



Project GloBAL

Global Bycatch Assessment of Long-Lived Species

Country Profile

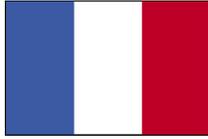
FRENCH GUIANA



WIDECAST

Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

French Guiana (GF)



Geographic Coordinates: 4 00 N, 53 00 W ¹
EEZ Extent: 135,048 km² (SAUP)
Shelf area: 46,741km² (SAUP)²
Territorial sea
Terrestrial extent: 91,000 km²
Population (2006): 199,509 ³
Other countries operating within this:
EEZ: Venezuela, Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname
Brazil, Barbados
Total Landings

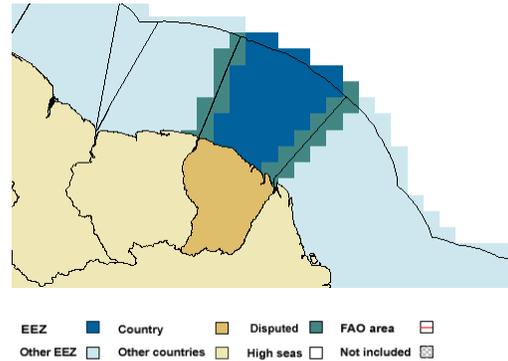


Figure1. COUNTRY MAP

Description

Sited along the northern coast of South America, between Brazil and Suriname, French Guiana borders are demarcated by the Oyapock River in the south and east and the Maroni River in the West. An overseas department of France (*département d'outre-mer*).

The Fisheries of French Guiana

Overview

Commercial shrimp fishing, along with forestry are the most important economic activities and export of shrimp accounts for 50% of export earnings (Weidner et al. 1999). Local fisheries are inshore artisanal canoe fisheries, line fisheries for snappers and commercial shrimp trawling. Foreign-flagged vessels were a significant component of the fishery until the 1990s, when French Guiana waters were closed to US and other international fleets. There are no longline fisheries in French Guiana.

1. What fisheries exist in this territory?

The shrimp fishery is dominated by commercial operations fishing for penaeid shrimp, with *P. subtilis* and *P. brasiliensis* making up 99% of the catch. *Xiphopenaeus kroyeri* (seabob) shrimp fishery has not been assessed, and is considered insignificant because of the ban on trawling in the 20 m isobath (Charuau and Medley 2001). Most of the boats are equipped with vessel monitoring systems

Red snapper fishery

¹ World Fact Book CIA 2006

² SAUP estimate

³ Worldfact Book CIA 2006

2. What are the specific gear types for these fisheries and their target species?

Trawl fisheries

Between 58- 63 commercial trawlers operate in French Guiana (Laurent et al. 1999) down from 90 in the early 1980s,

Gillnet fisheries

Reichert et al. estimate that 728 boats (wooden 15 m long vessels) deploy multifilament polyethylene drift gillnets (“Guyana seine”) throughout the Guianas.

The nets are 2-4 km long, with stretched mesh size of 17-21 cm and 5-8 m high (Laurent et al.1999)

In the 1980s this gear was used in a directed fishery for sharks by Korean vessels operating under Venezuelan flag. No information has been published on the current fishing effort for this fishery.

Laurent et al.(1999) reported that in French Guiana 44 boats are licensed for multifilament bottom set gillnets, but noted that these boats are involved in multiple coastal fisheries, particularly monofilament bottom-set gillnets

Handline fishery

46 vessels are licensed to fish for red snapper (*L. purpureus*), but current active fleet size is 25. These fishers use pot (traps) and hand lines to target *L. purpureus* (Charuau et. al., 2001). French Guiana boats are prohibited from using traps (pots) , but N Catches occur in the fossil reef area between the 70 and 120 m isobath. Secondary species of interest include *L. synagris* and groupers (Serranids)

3. What species of marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds are accidentally captured in the fisheries bycatch

Sea Turtles

Five of the six sea turtle species found in the wider Caribbean occur in the waters off French Guiana, with nesting populations for four; (*D. coriacea*), *L. olivacea*, *E. imbricata* and *C. mydas*). Chevalier however included *Caretta.caretta* in the list of nesting species

Leatherbacks ranged up to 80 km along the nesting beach and 80 km offshore during the inter-nesting interval, an area of intense trawl fishing as well as an area where drift-nets are regularly observed (Feraroli et al. 2002).

An analysis of observer logbook data and scientific trawl surveys found an incidental capture of an estimated 1000 olive ridleys per annum in shrimp trawls (Moguedet, 1994).

Marine Mammals

A recent update of stranding records in French Guyana revealed that all stranded cetaceans were *Sotalia* spp, and six of the eight carcasses bore clear evidence of bycatch (e.g. net marks). Only a very small proportion of the coastline of French Guyana is effectively surveyed for strandings (SC/58/ProgRep FRANCE)

4. If there are other individuals in relevant government agencies or non-governmental organizations that may be able to assist us with information on fisheries, please provide their names and contact details below

Association Kwata
1 place Victor Schoelcher - 97300 Cayenne
Tél/fax. 0594.25.43.31
Email : kwata@nplus.gf

5. If there are other individuals in relevant government agencies or non-governmental organizations that may be able to assist us with information on bycatch of sea turtles, sea birds and marine mammals, please provide their names and contact details below

Johan Chevalier
Marc Girondot
P. Moguedet
Peter Pritchard

6. What bycatch studies or bycatch mitigation projects for sea turtles, sea birds and marine mammals, if any have been undertaken or are ongoing in the area?

7. What is the national and international regulatory and policy framework?

- National Fisheries legislation
- Maritime boundaries/EEZ delimitation agreements
- Regional agreements
- Bilateral agreements
- Multi-lateral treaties of relevance

8. What documents (journal articles, grey literature Agency reports) describe fisheries and bycatch in this area?

Literature cited

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