

Agenda Item 4.4: Bycatch Issues

Fisheries Statistics. Data submitted by Parties: France

Submitted by: Secretariat



NOTE:
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING
THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

Fisheries statistics from France (2004)

Submitted to ASCOBANS in 2006

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According to the Ifremer data base, around 2500 French vessels fishing with trawls or set nets in North Atlantic waters in year 2004. That fleet was compounded of 1200 bottom trawlers (most of them having a length less than 24 meters), 200 pelagic trawlers (generally length less than 24 meters) and 41 beam trawlers (most of them less than 18 meters long), around 1200 vessels were observed to fish with set nets (boats generally less than 12 meters long).

1. Bottom set nets

Type of fishery : Bottom set nets (eg: gill nets, tangle nets or trammel nets)

Target species : Mainly sole, anglerfish, spider crab, gadoids

Reporting period : Year 2004

Fishing season : All the year , some target species dependent on season.

Type of statistics : Activity with numbers of vessels and with boat-month numbers per gear with target species and fishing areas

Fishing areas :

	Other area	IV_c	other_VII	VII_d	VII_efh	other_VIII	VIII_ab	TOTAL
Number of vessels per area	4	52	33	197	395	20	670	1247
Number of month-boats per area	32	401	245	1689	2611	68	4853	9620

Total length of gear : Total length of gear : approximately 5 km for crab fishery; 20 km for anglerfish , turbot., rays ; 15 km for sole . 10 km for gadoids. These length of nets correspond to a hauling day time. The soak time varies according to the target species and is generally longer for crustacean target (a week) than fish target (between 12h and 3 days). For the anglerfish fisheries the immersion time of the gear is around 3 days.

Catch : Fish and crustaceans

Landings : Fish and crustaceans

Bycatch : Observers at sea were deployed in area VIIe,h in years 1992-93 to cover one full year. More than 470 km of hauled nets were observed in the anglerfish fishery which is the main fishery in the area VIIeh. No mammal bycatch was recorded (Morizur Y., S. Pouvreau et A. Guérolé. 1996. Les rejets dans la pêche artisanale française de Manche occidentale. Ouvrage IFREMER, collection Pêches Maritimes, 127 p.). Many additional observations are available through other projects having observers on board. The table below (WGMME, 2005) give an idea of the French fishing effort observed with no bycatch of cetacean reported.

ICES AREA	YEARS	TARGET SPECIES / NETTING TYPE	EFFORT OBSERVED	REFERENCE
VII e, h	1992-93	Monkfish, turbot, brill, crayfish	519 km net	Morizur <i>et al.</i> 1996a, b; J. Sacchi in EC project AIR 2 N° CT 93-1122
VII d	1995-96	Sole	44 km net	Brabant <i>et al.</i> 1994
VII d	1997	Sole	22 km net	Minet 1997
VIII	1995	Hake	27 km	Brabant <i>et al.</i> 1994
VII	2003-04	Sole, turbot, monkfish	33 trips	Ifremer (pers. comm.)
VIII	2003-04	Sole, hake, spider crab	27 trips	Ifremer (pers. comm.)

Discards : Discards were studied with observers in area VIIe,h. The immersion duration time of the nets was the main reason of discards as some species are more sensible to the soak time. Generally the soak time was observed optimal to get the best ratio landings/discards.

1. Trawling

Type of fishery : Bottom trawling for benthic and demersal species and cephalopods, pelagic trawling for anchovy, pilchard, bass, bream, horse mackerel, mackerel, tunas, and beam trawling for flat fish. Around 60 vessels works in pairs for pelagic trawl.

Target species : Demersal and benthic species (anglerfish, bass, gadoids, skates, rays, sole, turbot, cephalopods...), pelagic species (anchovy, pilchard, bass, bream, horse mackerel, mackerel, tunas)

Reporting period : Year 2004

Fishing season : All the year for bottom or beam trawling; Pelagic trawling target more seasonal species and is active in several fisheries.

Type of statistics : Activity with numbers of vessels and with boat-month- numbers per metier.

Fishing areas :

Number of vessels per area

Gear / Fishing area	Other areas	IV_c	other_VII	VII_d	VII_efh	other_VIII	VIII_ab	Total
Bottom trawl	47	43	165	325	406	36	620	1263
Pelagic trawl	7	4	57	79	66	58	137	221
Beam trawl	2	5	0	36	9	0	1	41

Number of boat-months per area

Gear / Fishing area	Other areas	IV_c	other_VII	VII_d	VII_efh	other_VIII	VIII_ab	Total
Bottom trawl	322	189	1193	2286	2922	119	5141	11303
Pelagic trawl	17	6	123	241	185	128	894	1391
Beam trawl	8	34	0	206	32	0	6	247

Total length of gear : The head rope is generally around 40 meters large for the bottom trawling and for pair pelagic trawling the horizontal aperture is 80 meters larger and the vertical opening is 40 meters.

Catch :

Landings :

Bycatch : Bycatch of marine mammal has not yet been reported in bottom trawling. Bycatch has

been reported in the years 1995-96 in some fisheries of pelagic trawling : hake, bass, tuna (Morizur Y., S. D. Berrow, N.J.C. Tregenza, A. S. Couperus et S. Pouvreau ,1999. Incidental catches of marine -mammals in pelagic trawl fisheries of the Northeast Atlantic. *Fisheries Research*, 41 : 297-307.). A more extensive and recent project with observers on the pair pelagic trawling was carried out in areas VII and VIII through the European project PETRACET and bycatch of cetaceans (mainly common dolphin) was observed in tuna and seabass fisheries. The final report will be available at the European Commission.

Discards :

Discards was studied with observers in bottom trawling in area VIIe,f in years 1992-93.(Morizur Y., S. Pouvreau et A. Guérolé. 1996. Les rejets dans la pêche artisanale française de Manche occidentale. Ouvrage IFREMER, collection Pêches Maritimes, 127 p.). Pelagic trawling was studied with observers in years 1995-96 and a small proportion of the catch (generally less than 25 %) was discarded (Morizur Y., N. Tregenza, H. Heessen, S. Berrow and S. Pouvreau, 1996. By-catch and discarding in pelagic trawl fisheries. Rapport final, Contrat CE-DGXIV-c-1, Bioeco/93/048.,124 pp + annexes).

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