

E-training tool descriptor

Supra-category: IOTC ROS Scientific Field Observer Training (IOTC ROS SFO)

Category: IOTC fisheries impacts on the ecosystems, interactions with species of special interest and mitigation (IOTC ROS TR17)

Description

This module aims to familiarize Observers with IOTC definition and list of species of special interest (SSIs). Their levels of vulnerability regarding the species groups that are likely to interact with tuna fisheries; and mitigation with respect to limiting the impacts of fishing operations.

The trainee's performance will be evaluated against the following agreed IOTC ROS competency standards:

- Candidates are familiar with the species of special interest (SSI) that interact with IOTC tuna fisheries, most common interactions and strategies to avoid and mitigate such interactions.

The achieving of these standard is demonstrated by candidates' capacity to:

- ✓ Describe species of special interest as being non-target species in commercial fisheries that can be accidentally landed in the course of fishing operations.
- ✓ Vulnerability is described in terms of these species being susceptible to accidental landing, primarily as a result of hunting for food or accidentally interacting with a fishing vessel.
- ✓ To cite SSIs most common interactions in each type of fishery (longline and purse-seine, including FADs).
- ✓ To outline main mitigation methods used in purse seine, pelagic longline, pelagic gillnet and pole and line (tuna and bait) fisheries.
- ✓ To outline the purpose of mitigation in relation to species conservation (avoiding interaction).
- ✓ To outline best practices recommended by the IOTC for the safe handling and release of SSIs.
- ✓ Given a simulated interaction with a species of special interest to demonstrate an ability to correctly record it using IOTC data collection forms and also document the interaction in its observer journal.