

**5th Meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee
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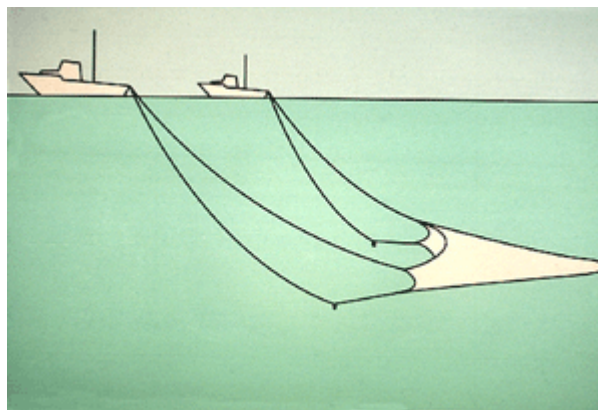
Pair Trawling within the SPRFMO Area

Secretariat

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pelagic pair trawling is a fishing technique where one trawl is towed in mid-water by two vessels to target pelagic fish. The height of the net in the water column can be changed by altering vessel speed and length of wire out while the net's horizontal opening is set by the distance between the two vessels. The nets for single and pair trawling are often similar but the bridle and towing arrangements differ.

One of the advantages of pair trawling is the possibility to tow the trawl very close to the surface. The herding effect on fish by the two vessels may also increase the capture efficiency in shallow waters and at the surface. By utilising the towing power of two boats, and as no otter boards are needed, a larger net may be worked than would otherwise be possible, or alternatively, the two boats can share increased fuel efficiency. As doors are not necessary, the gear arrangements are simplified, with the warps attaching directly to the wings of the net. Setting and hauling of the nets are carried out by one boat, while the other is only used for towing; usually, each will take turns at these operations. The pair trawlers should have similar size and power (for having the same towing power on both sides of the trawls).



(Image sourced from FAO website)

The Secretariat first received enquiries regarding pair trawling in the SPRFMO Area in 2013. Since then, the Secretariat has been asked about pair-trawling by both the EU and Faroe Island operators separately and has given informal advice on that topic in the past.

However, more recently there was an enquiry from an EU operator about pair trawling where the vessels involved were from different flags and thus how the catch might be allocated against catch entitlements. In this case, the Secretariat provided the appropriate EU authorities with some suggested advice (Annex I), who then advised their industry directly. Given the topic has now come up a couple of times, and with the added complication of differing flags, we feel it would be a good time to formalise advice that gave clear guidance for those situations.

REFERENCE SITES

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/geartype/310/en>

<http://www.seafish.org/geardb/gear/pelagic-pair-trawl/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pair_trawling

ANNEX I

To avoid any confusion regarding the assignment of catches from pair trawling to vessels (and thus flag States), the Secretariat suggests that the catch is reported by vessel according to the proportion each vessel actually retained, noting this is consistent with the instruction contained in CMM 02-2017, Annex 1p.

Thus, the Secretariat suggests that each Member or CNCP involved in pair trawling operations in the Jack mackerel fishery complete, for its vessel and the catch it retained:

- trawl fishing activity data [CMM 02-2017, paragraph 1b) i - Annex 1];
- monthly Jack mackerel reports [CMM 01-2017, paragraph 11]; and,
- annual catch totals [CMM 02-2017, paragraph 1a)] consistent with the previous bullets.

These reports should be completed even if the retained catch is zero.

The following information should be included in the trawl fishing activity data:

1. both vessels (and thus Parties) submit trawl fishing activity data (even if one vessel retained all the catch);
2. The correct trawl type is one of “PTM” or “PT”;
3. The tow start-date-time and end-date-time are the same in both submissions and;
4. The retained (and discarded) live-weights are recorded by species for all species which were retained by each vessel individually.

This information is needed to allow the SPRFMO Database to easily link the pair-trawling operations:

For the less detailed monthly jack mackerel reports normal reporting forms can be used for pair trawling operations and should simply include the amount of catch retained by each flag State