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## **EU-France National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2023**

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### **Executive Summary**

Five French fleets were active in the Indian Ocean in 2022:

1 - The tuna purse seine fleet comprised 10 purse seiners and 2 support vessels representing a total CC of 10,662 tonnes. Landed catches amounted to 16,869 tonnes, representing a decrease of 28.28% compared with the average of 13,149.6 tonnes for the reference period 2017-2021, with a proportion of the major species YFT, SKJ and BET of 60.97%, 33.90% and 4.95% respectively. The fishing effort reached 1,637 days during which 2,316 fishing operations were carried out with 1,629 (70.34%) on FOB and 687 (29.66%) on free banks. The number of ADFs deployed by the 12 vessels totalled 3,934 (i.e. 327.83 ADFs/vessel). The human and electronic observer programmes contributed to 100% coverage of the fishery.

2 - The longline fleet based on Réunion, with 43 active vessels. Total landings by the fleet amount to 2,278 tonnes for an estimated total effort of 4.212 million hooks. Swordfish accounted for 44.0% of landings and tuna (yellowfin, patudo and albacore) for 45.9%. The observer programme covered 14.7% of the fishing effort expressed in hooks.

3 - Réunion's small-scale inshore fishing fleet of 107 vessels landed 274.1 tonnes of large pelagics.

4 - The Mahoran longline fleet comprises 2 units and landed 71.5 tonnes. It should be noted that for one of the two boats, the catches are not available in the declarative data stream.

5 - Small-scale fishing on the island represents 132 active units, which landed 292 tonnes of large pelagics.

In line with the IOTC's research priorities, France is carrying out various projects at national, European and international level. France actively participated in all the working groups organised by the IOTC in 2022 and presented 12 scientific contributions.