

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Annual Review of SBT Fisheries for the Extended Scientific Committee

*(From the Report of the Fourth Scientific Committee Meeting. Changes since then are footnoted below.)*

#### 1. Introduction

- **Background**

EU fishing vessels do not target SBT. Any incidental EU catches of SBT are the result of by-catches of long-liners targeting swordfish in the IOTC Convention Area. EU Purse Seiners do not harvest SBT as they fish in inter-tropical tunas fishing grounds.

Historically the level of SBT catches by the EU fleet has been very limited and constrained to the IOTC Area. On average, in the recent years the level of catches has been maintained below the 10 tonnes allocated to the EU under the CCSBT SBT TAC for this purpose (see point 2 below). No SBT catches are to be reported by the EU at this stage for 2013.

- **Summary of historical developments in the fishery**

Five Spanish surface long-liners began prospecting the swordfish fishery in the Indian Ocean in September 1993. These vessels regularly alternated the Indian and other oceans in its fishing activities. Less than ten Spanish long-liners continued fishing during the period 1993-2001. In 2008 the total number of long-liners fishing in the Indian Ocean was 19. They decreased to 12 in 2010, and increased back to 18 in 2012. Concerning WCPFC the number of active long-liners is currently limited to five.

- **Overview of the most recent fishing season**

No catches of SBT reported for 2013 at this stage.

#### 2. Catch and Effort

- **Trends by gear type (surface and longline)**
- **Trends by area and season**

*(Table should include: catch & effort for above strata as well as totals for the entire history of the fishery)*

As the fleet does not target SBT it is not possible to provide catch and effort data relevant for SBT beyond the number of vessels active (See point 1 above and point 5 below).

#### EU CATCHES CCSBT\*

Indian Ocean	2000	0
Indian Ocean	2001	0
Indian Ocean	2002	0
Indian Ocean	2003	3
Indian Ocean	2004	22

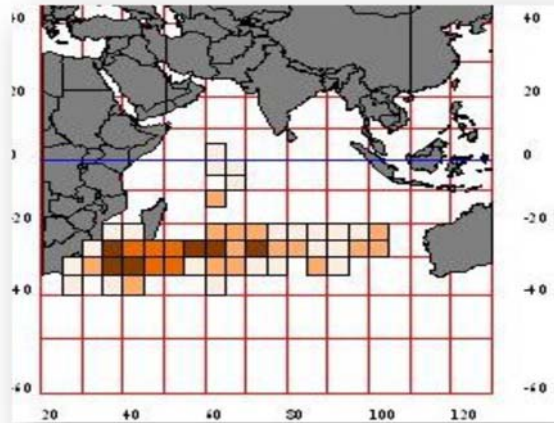
Indian Ocean	2005	0
Indian Ocean	2006	3
Indian Ocean	2007	18
Indian Ocean	2008	14
Indian Ocean	2009	2
Indian Ocean	2010	11
Indian Ocean	2011	3
Indian Ocean	2012	4

\* In tonnes. No catches registered for the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

### 3. Nominal CPUE where appropriate:

- Trends by gear type (surface and longline)
- Trends by area and season

(Table should include: nominal CPUE for above strata as well as totals for the entire history of the fishery)



Distribution of the nominal fishing effort (thousands hooks) (left) by 5°x5° degrees, carried out by the Spanish surface longline fleet in the Indian Ocean harvesting swordfish for the combined 2008-2012 period.

### 4. Size composition

- Trends by gear type (surface and longline)
- Trends by area and season

(Figures should include: average size frequency distributions by gear type for each 10 year period, as well as individually for each of the last 5 years)

The average characteristics of the vessels of the long-liners operating in the Indian Ocean during 2012 were 195 TRB, 33,9 m in length and 638.1 HP. Two types of longline styles were operating in previous periods: the traditional multifilament gear and the monofilament or ‘American style’ gear.

However the last decade the fleet replaced the traditional Spanish type longline by the ‘American’ type which used an average of around 1,100 hooks per set –a smaller number than in the traditional longline, although slightly higher than in the ‘Florida style’ longline gear.

## 5. Fleet size and distribution

- Trends by season
- Trends by area

*(Maps should include: historical catch and effort by gear type for the entire history of the fishery, as well as individually for each of the last 5 years)*

There are 5 long-liners operating in the WCPFC in 2012/13 and 18 in the IOTC ranging from 21 to 46 meters. Only the fleet operating in the IOTC has reported catches of SBT in the past.

The evolution of the long-line fleet in IOTC is as follows:

Year	Number of vessels
2008	19
2009	15
2010	12
2011	14
2012	18

## 6. Development and implementation of scientific observer programs<sup>1</sup>

- Provide a report containing the information specified in Annex 1 on the sampling scheme and arrangements for collecting data from the Member's/CNM's observer program.

Concerning IOTC, the observer programme for the swordfish fisheries commenced since the beginning of the fishery. In 2012 a total of 7,451 hooks (0.16% of effort coverage) were observed. The observations were affected and restricted to areas with regular commercial activity. The piracy is also affecting this program.

## 7. Other relevant information

### Notes:

- *Data on catches should be presented by both calendar year and fishing year.*
- *Weight data should be reported as whole weight, conversion factors used should be specified.*
- *Nominal CPUE, particularly for longline fisheries, should be expressed in standard units (eg, number of SBT per 1000 hooks).*
- *State where estimates are scaled from sample data.*
- *Where appropriate measures can be calculated.*

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<sup>1</sup> Section 11 and Attachment 2 of the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards.

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### REPORT SECTIONS ON DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER PROGRAMS

*(from the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards)*

#### REPORT COMPONENTS

The observer program implementation report should form a component of the annual National Reports submitted by members to the Scientific Committee. This report should provide a brief overview of observer programs for SBT fisheries, and is not intended to replace submitted papers containing proper analyses of collected observer data. This observer program report should include the following sections:

##### **A. Observer Training**

An overview of observer training conducted, including:

- Overview of training program provided to scientific observers.
- Number of observers trained.
- Summary of qualifications / training and years of experience of the observers deployed in SBT fisheries during the past year.
- A copy of the latest version of relevant manuals in their original language for reference

No observer program for SBT fisheries.

##### **B. Scientific Observer Program Design and Coverage**

Details of the design of the observer program, including:

- Which fleets, fleet components or fishery components were covered by the program.
- How vessels were selected to carry observers within the above fleets or components.
- How was observer coverage stratified: By fleets, fisheries components, vessel types, vessel sizes, vessel ages, fishing areas and seasons.

Details of observer coverage of the above fleets, including:

- Components, areas, seasons and proportion of total SBT catch, specifying units used to determine coverage.
- Total number of observer employment days, and number of actual days deployed on observation work.

No observer program for SBT fisheries.

##### **C. Observer Data Collected**

List of observer data collected against the agreed range of data set out in Attachment 1. In broad structure this would include:-

- Effort data: Amount of effort observed (vessel days, sets, hooks, etc), by area and season and % observed out of total by area and seasons
- Catch data: Amount of catch observed of SBT and other species (if collected), by area and season, and % observed out of total estimated SBT catch by area and seasons
- Length frequency data: Number of fish measured per species, by area and season.
- Biological data: Type and quantity of other biological data or samples (otoliths, sex, maturity, Gonosomatic index, etc) collected per species.
- The size of sub-samples relative to unobserved quantities.

In IOTC observers covered 0,16% of the hooks.

**D. Tag Return Monitoring**

Number of tags returns observed, by fish size class and area.

N/A

**E. Problems Experienced**

- Summary of problems encountered by observers and observer managers that could affect the CCSBT Observer Program Standards and/or each member's national observer program developed in the light of the Standards.