage of the main species landed are: 36% swordfish, 30% yellowfin and 18% bigeye.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE

The Mauritian tuna fleet consisted of two purse seiners, twelve surface longliners and one supply vessel. The purse seiners operated in the EEZ of Mauritius, the high seas and the EEZ of other coastal nations under fishing licences. Each has a length of 89.4 Metres and a GT 2667t. The surface longliners are boats less than 24 Metres in length, operating mostly in our EEZ but some also operate outside our EEZ. Their size range from 14.3 to 23.8 Metres and their gross Tonnage range from 32 to 135t. Mauritius also has one supply vessel that services its two purse seiners. The supply vessel has is 30M in length and has a GT of 86t.

Table 1: Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence, by gear type and size

Year	Gear	Number of vessels	Number of fishing days	GT	LOA (m)	Preservation Methods
2012	Surface longline	5	238	38.4-90.4	13.50-22.80	Chilled
2013	Surface longline	3	196	38.4-90.4	13.50-22.80	Chilled
	Purse seine	1	81	2667	90	Frozen
2014	Surface longline	3	131	38.4-90.4	13.50-22.80	Chilled
	Purse seine	7	386	678-2667	49.56-90	Frozen
2015	Surface longline	5	191	32-97.4	13.50-22.80	Chilled
	Purse seine	7	357	678-2667	49.56-90	Frozen
2016	Surface longline	11	649	32-97.4	14.3-23.8	Chilled/Frozen
	Purse seine	2	475	2667	90.0	Frozen
2017	Purse seine	2	511	2667	89.4	Frozen
	Supply vessel	1	191 days at sea	86	30	
	Surface longline	12	1401	32-135	14.30-23.8	Chilled/Frozen

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND GEAR)

The semi industrial longliners licensed to operate within the EEZ undertook 69 fishing trips with a total of 824 fishing days with a deployment of 952,344 hooks. Those boats target swordfish which are landed gilled and gutted with both the head and tail off. A total catch of 378.3 tonnes was recorded for those boats, out of which 30% was swordfish, 32% yellowfin, 13% bigeye, 9% albacore tuna, 1.5% sharks, 6% billfish and about 8% miscellaneous species. The miscellaneous species consisted of fish such as skipjack, wahoo, oilfish, common dolphinfish,

The longliners licensed to operate both within and beyond the EEZ target tuna and related species undertook a total of 59 fishing trips for 577 fishing days with a catch of 512.6 tonnes consisting of 40% swordfish, 21% bigeye tuna, 27% yellowfin tuna, 0.4% albacore tuna, 4.5% marlin species, 1.2 % of billfish, 3% dolphin fish and about 3% miscellaneous species. About 8 tons of sharks were caught by these longliners with Mako sharks comprising the main species. 701,637 hooks were deployed during the fishing campaigns undertaken.

A total of 511 fishing days was recorded for the two super freezer purse seiners and 719 sets with 678 Positive sets were deployed. The total catch amounted to 17686.5 tonnes with a catch composition of 43.4% yellowfin tuna, 48% skipjack tuna, 7.6% bigeye tuna and 0.7% of albacore tuna. 75% of the catch was made on log-associated schools while 25% of the catch was from free school. The majority of the log-associated catch originated from artificial logs (89%) and only 11% of the log-associated catch was made on natural logs.

All the fishing operations are regularly monitored by the vessel monitoring system (VMS). Moreover, the catch is verified through the fishing logbooks submitted by the vessels' masters. It is mandatory for the vessels to submit logbooks and if a vessel fails to submit its logbook, it is subjected to penalties. The catch of the vessels landing at Port Louis is also monitored during landing at port and this is done by the officers based at the Port State Control Unit.

Table 2 a. Annual catch and effort of semi industrial longliners fishing outside the EEZ and their main species

Species	Catch (kg)	
	2016	**2017**
Yellowfin	40235	140068
Bigeye	49763	109313
Albacore	4772	2113
Swordfish	88698	203174
Marlins	23546	24004
Other billfishes	2107	6787
Sharks	825	1195
NEI	4822	10627
Others	-	15390
Effort (hooks)	322532	701637

Table 2 b. Annual catch (kg) and effort of semi industrial longliners fishing inside the EEZ and their primary species since 2011

Species	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Yellowfin	16476	5715	11265	11265	28270	52702	124797
Bigeye	10826	2960	17185	7955	13284	20481	49243
Albacore	8415	5555	6215	6451	12075	28789	34346
Swordfish	43999	17065	28320	14015	42175	64076	115005
Other billfishes	3531	1810	2053	1055	3885	14709	23248
Sharks	740	455	680	90	485	3339	5607
Others	5407	2561	2255	1789	2695	7956	26174
Effort (hooks)	252480	182300	150560	105120	195850	439046	953344

Table 2 c .Annual catch and effort of purse seiners and the main species caught in the IOTC area of competence

Species	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Yellowfin	352	4844	5417	7404.1	7681.4
Bigeye	27	532	1421.5	529.7	1353.5
Skipjack	476	3131.6	2832.4	3788.2	8503.3
Effort (no. of sets)	53	482	490	463	719

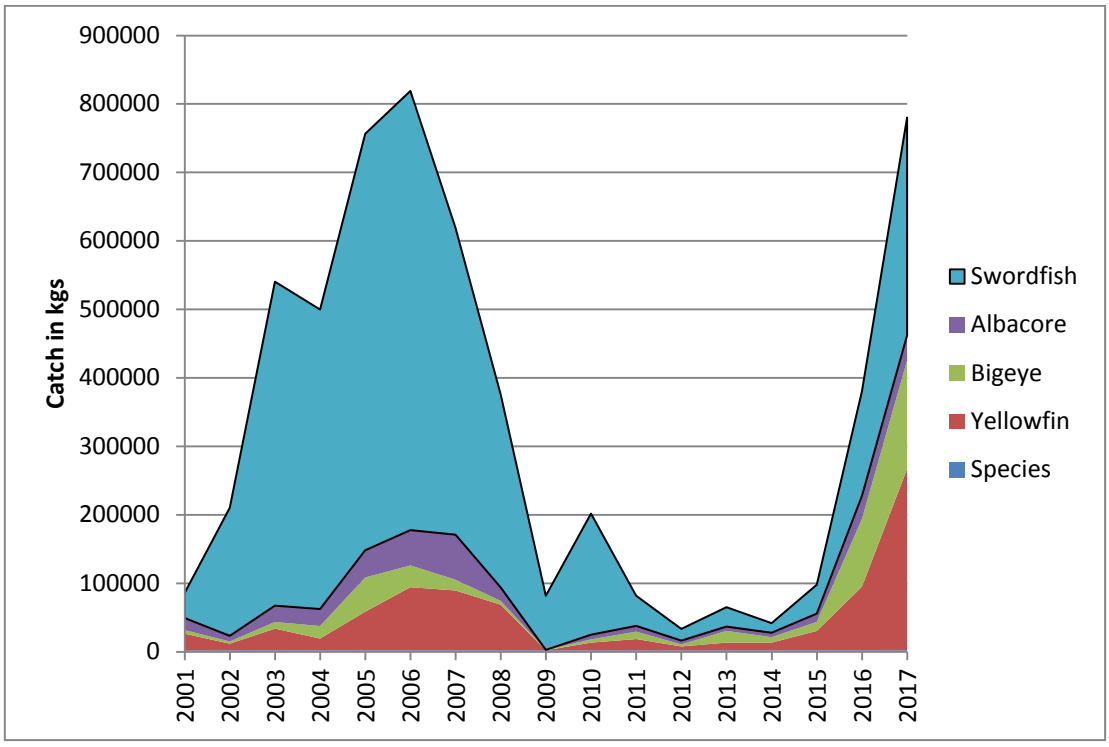


Figure 1a. Historical annual catch for the longliners for the IOTC area of competence for the entire history of the fishery/fleet

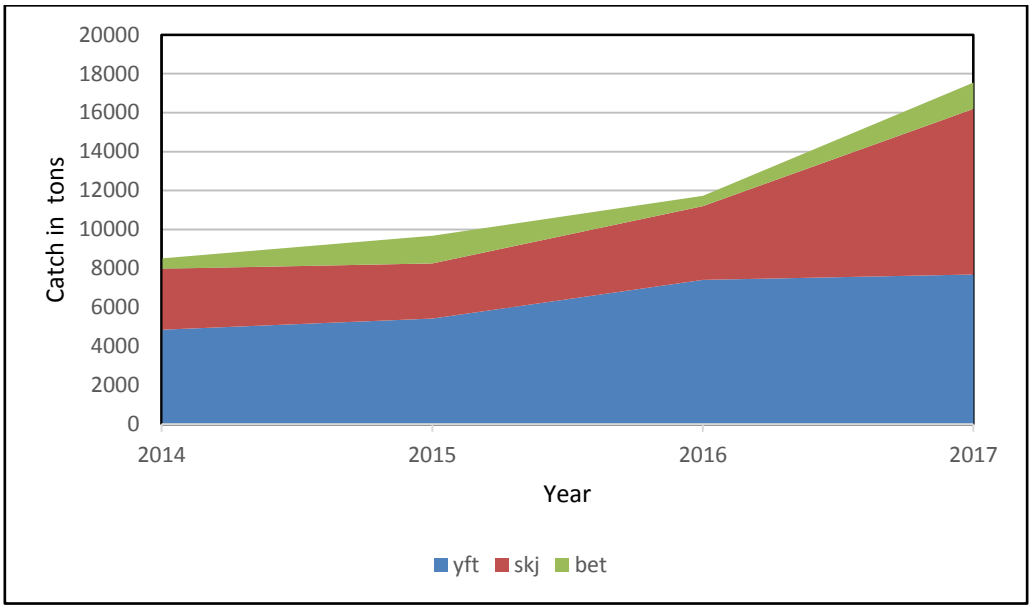


Figure 1b: Historical annual catch for the purse seiners for the IOTC area of competence for the entire history of the fishery/fleet

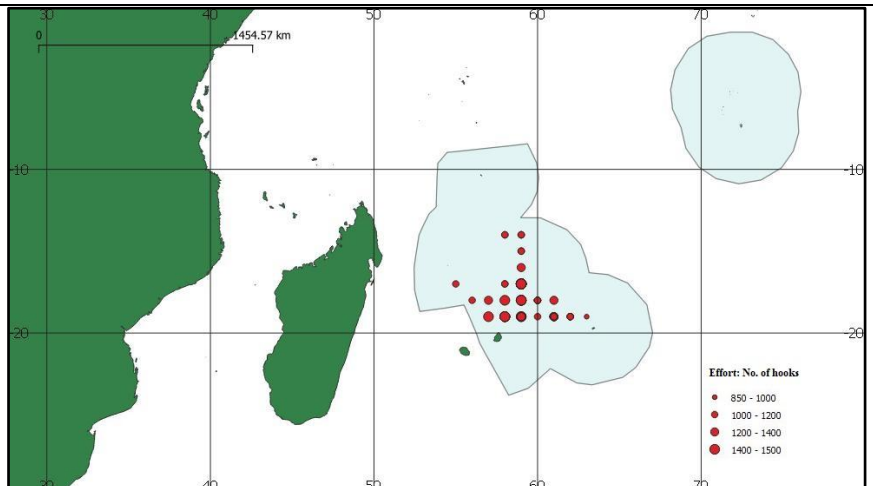


Figure 2a (i): Fishing effort (no. of hooks) -Mauritius-flagged **longliners fishing in the EEZ (2017)**

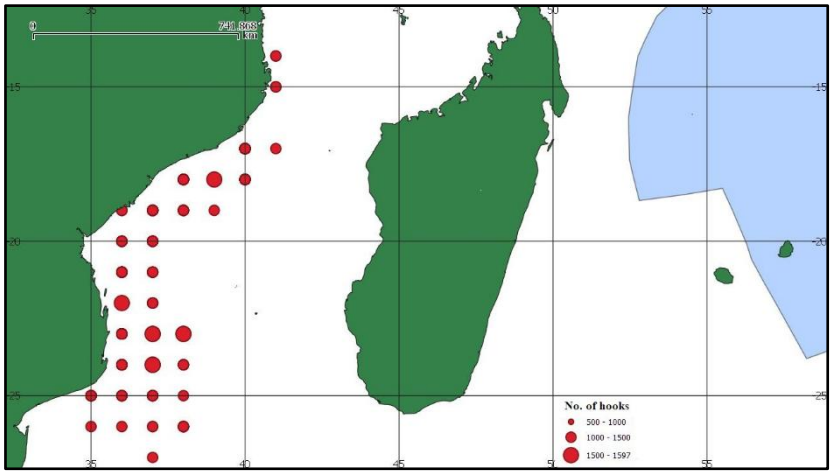


Figure 2a (ii): Fishing effort (no. of hooks) - Mauritius-flagged **longliners fishing outside the EEZ (2017)**

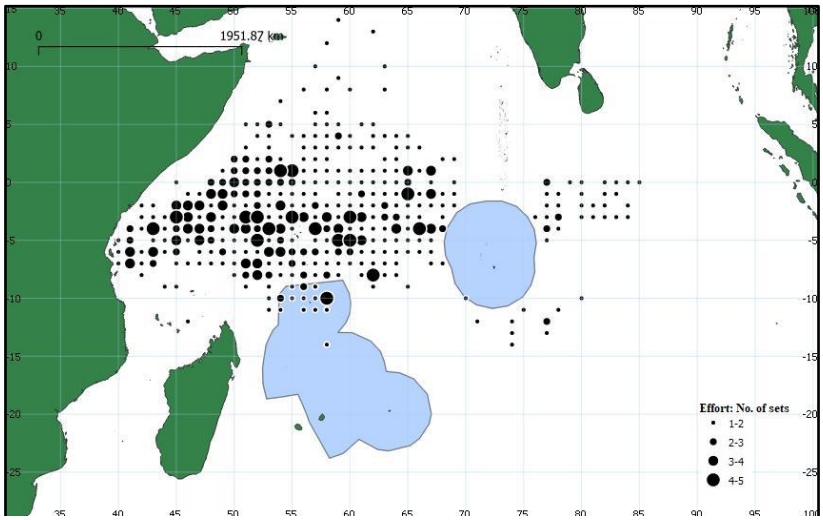


Figure 2a (iii): Fishing effort (no. of sets) - Mauritius-flagged purse seiners (2017)

Figure 2a (i – iii) : Map of distribution of the fishing effort for the National fleet in the IOTC area of competence in 2017

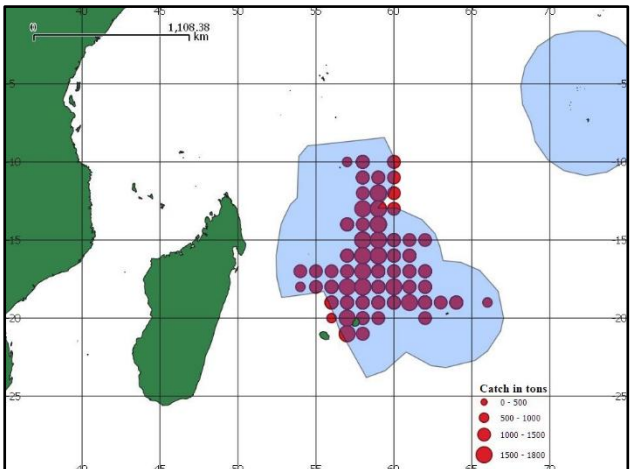


Figure 2b (i): Fishing effort (no. of hooks) - Mauritius-flagged **longliners fishing in the EEZ EEZ (2013 -2017)**

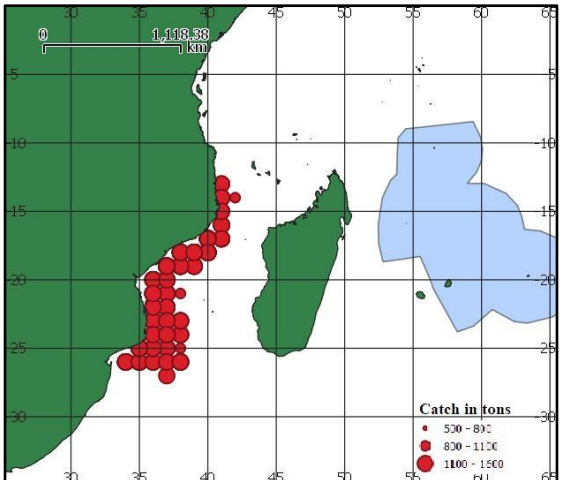


Figure 2b (i): Fishing effort (no. of hooks) - Mauritius-flagged **longliners fishing outside the EEZ (2016 - 2017)**

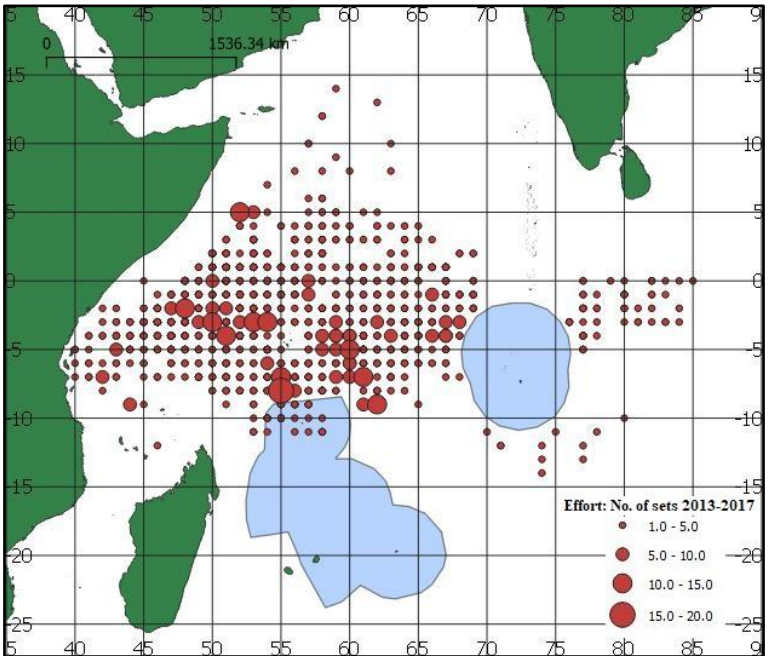


Figure 2b (iii): Fishing effort (no. of sets) - Mauritius-flagged **purse seiners** (**2013 - 2017**)

Figure 2b (i – iii) : Map of distribution of the fishing effort for the National fleet in the IOTC area of competence from 2013 to 2017

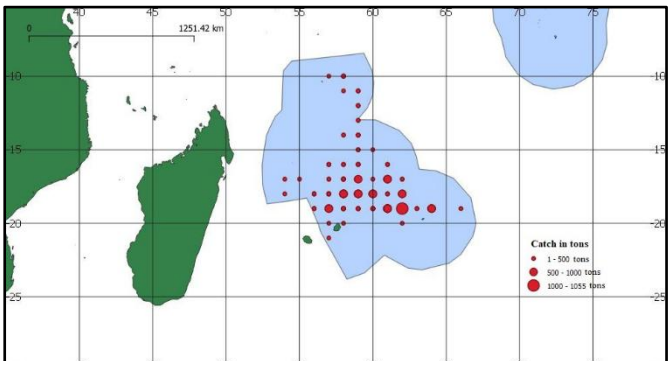
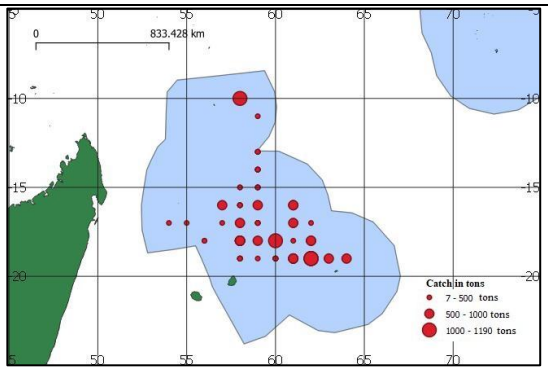


Figure 3a (i): Swordfish catches (tons) in **2017** Mauritius-flagged **longliners fishing inside the EEZ**



F**igure 3a (ii): Tuna catches** (tons) in **2017** Mauritius-flagged **longliners fishing inside the EEZ**

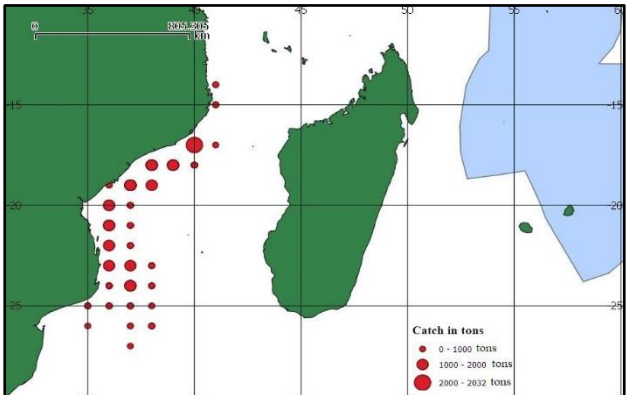
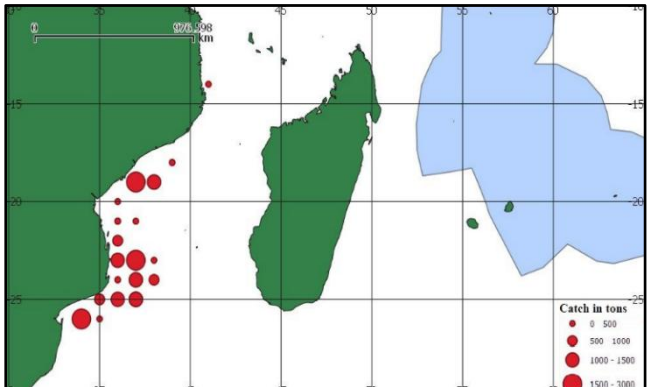


Figure 3a (iii): Swordfish catches (tons) in **2017** Mauritius-flagged **longliners outside in the EEZ**



F**igure 3a (iv): Tuna catches** (tons) in **2017** Mauritius-flagged **longliners fishing outside the EEZ**

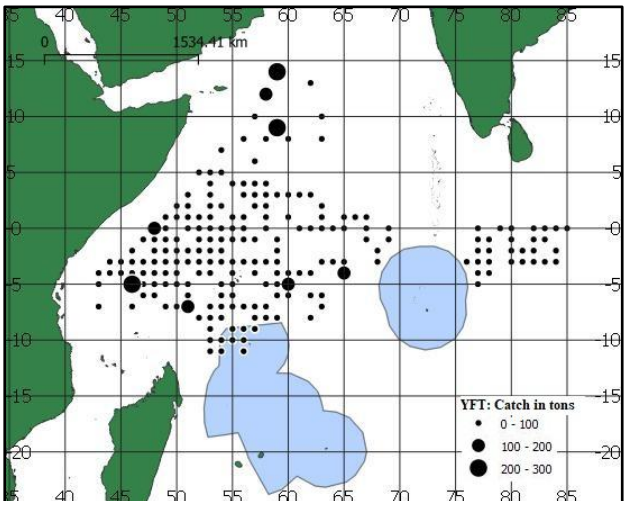


Figure 3a (v): Yellowfin catches (tons) by Mauritius-flagged **purse seiners** (**2017)**

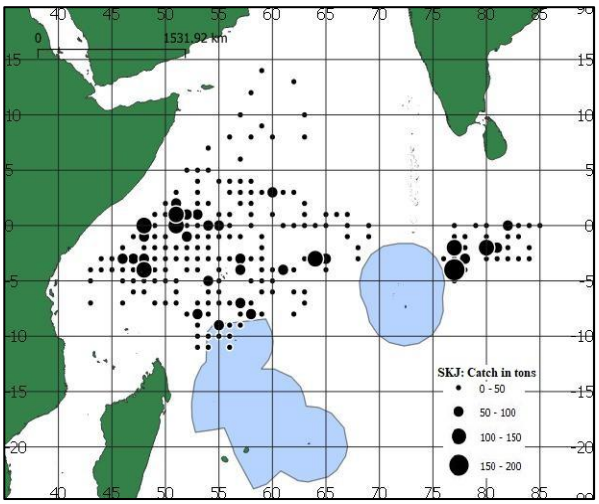


Figure 3a (vi): Skipjack catches (tons) by Mauritius-flagged **purse seiners (2017)**

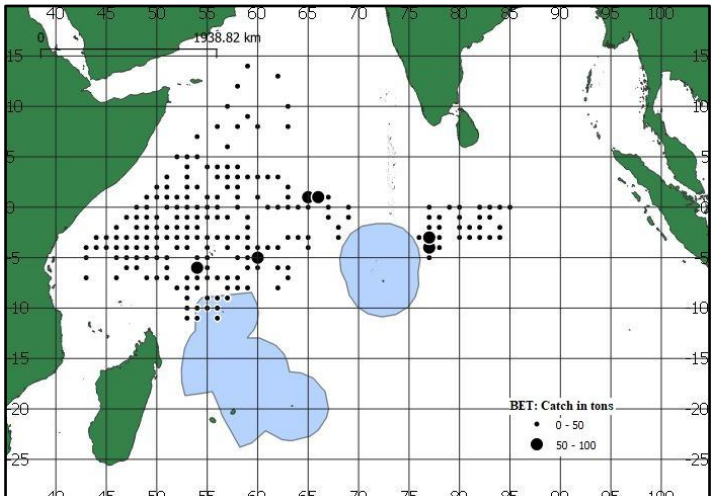


Figure 3a (vii): Bigeye catches (tons) by Mauritius-flagged **purse seiners (2017)**

Figure 3a (i-vii) Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence for the year 2017

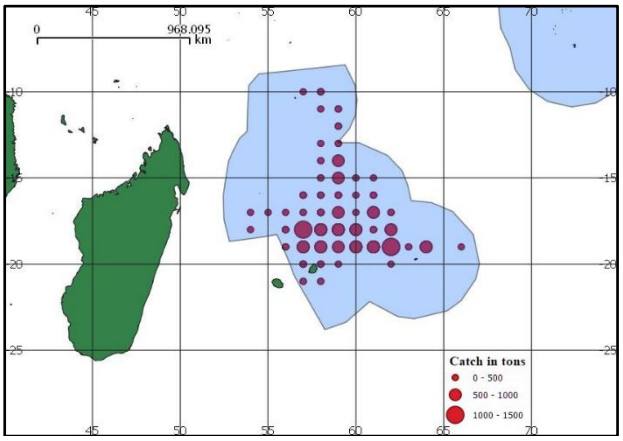
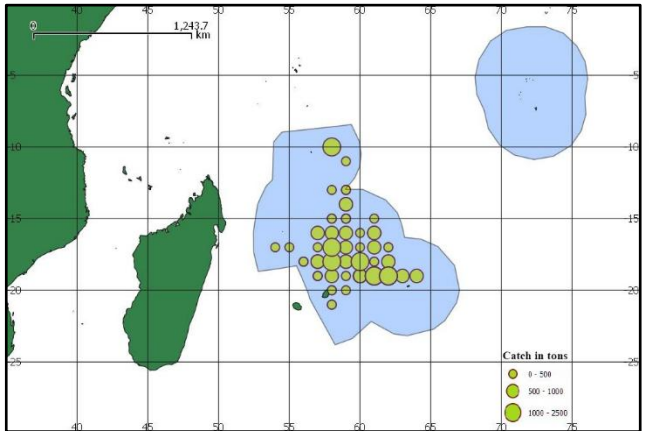


Figure 3b (i): Swordfish catches (tons) **2013 - 2017**
Mauritius-flagged **longliners fishing inside the EEZ**



F**igure 3b (ii): Tuna catches** (tons) **2013- 2017**
Mauritius-flagged **longliners fishing inside the EEZ**

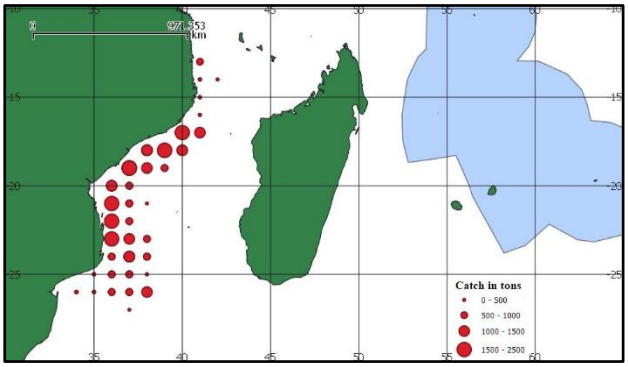


Figure 3b (iii): Swordfish catches (tons) **2016- 2017**
Mauritius-flagged **longliners outside in the EEZ**

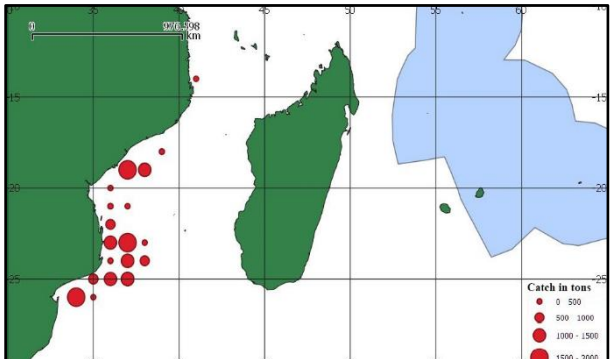


Figure 3b (iv): Tuna catches (tons) **2016 - 2017**
Mauritius-flagged **longliners fishing outside the EEZ**

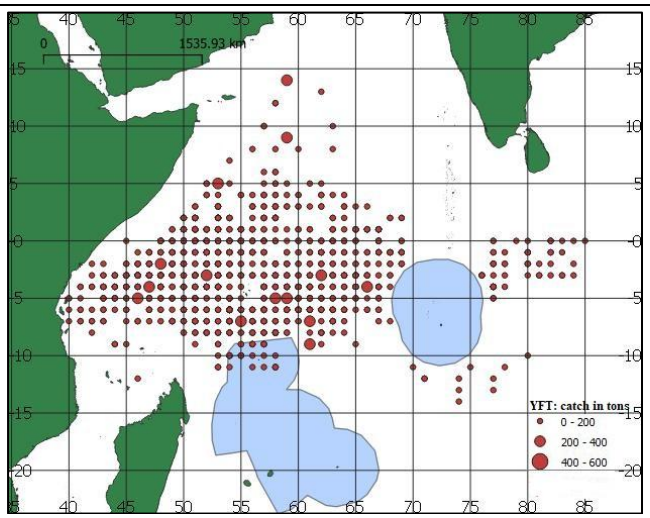


Figure 3b (v): Yellowfin catches (tons) by Mauritius-flagged **purse seiners** (**2013 -2017)**

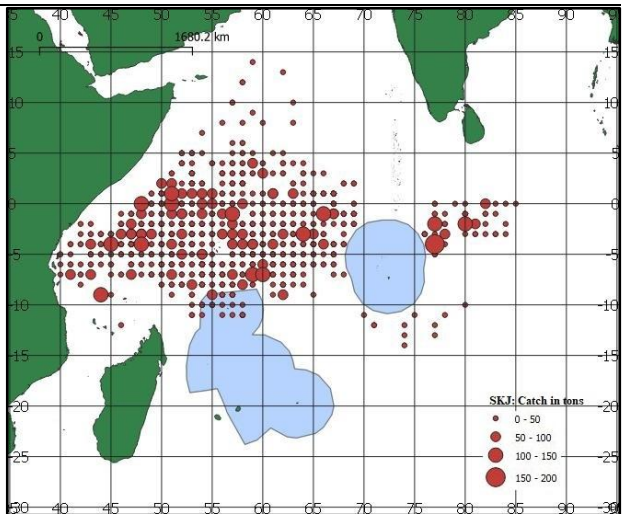


Figure 3b (vi): Skipjack catches (tons) by Mauritius-flagged **purse seiners (2013 - 2017)**

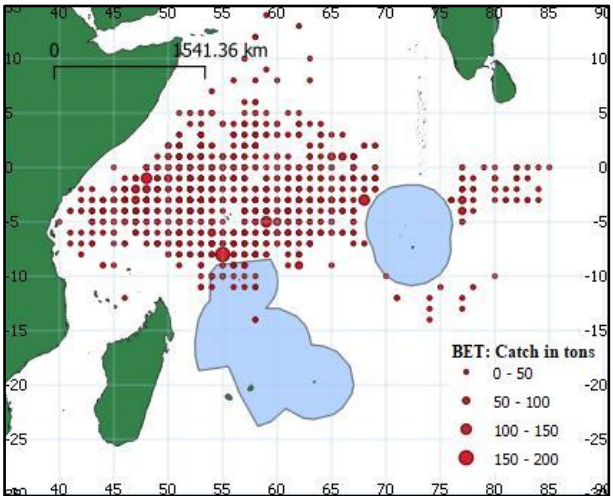


Figure 3b (vii): Bigeye catches (tons) by Mauritius-flagged **purse seiners (2013 - 2017)**

Figure 3b (i - vii) Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence (2013–2017).

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY

The sports/recreational fishing is an important activity for the tourism industry and local recreational fishermen. International big game fishing competitions are held annually. Around 60 sports/recreational fishing boats are involved in this fishery. The main fishing gear is trolling and the fishery supplies the local market with an estimated amount of about 350 tonnes. The main species comprises marlins, sailfish, tuna, common dolphinfish and wahoo. So as to enable the proper monitoring of the catch from the sports fishery, our data collection system is being revised to improve data collection.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES

5.1 Sharks

Skippers, masters and agents of vessels have been sensitised on the conservations and management measures related to sharks; namely Resolutions 12/09, 13/05 and 13/06 17/05 and 18/02. Those resolutions have been included in the licence conditions as mandatory. Furthermore, identification guides on pelagic sharks have been distributed to the masters of the national-flagged vessels. Mauritius has already implemented its NPOA-sharks and has conducted a shark identification workshop in 2014 and is currently planning a second shark identification workshop.

As reported in the fishing logbooks, longliners caught shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrhinchus*) and blue sharks *(Prionace glauca*).

Table 3: Total number and weight of sharks, by species, retained by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2013–2017

Year	No. of sharks	Species	Weight (Kg)
2013	**17**	*Isurus oxyrhinchus*	**680**
2014	**3**	*Isurus oxyrhinchus*	**90**
2015	**12**	*Isurus oxyrhinchus*	**485**
2016	**95**	*Isurus oxyrhinchus*	**3519**
	33	*Prionace glauca*	**575**
	2	*Sphyrnidae*	**70**
2017	**217**	*Isurus oxyrhinchus*	**6552**
	13	*Prionace glauca*	**250**

Table 4: Total number of sharks, by species, released/discarded by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2012–2016). Where available, include life status upon released/discard.

Year	No. of sharks released	Species
2016	**9**	*Prionace glauca*
2017	**Nil**	

5.2 Seabirds

No encounters with seabirds have been recorded during the fishing campaigns as per the fishing logbooks. All masters and agents of the licensed vessels have been provided with 'Seabirds Identification cards for fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean' whereby identification techniques and mitigation measures are described.

Observer seabird interaction data sheet for the IOTC longline fleet [Desirable]

Name of member state: _____;

Reporting period* or calendar year_____

Species _____

Fishery		Observed					Estimate
Area[1]	Total effort[2]	Total observed effort[2]	Observer coverage[3]	Captures (number)	Mortalities (number)	Live releases (number)	Mortality estimate (number)
Total							

*This field can be used to specify a temporal stratification to the data e.g. season

[1]Spatial stratification (5x5, 10x10 or other – to be determined)

[2]Number of hooks observed hauled

[3]Percentage of all hooks set that were observed hauled

1. How many vessels operated south of 25˚S in the period covered by this report?
2. How many of those vessels used bird scaring lines (as a proportion of total effort)?
3. How many of those vessels used line weighting (as a proportion of total effort)?
4. How many of those vessels used night setting (as a proportion of total effort)?

5.3 Marine Turtles

The protection of marine turtles and eggs of marine turtles is ensured under Sections 16 (1) (c) and 17 (1) (c) of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007.

Furthermore, vessels' agents and masters have been provided with the 'Marine Turtle Identification Cards – for Indian Ocean Fisheries' depicting different species of turtles, techniques of releasing hooked turtles as well as some literature related to the ecology of marine turtles, threats to marine turtles; amongst others.

Also, the license conditions of Mauritius make provision for compliance to Resolution 12/04.

Other measures taken by Mauritius related to the conservation of marine turtles have been included in the 'Reporting of progress of implementation of the FAO Guideline to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operation and on the implementation of resolution 12/04 on marine turtles' already submitted to the Secretariat on the 16/03/18. Interaction of the Mauritian purse seiners for Marine turtles has been reported for Resolution 12/04 in March 2017. There were 7 interactions with marine turtles and they were all released alive.

5.4 Other ecologically related species (e.g. marine mammals, whale sharks)

The Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007 makes provision for the protection of marine mammals under Section 17 (1) (d) as stipulated: "*no person shall land or cause any person to land, sell or have in his possession in Mauritius or in the maritime zones any marine mammal".*

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification (including date commenced and status of implementation)

Catch data is being collected from the fishing logbooks as from 2001. The fishing licence conditions make it mandatory for all the fishing vessels to submit duly filled in logbooks to the Ministry upon arrival at port. All the fishing positions are verified against the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and landing data from the Port State Control Unit (PSCU), Mauritius Ports Authority and fishing agents. 128 logbooks from longliners and 29 logbooks from purse seiners were processed. Observers are also deployed on one purse seiner.

6.2. Vessel Monitoring System (including date commenced and status of implementation)

The Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is located in the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) which was set up in 2005. The VMS network consists of a server which holds five workstations, out of which three are located at the Fisheries Monitoring Centre and the remaining two at the National Coast Guard.

The VMS network regularly receives information such as geographical positions of vessels and their corresponding date and time. A set of regulations was prescribed to provide the legal framework to support the VMS. All licensed fishing vessels are required to be equipped with the VMS system and to report to the FMC every two hours on fishing positions, speed and directions. 206 vessels have been monitored during 2017.

6.3. Observer programme (including date commenced and status; number of observer, include percentage coverage by gear type)

Table 6. Annual observer coverage by operation for purse seiners (2015-2016)

Year	Gear	Period	Number of Days
2015	**Purse seine**	**26/02/15 – 03/05/15**	**69**
		06/04/15 – 17/06/15	**71**
		06/05/15 – 15/07/15	**70**
2016		**23/03/16 – 01/06/16**	**78**
		01/06/16 – 10/08/16	**71**
		08/09/16 – 17/11/16	**71**
2017		**04/10/17 – 13/12/17**	**71**

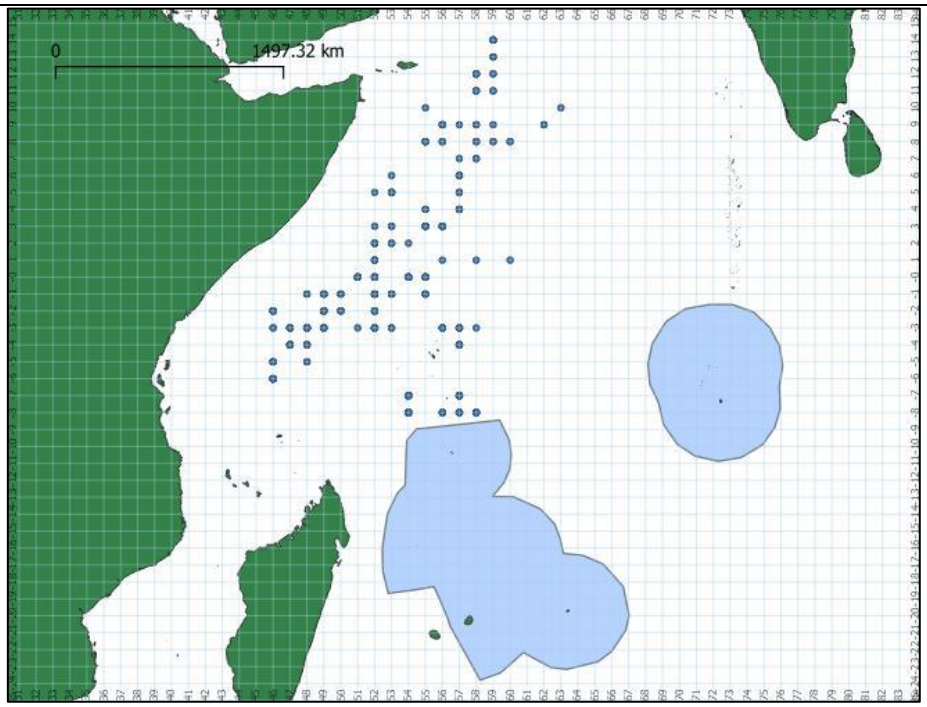


Figure 4. Map showing the spatial distribution of observer coverage

6.4. Port sampling programme [including date commenced and status of implementation]

Sampling exercises are performed by the Ministry's officers upon unloading of the licensed vessels at the port. The lengths and weights of the fish sampled are recorded. A calliper is used to measure the length of the fish: the fork length/the predorsal lengths are taken for the tuna species while the operculum to keel length is taken for the swordfish. The whole lengths of sharks were also recorded as summarised in Table 7.

Table 7. Number of individuals measured, by species and gear

Species	Number of individual measured
	Longline
Swordfish	374
Yellowfin tuna	233
Albacore tuna	195
Bigeye tuna	195
Skipjack tuna	-
Sharks	18

6.4. Unloading/Transhipment [including date commenced and status of implementation]

Mauritius acquired its purse seine fleet in 2013 and transshipment activities were initially recorded in Victoria, Seychelles in October 2013. In 2017, the two Mauritius-flagged purse seiners transhipped a total of 10,152 tonnes of tuna in Seychelles out of which a certain quantity was destined for Mauritius and the remaining for tonnes were for various destinations such as Italy, Tunisia, Spain, Thailand, Chian, Algeria, Japan, France, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS [Desirable]

[a description of research activities covering target and non-target species e.g. biological studies supporting stock assessments; composition of the catch according to length, weight and sex; research on environmental factors, abundance/biomass surveys, oceanographic and ecological studies, etc.]

Table 8. Summary table of national research programs, including dates. [currently underway]
Example only

Project title	Period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives	Short description
Programme régional de marquage de thons	2013–2017	EU – France and Spain		ED- DG FISH	Observer program: collection of bycatch data	

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC.

The most recent resolutions applicable to longliners and purse seiners that were adopted at the Commission Meeting in 2018 have been have been made mandatory for implementation by including these resolutions in the in the licence conditions of these vessels. Copies of the amended licence conditions were forwarded to the Secretariat of the IOTC on 18 July 2018. Mauritius is also implementing other Management Measures such as the use of Biofads.

Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2011 and 2017.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	The logbook template for longliners is presently being reviewed to accommodate the requirements of the IOTC CMMs. Furthermore, as per the license conditions, it is mandatory for the vessels to keep on board a copy of the logbook which has provision for daily recording the catch and effort. Logbooks are collected and data after each trip of each vessels. The data is then input and analysed.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	Data on mandatory statistical reporting is regularly submitted to the IOTC in June of every year. All the data pertaining to Resolution 15/02 for the year 2017 was submitted to the IOTC Secretariat on the 29/06/18 in accordance with the reporting requirements. As for the longline fleet, the final catch data shall be submitted by 31/12/18.
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the billfishes: striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7-9	All fishing vessels have to report in their logbooks Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish catches and whether released alive and/or discarded. Data about marlins are submitted to the IOTC in accordance with the Resolution 15/02
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	As per the logbooks of the fishing vessels, there has been no encirclement of cetaceans by the Mauritius-flagged purse seiners. Skippers have to report any interaction with cetaceans. Also, the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Act No. 27 of 2007 has prohibited the fishing of marine mammals, under Section 17.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)	Paragraphs 7– 9	All vessels have reported nil encounters with whale sharks. Also, the masters and agents of the Mauritius-flagged vessels have already been sensitised on the importance to comply with RES 13/05.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	There has been no encounter with oceanic whitetip sharks during the year. Skippers have also been provided with identification guides All fishers have been informed on the need to comply with Resolution 13/06. Furthermore, the NPOA Sharks of Mauritius has made provisions for the conservation of the oceanic whitetip shark.
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	Skippers of national flagged vessels have been trained in the identification of thresher sharks and have been informed to release live specimens of thresher sharks caught. They have also been provided with identification guides. No vessel has reported any encounter with thresher sharks.
12/06	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	No encounter with seabirds has been reported in the fishing logbooks. All vessels have been advised on the application of the seabird mitigation measures. Furthermore, 'Seabird Identification Cards' provided by the IOTC, have been distributed to the agents of the Mauritius-flagged vessels.
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	Licensed fishing vessels have been notified about the mitigation measures proposed under this resolution. Furthermore, marine turtles and their eggs are protected by the Mauritian law as specified in Sections 16 and 17 of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Act no. 27 of 2007. Also, information for Resolution 12/04 has already been submitted to the IOTC as per the FAO Guidelines on 16/03/18.
11/04	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 9	1 observer was deployed on board national-flagged purse seiner and the observer coverage was 13% for purse seiners for 2017.
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	Mauritius is not a shark-fishing nation and does not issue licenses to foreign vessels targeting sharks. However, guides related to the shark identification have been distributed among the agents of the Mauritius-flagged vessels to avoid the retention of endangered shark species under the IOTC mandate onboard. Moreover, the NPOA-sharks of Mauritius highlights the conservation of sharks caught as by catch. Hence, Mauritius has planned to hold a forthcoming workshop on the 'Identification of sharks and sharks' fins with the aim to sensitise all relevant stakeholders.
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	Mauritian vessels catching blue shark are required to record their catch in the logbooks. This data is reported as per Resolution 15/02. As per the fishing licence conditions it is mandatory for the skippers to record catch data on blue sharks.
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	The Implementation Report was submitted to the Secretariat on 16/03/18 and includes all measures taken for the reporting obligations regarding the mentioned resolutions in the different sections of the report. All columns in the form 1RC are filled and zero catches are recorded where applicable.

9. LITERATURE CITED

1. Fisheries in Mauritius, Regional Workshop on Data Collection and Processing, IOTC, (D. Norungee *et al.* 2004)

2. Evolution of the swordfish longline fishery in Mauritius (D. Norungee *et al*, 2002*)*

3. The first three years experience in the use of Fish Aggregating Devices in Mauritius (Roullot *et al* 1998*)*