

Fisheries Committee Paper

Part: I

Title: Compliance Update (March-May2023)

Agenda Item: 7

Date: 08/06/2023

Report of: Alex Blake. Operations Manager

Paper for information only

Vessel Inspections March-May 2023 Jiggers

One Jigger was inspected at sea without any compliance issues

Trawlers

Two trawlers were inspected at sea with no compliance issues.

First Season MRAG Compliance Observers

MRAG observers were deployed on the 16 Loligo Trawlers at the start of the season, when 1 of the vessels had a major mechanical issue the observer was transferred to the replacement vessel for the duration of the repair and returned to the original vessel when repaired. The Loligo fleet thus had 100% coverage for all fishing days.

There were 971 vessel/fishing days between the 26 Feb and 03 May.

Net Cleaning

On 28 of the 971 (2.8%) vessel days net cleaning was poor or weak and on 76 (7.8%) days net cleaning was rated as satisfactory, there were 510 (52.5%) days with good net cleaning and 349 (35.9%) with excellent cleaning.

Net cleaning quality is strongly correlated with total catch, whereby the poorest net cleaning is observed when the catch is highest (Figure 1). The 2 poor ratings relate to a single vessel.

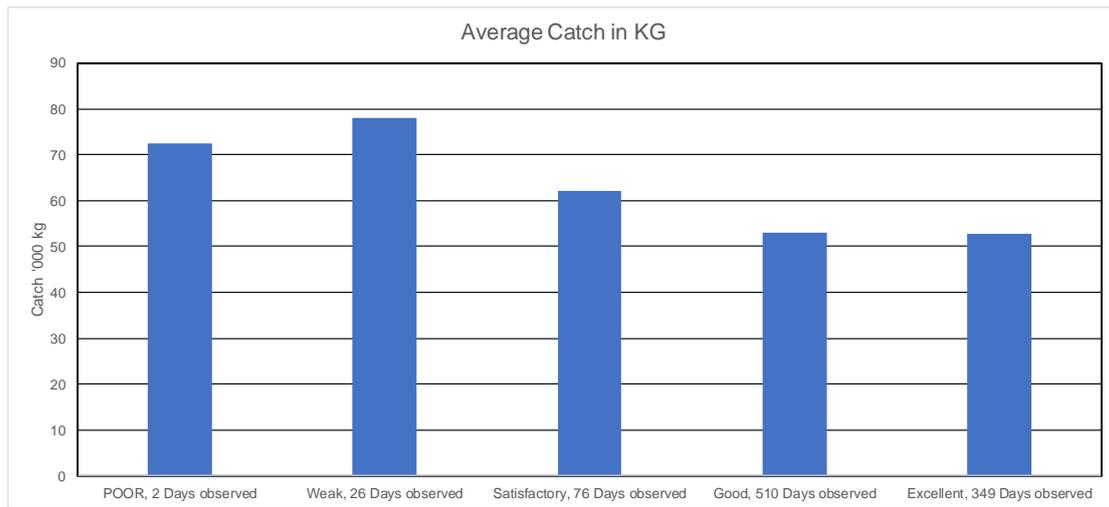


Figure 1 Chart showing average catch for each net cleaning rating

Daily Observations

The table below outlines all of the issues recorded

<i>Monitored Behaviour</i>	<i>Licence Condition Part\Section</i>	<i>Vessel Days Recorded (971)</i>
Seal Exclusion Device deployed incorrectly	2\3	0 (0%)
Birds Scaring Lines (BSL) - Tori lines or Fixed Arial Arrays (FAA) incorrectly deployed	3\16	1 (0.1%)
BSL NOT cleaned and maintained	3\18	2 (0.2%)
Squid Remaining in cod-end or remaining on deck when net is Shot	3\13	2 (0.2%)
Seabird caught in any of the trawl gear		75 (7.7%)
BSL Contacts		21 (2.2%)
Deck Release		30 (3.1%)
Mortality		24 (2.5%)
Marine mammal caught in the net		19 (2%)
SED Release		13 (1.3%)
Deck Release		4 (0.4%)
Mortality		2 (0.2%)
Marine mammal or bird was intentionally harmed or killed	3\11	0 (0%)
Warps splices are incorrectly protected	3\17	0 (0%)
Discards from the ship did not cease 5 minutes before during shooting, hauling and turning	3\12	2 (0.2%)
Daily aggregate bycatch of toothfish has exceeded 1.5%	2\4c	0 (0%)
Daily aggregate bycatch has exceeded 10%	2\4b	0 (0%)
Undamaged <i>Doryteuthis gahi</i> (Calamari) are discarded	2\1a	0 (0%)
Bycatch species incorrectly reported	3\6	2 (0.2%)
Garbage brought onboard not properly stored	3\42	0 (0%)
Plastics (gloves, packaging) or synthetics (nets, twine, longline, etc) lost or discarded	3\42	31 (3.2%)

There were 24 vessel days with observer recorded mortalities of seabirds, on 2 occasions the MRAG observer did not report mortalities but the vessel did (one of these was the report of 4 dead albatross in one trawl), there were no occasions when the observer reported the mortalities but the vessel did not. In total there were 32 black browed albatross and 5 white chinned petrels mortalities. There were 5 occasions with multiple mortalities in one day on 4 different vessels, with one vessel having multiple mortalities 4 days apart, however the observers did not report any issues with the maintenance and operation of the bird scaring lines on any of these vessels.

Besides the incidental mortalities, the most common issue reported by the MRAG Observers related to the loss of plastics from the vessel with 31 of 971 fishing days with plastics lost overboard. This equates to 3.2% of the fishing effort.

FIFD Observer Compliance

FIFD observers do not report compliance on a daily basis, although going forward this will be introduced. Instead they report on based on the entire trip.

Jiggers

Two jigger reports have been completed, the observers did not raise any concerns relating to availability of safety equipment and noted that all crew working on deck wore PPE.

There were minor issues raised relating to MARPOL, and whilst the flag states a may not be signatories to MARPOL they are required to abide by the convention as a licence condition. On one vessel the crew were observed discarding plastic food wrapping onto the deck whilst working, which ended up in the sea.

There were concerns raised with the sanitation conditions, with salt water showers, (despite the showers being demonstrated as fresh water at inspection) on one vessel and lack of space for the crew.

Finfish Trawlers

FIFD observers reported 2 trips on finfish vessels during the period March-May. On both vessels there were issues with catch reporting either underestimation of bycatch or missing species off the catch report. The adherence to MARPOL was also raised as an issue after one vessel discarded 3 bags of plastic, and on another occasion, crew discarded plastic into the factory discard chute.

Loligo Trawlers

Compliance on Loligo trawlers reported by the FIFD observers is generally good. During the period FIFD observers were embarked on 4 trawlers. On 3 of them there were issues raised with reporting of catch, with underestimation of by-catch species (Hake and toothfish) on 2 vessels and very poor estimation of Loligo discarded after net cleaning.

Patrolling Activity

The Protegat finished their charter with FIG on 13 May. Between January and April there was a fishery officer embarked for a total of 57 days, fishery officers were used for port inspections during February and training with Lilibet 10th to 21st April. Whilst fisheries officers where embarked a total of 21 days were lost to weather. Protegat covered 7,314 nautical miles during the period.

Lilibet arrived and was formally handed over to FIG, with the first patrol being carried out between 1st and 13th May. Despite some rough weather the Lilibet completed taskings on there patrol plan, covering 2,314 miles. There is still some bedding in to be done but early feedback from the fishery officers is that the vessel is extremely capable and good to work with and on.