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# A CLOSER LOOK: THE SIOFA ALFONSINO FISHERY AND ITS MANAGEMENT

Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA)

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<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The operations of the F.T. Will Watch h in the SIOFA alfonsino fishery have used the same fishing methods, and gear configuration and many of the same crew since 1999. This opportunity has been taken to examine the history of its past catch and fishing effort to identify if it informs on the status of the alfonsino resource. The record shows a complex history that reflects market/demand in the fishery, the complex behaviour of alfonsino and the varying effects of oceanographic variability in regard to its catchability. We conclude that, for this fishery, the best unit of assessment is the fishing vessel and the appropriate measure of CPUE is catch per tow. Further, there should be cognizance of the oceanographic environment and activities of all the vessels in the fishery should be considered as part of the annual management process.</p>

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