Dongwon FAD-associated IO purse seine tuna FIP and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) introductory meeting

Summary

2nd March 2023 – 0800 GMT/1800 Korean time via Zoom

Indian Ocean tuna - purse seine (Dongwon Industries) | Fishery Progress

Attendees

Dongwon	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Key Traceability
Phil Shin	Craig Heberer	Emily Wardrop
	~~Ben Gilmer~~	

Unable to attend: Ben Gilmer

Agenda
• Welcome and introductions (all) • TNC EM overview (CH) • FIP overview (EW) • Questions/comments (all)

Talking Points

Introductions

This partnership was initially needed last year (2022) but with a changeover in both FIP management from Jae to Phil, and within FIP coordination from Charlie to Emily, it got pushed back until we met in Bangkok last October.

TNC overview

- TNC started an EM project in longline fisheries in the Pacific Ocean, including FSM, Marshall islands and Palau.
- Thai Union, Bumblebee and other big retailers are involved in the project.
- There is a central database that collects the data from the EM systems and all the separate companies can assess their own conservation policies against the data available.
- Chile, French Polynesia. Emerging work in Ghana.
- Trying to review the EM videos at a cheaper cost.

Dongwon

The Indian Ocean longline fishery has 12 boats that are already certified. However, they will need to be re-assessed in 2 years. Dongwon is thinking about getting EM installed on those vessels, but the cost is very high and not affordable at the moment. Create the data that needs to be there to meet the MSC requirements. EM is a better solution to observers (cheaper than ensuring 20% human coverage) and there is no risk of COVID etc.

Phil – EM systems on the WCPO Longline MSC certified fishery. There was a Korean trial of human and EM observer coverage but no results so far.

Craig – how did the Korean gov. cost up the EM systems trials to identify the benefits of EM.

Craig – trying to create efficiencies by creating this platform that stores all the data in one place but provides permits to the owner companies. This brings down the costs. The EM systems are implemented on all vessels, and all trips are assessed but only 20% of sets are analysed per voyage, based on recommendations from RFMOs.

For longline vessels, the actual fishing activity is sporadic and can occur at any time, this means that there is often a lot of dead time between sets and isn't worth having the video images from. So, some images from the central database are being used to inform an algorithm that notices when there is no fishing activity, the EM stops recording. This would also drive down the cost of the systems because it reduces the observer analysis time. This is a work in progress, so is not yet readily available.

Indian Ocean purse seine tuna FIP overview

The Indian ocean FIP was established in March 2021 and originally it was introduced to Key Traceability through the FIP lead at the time Jae Lee. Last May, Jae left Dongwon and Phil took over.
The fishery targets skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean, and the Seychelles and Mauritius EEZ. There are two fishing vessels flagged to Korea that land in Seychelles.
So, where the FIP is currently at is heading for MSC certification! We submitted the application to Control Union back in December and have been working on finalising the documents that they've requested.
We have to keep part of the FIP active, for the bigeye and yellowfin stocks because there are obviously still issues with the status of yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean. But hopefully, when the skipjack section of the FIP passes, we will be able to add bigeye and yellowfin as a scope extension if/when they become healthy enough to pass.
However, this means that we have some more things to do for the FIP in the future, which we will need some support from an NGO Partner.
Potential for installing the purse seine.

Atlantic Ocean FIPs

We have a separate meeting organised for TNC to introduce this partnership with Capsen and Grand Bleu as well. But this is a summary of what we already know about the FIP.

In December, Capsen installed EM systems onboard the 4 vessels within their fleet. In February, Grand Bleu installed the EM systems onboard their 2 vessels. Working with Satlink and DOS.

There is an issue with observer data in Senegal because it does not cover the appropriate information that is required by MSC, especially regarding ETP species. This is why the FIP is keen to use EM systems and begin collecting this vital data.

They may be interested in hosting their data on the central database – this is something we would have to discuss with them separately.

Questions/comments
N/a

Actions:

1. TNC to email Phil about an EM demonstration.