

## NARRATIVE:

Change in score of the Performance Indicator 2.3.3 Information for ETP species

## SUBJECT

Currently scored a SG 60-79, we proposed to increase the score to SG  $\geq$  80.

## RATIONALE

The PI 2.3.3 species information addresses the information base for the outcome and management of the ETP species. FIPBLUES has carried out a deep analysis and processing of DEA data (electronic logbook) of the last five years (2018-2022). Therefore, an updated list of the ETP species impacted by the FIP vessels is now available.

The results of that analysis are presented at the report delivered in this Annual Report 2022, named as “CATCH COMPOSITION (2018-2022), an approach to species interacting with the fishery”, that. Catch and Discard composition. Update of catches data. Comparison of 2016 data with current catch”.

It is based on the analysis of the data contained in the DEA (Electronic LogBook) of the vessels of FIPBLUES operating in the Atlantic, for 2018-2022. Those data series have been provided by the SGP-MAPAMA. (See the partial Report for “Catch species composition. Update of the species interacting with the fishery” in the “Sub Report of activities developed during the Second semester for Action 2 and the Report itself”).

This way, FIPBLUES has brought to the scene valuable quantitative information to know ETP species interacting with the fishery and how much they represent in the total weight and their percentage. In posterior analysis the mortality and that extent of the potential impact of the fishery can be assessed.

Given the results presented in the report, this information is adequate for the estimation of the impact of the UoA on the ETPs, which is likely to be very low.

We have created a data base from DEA for monitoring species. This is an “alive tool that is facilitating from now the regular monitoring of species composition.

FIPBLUES catch estimation is carried out using a variety of data collection methods recommended by the MSC Fisheries Standard as DEA (electronic logbook), Observer programme (physical and electronic observer), electronic monitoring of location/position (mandatory for all vessels to have a VMS). There are also some research projects that can provide some useful data regarding ETPs. FIPBLUES and the chief scientist for ICCAT of the Spanish Oceanographic Institute (IEO) have had talks in order enhance the collaboration and, among others, to facilitate more information of interest to FIPBLUES.

In addition to the catch, mortality of caught species needs to be understood for ETPs.

That is something that FIPBLUES is addressing through the DEA, in order to record number of individual and if possible, note alive/dead. It is worth to mention that the DEA does not facilitate that task because of the structure of the program. Therefore, the OPP have suggested the SGP to design a friendlier environment and versatile program in the next modification of the DEA (oral information shared in meetings with representatives of the SGP and OPPs).

Thus, all the information gathered and the subsequent data monitoring during the next two years will allow to measure trends and support a strategy to manage, if any, impacts on ETP species.

Besides, it must be highlighted that the National Plan for the Reduction of By-catch by the fishing industry has been approved this year by the Spanish government. The aim is to perform eight strategic actions in such a way that in 2030 the impact of the fishing industry does not harm or endanger the populations of sensible fauna. These actions imply, among others, the involvement of key stakeholders as those of the long line fishing industry gathered in FIPBLUES. The plan aims at studying interaction of marine fauna with the different modalities of fisheries in Spain. The plan includes an approach to interaction of some ETP species (marine mammal, birds, turtles, other sharks) that enrich our own data base and knowledge.

Therefore, given the above, it can be confirmed that relevant information is collected to support the management of UoA impacts on ETP species (including information for the development of the management strategy; information to assess the effectiveness of the management strategy; and information to determine the outcome status of ETP species)

a) Quantitative information is adequate for assessment of impacts (related mortality and impact and to determine whether the UoA may be a threat to protection and recovery of the ETP species).

a) Well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY, or for key LTL species a level consistent with ecosystem needs.

(b) the Information is adequate to measure trends and support a strategy to manage potential impacts on ETP species.

Having explained this narrative, it is worth to mention also on key aspect of the initial approach of the FIP to gather more and better data of all species. That aim lays on the improvement of data recording in the DEA, from which the SGP and IEO prepare the documents and final data that will finally reach the SCRS of ICCAT. Data that is crucial for stock assessments, etc. So, with that in mind, it is necessary to stress that FIPBLUES did not intend to duplicate registers and processes. Thus, our role in data management is for analytical purposes, like this. Official data are produced by the SGP, and it is that public body which also validate our activities to increase data and data quality and the actual improvement.