#### 9.8 SAI - SAILFISH

The most recent stock assessments for East and West sailfish were conducted in 2016 (Anon. 2017d) using catch data available to 2014, through a process that included meetings for data preparatory, and a catch rate standardization workshop in May. The previous sailfish stock assessments were conducted in 2009 (Anon. 2010a).

### SAI-1. Biology

Sailfish have a mainly pan-tropical distribution in the Atlantic Ocean, with occasional catches reported from temperate waters. Based on life history information, migration rates and geographic distribution of catch, ICCAT has established two management units for sailfish, eastern and western Atlantic stocks (SAI-Figure 1). However, a recent preliminary study investigating genetic differentiation among groups of Atlantic sailfish suggests genetic stock structure between both the eastern and western Atlantic, and northern and southern hemispheres, suggesting the need for further investigations to elucidate and confirm the presence of additional stock structure that may influence future assessments.

Sailfish is more coastally oriented than other billfish species. Conventional tagging data suggests they move shorter distances than the other billfish (**SAI-Figure 2**). Temperature preferences for adult sailfish appear to be in the range of 25-28°C. Sailfish generally seek out the warmest water available, and electronic tagging studies indicate that about 96% of darkness, 86% of twilight, and 82% of daylight hours are spent near the surface (Hoolihan *et al.*, 2011). Vertical habitat use is more complex however, with frequent short duration excursions to deeper depths in excess of 100 m, with some dives as deep as 350 m.

Sailfish grow rapidly and reach a maximum size of 160 cm for males and 220 cm for females, with a mean maximum age of at least 12 years. A new length at 50% maturity (L50) has been estimated for West Atlantic female sailfish (146.12 cm LJFL); while the previous L50 value used for western sailfish males remains at 135.7 cm LJFL. No values are currently available for eastern Atlantic sailfish.

Sailfish spawn over a wide area and year around. For the western stock, evidence of spawning has been detected in the Straits of Florida, and off the Venezuelan, Guyanese and Surinamese coasts. In the southwestern Atlantic, spawning has been confirmed off the southern coast of Brazil between 20° and 27°S. Additional spawning areas occur in the eastern Atlantic off Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. Timing of spawning can differ between regions; from the Florida Straits to the areas off Guyana western Atlantic sailfish spawn in the second and third quarter of the year, while in the southwestern Atlantic they spawn during the austral summer.

#### SAI-2. Fisheries indicators

Sailfish are targeted by coastal artisanal and recreational fleets and are captured to a lesser extent as bycatch in longline and purse seine fisheries (**SAI-Figure 3**). Historically, catches of sailfish were reported together with spearfish by many longline fleets. In 2009 these catches were separated by the Committee (**SAI-Table 1**).

### East Atlantic

The eastern stock is exploited by surface fisheries, mainly artisanal gillnet and troll, and to a lesser degree by purse seine, as well as longline and recreational fisheries. The main surface fisheries are carried out by the artisanal fleets of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal followed by the EU mixed flags fleets (France and Spain) in the Gulf of Guinea and in the waters of the tropical eastern Atlantic. The main longline fleets are EU-Spain, Japan and Chinese Taipei fleets which operate in the central, eastern and western Atlantic. Total reported landings, increased abruptly after 1973, to peak above 5,000 t in 1975-1976, remaining relatively high (>2000 t), largely due to the incorporation of artisanal fishing effort by the traditional surface (gillnet and troll) fisheries (SAI-Table 1; SAI-Figure 3a). A generally decreasing trend in catch is apparent since 2008, mainly due to a decreased catch by the surface fisheries (gillnet and purse seine) (SAI-Figure 3a). Preliminary Task I catches of sailfish east in 2018 were 1,183 t, compared to 1,650 t reported for 2017 (SAI-Table 1).

#### West Atlantic

The western stock is exploited by longline, recreational fisheries, and by surface fisheries, mainly artisanal drift-gillnet. The main longline fleets include Brazil, EU-Spain, Venezuela and Grenada, which operate in the western and central Atlantic. The main surface fisheries are carried out by the artisanal fleets of Grenada and Venezuela in the Caribbean Sea and waters of the tropical western Atlantic.

Total reported landings steadily increased since 1960 to peak 2,060 t in 2002 (**SAI-Figure 3b**). A steep decreasing trend of catch is observed from 2005, mainly due to a decreased catch by the surface (artisanal drift-gillnet) fisheries. Preliminary Task I catches of sailfish west in 2018 were 1,250 t, compared to 1,080 t reported for 2017 (**SAI-Table 1**).

Although there has been some progress, historical catches of unclassified billfish continue to be reported to the Committee, confounding sailfish catch estimates. Catch reports from countries that have historically been known to land sailfish continue to suffer from gaps and there is increasing *ad hoc* evidence of unreported landings in some other countries. These considerations provide support to the idea that the historical catch of sailfish has been under-reported, especially in recent times where more and more fleets encounter sailfish as by-catch or direct targeting.

Several standardized CPUE data series were used in 2016 for the Atlantic sailfish stock assessment. For the eastern Atlantic stock, the eight indices of abundance used were: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal artisanal, Chinese Taipei longline, Japan longline (early and late), EU-Portugal longline, and EU-Spain longline; for the western Atlantic stock, the eleven indices used were: Brazilian longline, Brazilian rod & reel, Chinese Taipei longline, Japanese longline (early and late), EU-Spain longline, US longline observer, US rod & reel, Venezuelan longline, Venezuelan rod & reel, and Venezuelan artisanal (SAI-Figure 4). For both stocks, the available CPUE time series showed a mixture of both decreasing and increasing trends, which demonstrated a potential conflict in the indicators of stock abundance. For this reason, CPUE time series were put into two groups, each based on the similarity of their indication of stock abundance (i.e., increasing or decreasing). In the assessment, these CPUE groups were considered as alternatives for the surplus production and Stock Synthesis models.

## SAI-3. State of the stocks

Important progress was made on the integration of new data sources, in particular standardized catch rate data, size data, and modeling approaches, in the 2016 assessment of the status of the stocks of Atlantic sailfish. For both stocks (East and West), uncertainty in data inputs and model configuration was explored through sensitivity analysis. They revealed that results were sensitive to structural assumptions of the models. The production model formulations and the Stock Synthesis model (applied for the western stock) had varying degrees of difficulty fitting the decreasing or increasing trends in the CPUE series. Overall, assessment results were uncertain and should be interpreted with caution.

# East Atlantic

The Bayesian surplus production model, the production and the Stock Reduction Analysis models showed similar trends in biomass trajectories and fishing mortality levels; trends in abundance suggest that the stock suffered their greatest declines in abundance prior to 1990. Different model runs indicate a declining/increasing trend in recent years depending on the CPUE series selected. All the scenarios considered for advice using the surplus production models indicated that the stock is overfished (0.27-0.71  $B_{MSY}$ ), but overfishing status is uncertain (0.33-2.85  $F_{MSY}$ ) (SAI-Figure 5).

# West Atlantic

The production and the Bayesian surplus production models examined were heavily influenced by the priors used in the models. Neither model could provide stock status due to the large uncertainty in benchmark estimates, and generally poor model convergence. The point estimates of both Stock Synthesis models indicated that the stock is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing (SAI-Figure 6). In contrast, the Stock Reduction Analysis model indicated that the stock was overfished with overfishing occurring (0.23-0.61  $B_{MSY}$ ; 0.69-2.45  $F_{MSY}$ ). However, due to the large degree of uncertainty in the Stock Reduction Analysis results, the Stock Synthesis models were used for management recommendations.

#### SAI-4. Outlook

Both the eastern and western sailfish stocks may have been reduced to stock sizes below  $B_{MSY}$ . There is considerable uncertainty on the level of reduction. The results for the eastern stock were more pessimistic than those for the western stock in that more of the results indicated recent stock biomass below  $B_{MSY}$ . Therefore, there is particular concern over the outlook for the eastern stock.

Due to the difficulty of determining current status for both the eastern and western Atlantic stocks, the Committee considered that it was not appropriate to conduct quantitative projections of future stock condition based on the range of scenarios considered at the stock assessment meeting.

## SAI-5. Effect of current regulations

In 2016, the Commission established catch limits for both sailfish stocks [Rec. 16-11], and included several provisions that would allow the Committee to enhance data collection initiatives to reduce fishing mortality estimates and overcome data gap issues in all fisheries.

#### East Atlantic

It was established in Rec 16-11 that if the total catch harvested any year exceeds 1,271 t (67% of the average estimate of the Maximum Sustainable Yield), the Commission shall review the recommendation and effectiveness of this, while the catch in 2017 did exceed this amount, preliminary catches in 2018 did not.

### West Atlantic

It was established in Rec 16-11 that if the total catch harvested any year exceeds 1,030 t (67% of the average estimate of the Maximum Sustainable Yield), the Commission shall review the recommendation and effectiveness of this, the current catch levels in 2017 and preliminary catches in 2018 have exceeded this level.

In line with other ICCAT conservation measures, some countries have established domestic regulations to limit the catch of sailfish. Among these regulations are: the requirement of releasing all billfish from longline vessels, minimum size restrictions, use of circle hooks and catch and release strategies in sport fisheries.

Currently, four ICCAT Contracting Parties (Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the United States) mandate or encourage the use of circle hooks on their pelagic longline fleets. Recent research has demonstrated that in some longline fisheries the use of non-offset circle hooks resulted in a reduction of billfish mortality, while the catch rates of several of the target species remained the same or were greater than the catch rates observed with the use of conventional J hooks or offset circle hooks.

## SAI-6. Management recommendations

Considerable uncertainty still remains in the assessments of both the eastern and western stocks. Available abundance indices demonstrate conflicting trends for both stocks, and there are concerns that reported catches, including dead discards, may be incomplete. Nevertheless, it should be noted that there have been significant improvements since the last assessment. There were more abundance indices available, and the standardizations have seen general improvement, fostered in part by the CPUE workshop held in advance of this meeting. As was the case during the 2009 Sailfish Stock Assessment Session (Anon. 2010a), the results for the eastern stock were more pessimistic than the western stock in that more of the results indicated recent stock biomass below  $B_{\text{MSY}}$ .

### East Atlantic

The eastern Atlantic sailfish stock appears to have declined markedly since the 1970s, reaching a low in the early 1990s. There is broad agreement across model results that the stock is currently overfished. Since 2010, catches appear to have declined substantially. However, models disagree whether overfishing is occurring and whether the stock is recovering.

The Committee has not new management recommendation.

# West Atlantic

The Committee has not new management recommendation.

ATLA	ATLANTIC SAILFISH SUMMARY													
	West Atlantic	East Atlantic												
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	1,438-1,636 t <sup>1,2</sup>	1,635-2,157 t <sup>3</sup>												
Current Yield (2018)	1,250 t <sup>4</sup>	1,183 t <sup>4</sup>												
SSB <sub>2014</sub> /SSB <sub>MSY</sub>	$1.81 (0.51 - 2.57)^{1}$													
	$1.16 (0.18-1.69)^2$													
$B_{2014}/B_{MSY}$		0.22-0.70 3												
F <sub>2014</sub> /F <sub>MSY</sub>	0.33 (0.25 - 0.57)1	0.33-2.85 3												
	0.63 (0.42 - 2.02) <sup>2</sup>													
Overfished	Not likely	YES												
Overfishing	Not likely	Possibly												
Management Measures in Effect:	Recommendation [Rec. 16-11]. Limit Atlantic s catches of either stock to the level of 67% of MS													

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Stock Synthesis estimate utilizing increasing CPUE trends, with approximate 95% confidence intervals.
<sup>2</sup> Stock Synthesis estimate utilizing decreasing CPUE trends, estimate with approximate 95% confidence intervals.
<sup>3</sup> Range obtained of plausible estimates from bootstrapped Production Bayesian surplus, production, and Stock Reduction Analysis models.

<sup>42018</sup> yield should be considered provisional.

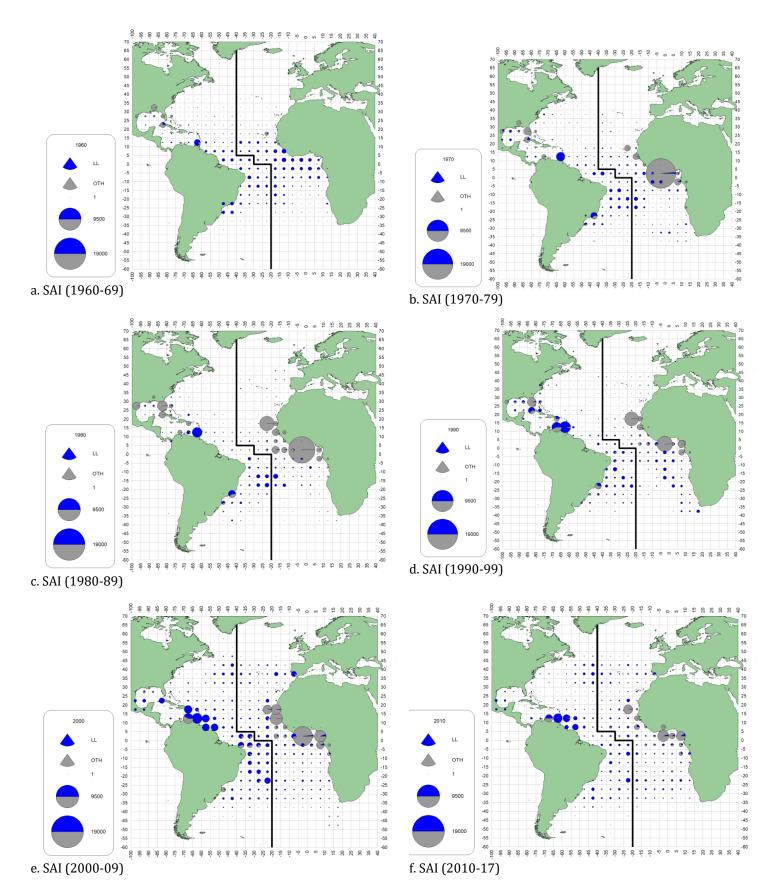
SAI-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of Atlantic sailfish (Istiophorus albicans) by area, gear and flag. (v2, 2019-10-02) SAI-Tableau 1. Prises estimées (t) de voilier de l'Atlantique (Istiophorus albicans) par zone, engin et pavillon.(v2, 2019-10-02) SAI-Tabla 1. Capturas estimadas (t) de pez vela del Atlántico (Istiophorus albicans) por area, arte, y bandera. (v2, 2019-10-02)

			1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TOTAL			2292	2445	3023	2604	2978	2922	3976	4603	4411	4137	4339	4059	3854	4137	3962	3753	3082	2888	2866	2324	2022	2144	2636	2730	2434
	ATE		1171	1231	1880	1347	1363	1342	1980	2805	2351	2639	2612	2220	1916	2577	2229	2129	1853	1553	1591	1339	1163	1246	1422	1650	1183
	ATW		1121	1214	1143	1257	1615	1580	1996	1797	2060	1498	1727	1839	1939	1561	1733	1624	1229	1335	1275	985	859	898	1214	1080	1250
Landings	ATE	Longline	234	261	729	216	275	273	198	568	756	497	335	319	580	590	628	622	514	546	543	457	423	436	338	375	497
J		Other surf.	871	836	970	644	859	883	1231	1470	1496	1860	2057	1758	1289	1798	1493	932	900	870	985	754	730	749	1082	1175	682
		Sport (HL+RR)	67	135	182	488	228	186	551	767	98	282	219	143	46	189	108	575	439	136	58	128	10	56	0	94	1
	ATW	Longline	651	581	453	641	1033	1102	1711	1660	1636	1161	1271	1704	1737	1299	1406	1153	1131	1213	1081	880	730	884	1184	1052	1231
		Other surf.	225	256	390	209	287	244	163	66	311	331	449	131	194	248	310	457	92	102	154	86	107	1	8	10	9
		Sport (HL+RR)	217	348	230	350	267	163	76	60	106	0	0	0	2	6	7	4	2	10	19	7	12	5	15	11	4
Discards	ATE	Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	6	1	4	2
		Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
	ATW	Longline	28	29	69	57	27	72	45	11	7	5	7	3	5	8	9	10	4	10	20	12	11	7	7	7	7
		Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landings	ATE CP	Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0
		Cape Verde	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		China PR	3	3	3	3	5	9	4	5	11	4	4	8	16	8	1	4	5	2	4	1	1	2	2	4	2
		Curaçao	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
		Côte d'Ivoire	54	66	91	65	35	80	45	47	65	121	73	93	78	52	448	74	24	108	192	80	99	55	38	405	35
		EU.España	8	13	42	48	15	20	8	195	245	197	169	202	214	227	239	318	206	197	257	229	302	333	225	236	277
		EU.France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	11	8
		EU.Portugal	1	2	1	2	27	53	13	4	10	13	19	31	137	43	49	131	170	121	72	109	33	41	30	27	123
		EU.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		El Salvador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
		Gabon	3	110	218	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5	0
		Ghana	450	353	303	196	351	305	275	568	592	566	521	542	282	420	342	358	417	299	201	220	191	99	238	267	82
		Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Guinea Ecuatorial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	3	0	0	0
		Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Japan	45	52	47	19	58	16	26	6	20	22	70	50	62	144	199	94	115	143	157	71	59	36	52	45	47
		Korea Rep.	5	5	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	1	6	10	2	6	15	9
		Liberia	0	33	85	43	136	122	154	56	133	127	106	122	118	115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	11
		Maroc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		S. Tomé e Príncipe	88	92	96	139	141	141	136	136	136	136	515	346	292	384	114	119	121	124	127	131	134	312	212	219	248
		Senegal	162	167	240	560	260	238	786	953	240	673	567	463	256	737	446	630	484	174	247	165	37	60	586	301	313
		Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
		U.S.S.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	NCC		38		24	56	44	66	45	50	62	49	15	25	36	109	121	80	21	52	54	42	17	21	23	26	21
	NCO		20	20	19	6	4	5	5	12	2	2	5	3	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Cuba	83	72	533	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

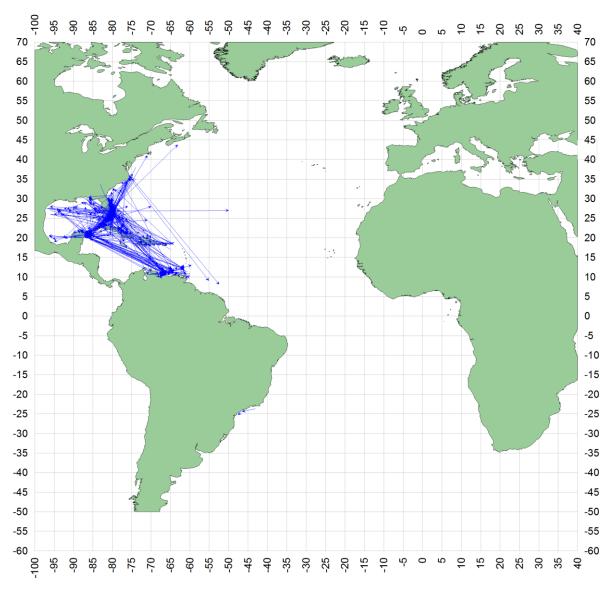
				1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
			Mixed flags (FR+ES)	160	128	97	110	138	131	353	400	365	413	336	264	274	205	251	308	265	275	275	275	275	275	0	0	
			NEI (BIL)	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	269	408	213	55	1	105	43	20	11	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			NEI (ETRO)	51	57	69	86	127	120	77	43	3	2	16	7	8	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			Togo	0	0	0	9	22	36	23	62	55	95	135	47	31	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATW	CP	Barbados	46	74	25	71	58	44	44	42	26	27	26	42	58	42	0	0	18	36	36	39	44	54	56	42	20
			Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	12	0	0	52	8	7	4	3	0	11	0	62
			Brazil	129	245	310	137	184	356	598	412	547	585	534	416	139	123	268	433	71	138	108	76	57	72	59	39	43
			China PR	3	3	3	3	3	9	4	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	6	2
			Curação	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			EU.España	19	36	5	20	42	7	14	309	414	183	160	89	134	214	361	412	275	190	184	203	244	311	207	454	256
			EU.France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
			EU.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	12	12	110	18	53	101	20	19	9	2	0	0	0	0	1	37
			El Salvador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Grenada	151	119	56	83	151	148	164	187	151	171	112	147	159	174	216	183	191	191	191	191	191	191	0	0	
			Japan	8	2	4	17	3	10	12	3	3	10	5	22	4	1	33	43	36	12	16	7	11	12	13	7	3
			Korea Rep.	4	4	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	40	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
			Mexico	19	19	10	9	65	40	118	36	34	45	51	55	41	46	45	48	34	32	51	63	42	35	47	51	24
			Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	415	0	461
			St. Vincent and Grenadines	4	2	1	3	2	1	0	2	164	3	86	73	59	18	13	8	7	4	4	3	4	1	85	8	10
			Trinidad and Tobago	2	_	4	10	25	37	3	7	6	8	10	9	17	13	32	16	16	38	72	34	29	51	53	63	51
			U.S.A.	180		232	349	267	163	76	58	103	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	7	3	2	2	3	3	3
			UK.British Virgin Islands	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Venezuela	223	180	255	279	515	367	261	249	277	327	509	607	1042	549	382	416	498	590	543	341	210	152	246	387	262
		NCC	Chinese Taipei	117	19	19	2	65	17	11	33	31	13	8	21	5	14	10	11	6	8	26	6	3	6	5	5	5
		NCO	Aruba	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			Cuba	46	37	37	40	28	196	208	68	32	18	50	72	47	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			Dominica	0		0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	1	0	3	3	4	2	0	2	0	0	5	3	3	0	
			Dominican Republic	90	40	40	101	89	27	67	81	260	91	144	165	133	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			NEI (BIL)	0	0	0	0	0	0	297	268	0	0	0	0	68	81	252	17	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			NEI (ETRO)	27	30	36	46	67	64	41	23	1	1	9	4	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
			Seychelles	0		0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_
			Sta. Lucia	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	2	3	2	3	1	1	4	2
Discards	ATE	CP	Curação	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u> </u>
			EU.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			EU.France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
			El Salvador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	•
			Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			Korea Rep.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			Panama	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		NCC	Chinese Taipei	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	6	1	4	2
	ATW		Brazil	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	A1 W	CI	EU.France	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Korea Rep.	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Mexico	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			U.S.A.	28	29	69	57	27	72	45	11	7	5	7	4	5	7	10	10	4	10	19	11	11	6	7	6	6
		NCC		28		09	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	1
		NCC	Cinnese raipei	U	U	U	0	U	U	U	U	U	U	0	U	0	0	0	U	0	0	1	0	U	U	U	U	1

SPF-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of longbill spearfish (Tetrapturus pfluegeri) by area, gear and flag (v2, 2019-10-02) SPF-Tableau 1. Prises estimées (t) de makaire bécume (Tetrapturus pfluegeri) par zone, engin et pavillon.(v2, 2019-10-02) SPF-Tabla 1. Capturas estimadas (t) de aguja picuda (Tetrapturus pfluegeri) por area, arte y bandera. (v2, 2019-10-02)

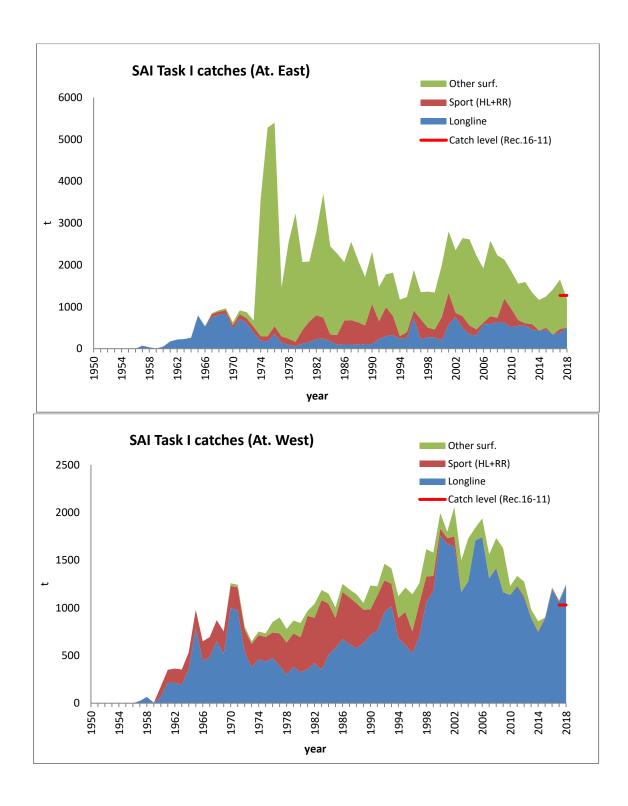
				1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TOTAL				320	240	165	201	266	306	278	188	179	133	188	169	340	167	166	140	245	153	229	447	52	80	76	350	163
	ATE			198	207	128	194	192	257	181	81	84	54	51	68	84	66	60	78	128	73	170	95	16	18	15	29	36
	ATW			122	33	37	7	74	50	97	107	95	79	137	101	256	102	106	62	117	80	58	352	36	62	62	321	127
Landings	ATE		Longline	100	129	69	126	106	176	121	81	84	54	51	68	84	66	60	78	128	73	170	95	16	18	14	29	23
Ü			Other surf.	98	78	59	68	86	81	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ATW		Longline	122	26	34	7	74	50	97	107	95	79	137	101	256	102	106	62	117	80	58	337	30	59	61	320	127
			Other surf.	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			Sport (HL+RR)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	6	0	0	0	
Discards	ATE		Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
			Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATW		Longline	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
Landings	ATE	CP	China PR	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			EU.España	0	5	1	1	9	31	17	9	6	5	0	3	3	0	2	7	32	12	10	9	13	17	10	13	13
			EU.France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			EU.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	8	2	6	25	9	20	0	0	0	0	1	4
			Japan	36	26	25	30	22	33	29	20	16	25	36	40	21	36	53	59	49	39	134	85	3	0	4	2	4
			Korea Rep.	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
			Chinese Taipei	63	97	41	94	73	112	75	52	62	25	15	25	37	22	2	6	16	9	6	0	0	1	0	1	2
		NCO	Mixed flags (FR+ES)	98	78	59	68	86	81	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			NEI (BIL)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATW	CP	Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	56	39	3	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	24	4	325	6	6	0	0	0
			China PR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
			EU.España	0	1	0	0	0	22	47	20	5	21	0	5	14	0	2	5	0	10	10	9	11	19	14	259	19
			EU.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	15	44	10	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	19
			Japan	2	3	4	1	8	11	11	3	12	40	41	58	54	25	45	26	57	12	13	3	1	0	0	0	0
			Korea Rep.	4	4	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2
			St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	0	135	23	13	7	8	5	4	3	3	1	7	52	84
			Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			U.S.A.	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			UK.Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1100	Venezuela	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	3	3	17	5	15	3	14	24	12	24	11	13	32	35	6	
			Chinese Taipei	116	19	18	2	64	16	11	24	39	12	11	20	17	20	0	0	5	12	3	1	3	1	1	1	1
		NCO	Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
D: 1	ATELE	CD	NEI (BIL)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Discards	ATE	CP	EU.France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
		NCC	Japan Chinasa Tainai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
	A T337		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	ATW	CP	U.S.A.	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		NCC	Chinese Taipei	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1



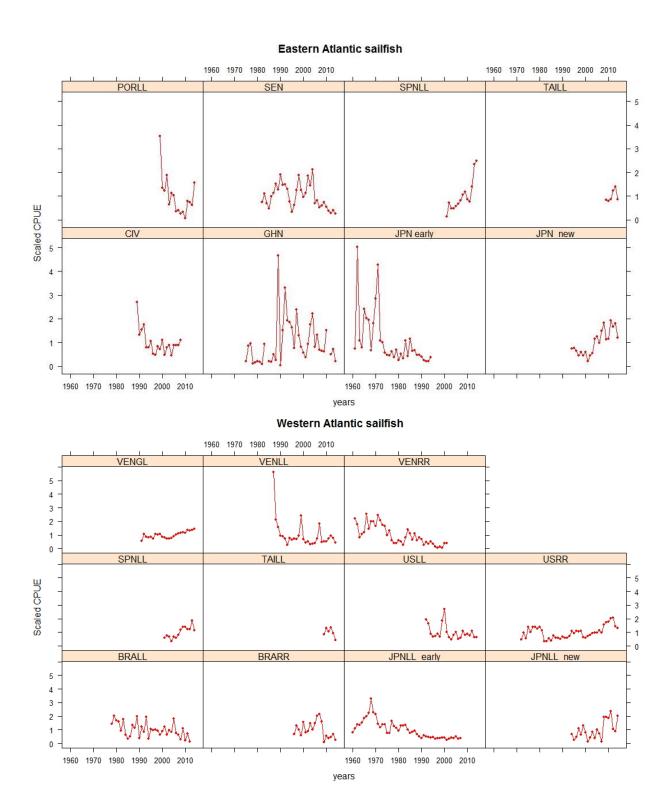
**SAI-Figure 1.** Geographic distribution of sailfish total catches by decade (last decade only covers 8 years). The dark line denotes the separation between stocks.



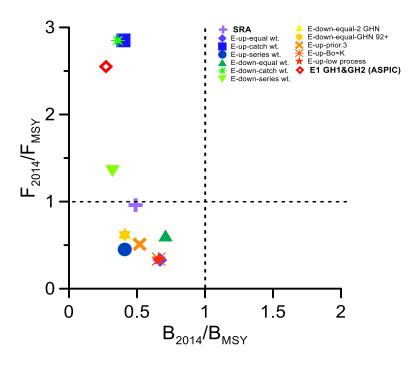
**SAI-Figure 2**. Conventional tag returns for Atlantic sailfish. Lines join the locations of release and recapture.



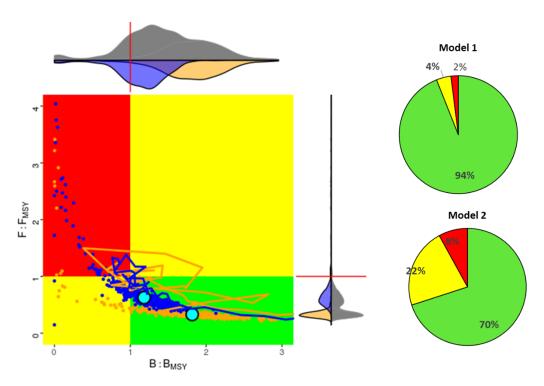
**SAI-Figure 3.** Task I catches of sailfish for each of the two Atlantic stocks, East and West. In 2017 catch levels of 1271 t and 1030 t that triggers the review of Rec 16-11 were implemented, for East and West stocks, respectively.



**SAI-Figure 4.** Relative abundance indices used in the assessments of eastern and western Atlantic sailfish stocks. All indices were scaled to the mean of each series prior to graphing.



**SAI-Figure 5**. Phase plot summarizing scenario outputs for the current (2014) stock status of Sailfish east (SAI\_east). Stock Reduction Analysis; E-up-equal wt to E-up-low process are Bayesian surplus production model runs, E1 GH1&GH2 is Production base case model run.



**SAI-Figure 6**. Kobe plot (left) summarizing stock status of Sailfish\_west based on Stock Synthesis models with increasing CPUE trends (Model 1) and with decreasing CPUE trends (Model 2). The estimated trajectories and uncertainty points for Model 1 are shown in golden yellow, and in blue for Model 2. The marginal densities plots for stock relative to  $B_{MSY}$  and harvest rate relative to  $F_{MSY}$  are also shown (top and right of large panel); the upper part (grey) are combined probabilities for both Stock Synthesis models, and the lower part (colored) are individual probabilities of Model 1 and Model 2. The red lines represent the benchmark levels (ratios equal to 1.0). Pie charts showing summary of current stock status estimates for the Sailfish\_west stock based on Stock Synthesis models.