

Logbooks of the support boats for the European Purse Seine Fleet

by

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Abstract

This document presents the format of the logbooks that will be introduced among the support boats for the European purse seine fleet fishing in the Indian Ocean.

Introduction

Since the end of the 90s, the European purse seine fleet fishing in the Indian Ocean has counted on support boats, which are distinguished from the rest by their activity and vessel type. These boats assist the purse-seiners with several activities. Some of these activities are directly related to fishing operations, while others are aimed at assisting seiners on the high seas, for instance, by providing them with fuel and supplies, etc. In any case, all actions contribute to increasing the effort and effectiveness of the purse-seiners assisted (Arrizabalaga et al., 2001). Table 1 shows the number of support boats and the number of purse-seiners receiving assistance.

Despite the existence of a preliminary estimation of the contribution made by these boats to the purse-seiners' effort, based on observer data, their activity is quite unknown, which makes it extremely difficult to assess the contribution made by these support vessels to the overall purse seine effort. This has been a cause for concern for the Scientific Committee of the IOTC. Consequently, in recent meetings, it has recommended the development of mechanisms to facilitate improved information about these boats.

Method

With a view to performing an ongoing follow-up of the support boats, a logbook has been created for that purpose (Figure 1). We are currently distributing these logbooks, bearing in mind the difficulties resulting from these boats' activity, since they rarely put into port, which makes both distribution and subsequent collection an arduous task.

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Class	Supp	VAS*
1995	N.D.	N.D.
1996	N.D.	N.D.
1997	N.D.	N.D.
1998	N.D.	N.D.
1999	6	7
2000	7	9
2001	5	5
2002	8	9
2003	5	5

Table1. Number of supplies used in association with EU boats and number of purse-seiners fishing in association with supplies 1995 - 2003.

Nombre del barco

Patron

ejem	Fecha	Posición	Hora	Actividad							En caso de pesca		Al recoger o visitar	Al plantar	Tipo baliza	Observaciones		
				Plantando objetos	Visitando objetos	Anclado en monte	Avisando cerquero	Llegada cerquero	Cambio tripulación	Otras	Nombre cerquero	Estimación banco Tm					Código baliza	
	27-abr-04	11° 38 ' N 67° 24' W	12.00			X		X					Cimarrón I	50	Z-123	Z-123	sherpe	

Figure 1 Supplies logbook.