
France OT National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2025

Executive Summary

Since Mayotte became a territory under Community rule on January 1, 2014, France's tropical overseas territories in the Indian Ocean now consist solely of the Scattered Islands, which are administered by the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF). The Glorieuses Marine Nature Park was created on February 22, 2012 (Decree No. 2012-245), and became a National Nature Reserve in 2021 (Decree No. 2021-734), which is part of the Scattered Islands and covers the entire EEZ of the Glorieuses.

The Scattered Islands (France Territories) do not have any tuna fleets registered for this territory. Nevertheless, the TAAF administration issues fishing licenses to French and foreign longliners and seiners wishing to fish in waters administered by France Territories, and an on-board observer program accompanies the granting of these licenses. Observations at sea on French longliners based in Réunion are made by onboard observers or via self-sampling (data collection by captains). These observations are led by the IRD with European funding as part of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) project.

Data from EU-French flagged longliners were presented in the EU-FR report. France's current research program (mainly IRD and Ifremer) on large pelagic species covers the monitoring of fishing activities, landings, and biometrics of target species and discards, the study of the migratory behavior of large pelagic species, studies on fish concentration devices, the collection of observer data from electronic monitoring, genetic and microchemical studies to delimit stocks, the development of measures to mitigate bycatch and depredation, mortality after discard by European purse seine and longline fisheries targeting sharks, and the development of an innovation to facilitate the rapid release of marine megafauna caught on longlines and improve the survival of individuals. Most projects are funded through international, European, or national calls for proposals. This report lists the various projects that continued or began in 2024. It also includes projects directly involving the IOTC, even if these projects are still in the process of being launched.

France has actively participated in all working groups organized by the IOTC and presented 15 scientific contributions in 2024.