

## Effets du plan de protection des thonides de l'Atlantique 1998-1999 d'après les observations faites sur les thoniers senneurs gérés par les armements français



In 1998, the French and Spanish tuna-boat owners associations have voluntarily reconducted the Atlantic tuna protection plan (also called moratorium) initiated the previous year. This plan which has become an iccat recommendation for 1999, consists mainly in preventing fishing on floating objects (logs) and in having observers on board tuna purse seiners. Data collected by these observers and landing statistics allow to draw preliminary conclusions on some effects of the protection plan, on the fleets and on the Atlantic tuna stocks. Largely respected, the moratorium has led to a spatial redistribution of the fishing effort, an important reduction of the proportion of sets on logs and a decrease of the landings by one third compared to those realised the years before during the same months, particularly for the skipjack and the bigeye tunas. Moreover, data collected allow to calculate catch rates for a number of by-catch species in the purse seine fishery.

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