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IOTC bycatch in the SIOFA Area

(Abstract of restricted paper)

The SIOFA Secretariat

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Abstract	<p>IOTC and SIOFA have a very large marine area in common with vessels susceptible of catching species of interest to each organization. IOTC provided the SIOFA Secretariat with an update of catch figures up-to 2022 reported to IOTC by its members, that included non-IOTC species. The Secretariat computed the catch of non-IOTC species that occurred in the SIOFA area in the recent period (since 2000). Several fishing vessels flagged to countries that are not SIOFA CCPs caught significant quantities of species that fall under the SIOFA management mandate. Several SIOFA CCPs also have significant catches which have not been reported.</p>

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Recommendations

The SIOFA Secretariat recommends that the SC:

- **identifies** which species amongst the IOTC bycatch should be considered by SIOFA and reported to SIOFA under its requirements.
- **informs** the MoP that several non-contracting parties have made significant catches of SIOFA species.
- **informs** the MoP that some CCPs' catches of SIOFA species are not reported to SIOFA according to the requirements of SIOFA CMM, and that the vessels are not registered on the SIOFA record of authorized vessels.

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