

France- Implementation of the IPOA for sea turtles

1. Turtles are fully protected in French Polynesia, under the Environment code LP n° 2008-03.
2. Documentation about best practices on handling sea turtles is still been circulated, and has to be kept on board vessels.
3. Crews are trained by observers to bring aboard, if practicable, any captured sea turtle that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible in order to foster recovery, including resuscitation, before returning it to the sea.
4. Observers are required to have sea turtle release devices on board, including dip net, de-hooker and line cutters, for appropriate release of incidentally caught sea turtles.
5. Any sea turtle incidentally caught by any fishing vessel shall be released or discarded, and the number(s) should be recorded on the logsheets and E-logsheets system (which include fields where fishermen report and record any interaction with marine turtles).
6. By-catch information on sea turtle is collected through the observer program. All operational and observer data are sent to SPC, as per WCPFC obligation.

On July 22nd 2019, France submitted to IATTC the information from the French Polynesia's annual report part 1 to WCPFC, which has information about turtle incidental bycatch.

7. In French Polynesia, the fleet targets SPALB and use fin-fish bait, and most of the vessels use circle hooks.
8. To prevent sea turtles from eating plastic, fishing vessels shall not dispose any type of plastic trash at sea, and MARPOL convention is applicable in French Polynesia.