

**Ministry of Agriculture  
Fisheries Department**

**Endangered Threatened and Protected Species  
Annual Report  
2017**

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## **Introduction**

Incidental mortality, or bycatch, in fisheries has been demonstrated to be a serious threat to a range of endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species (Alverson et al. 1996). Trawling is one of the most non-selective methods of fish capture. Industrial shrimp trawling in tropical waters are the leading offender in the capture of bycatch and accounts for about 27% of all global discard. The bycatch often consists of ETP species, juvenile and food-fish species and is therefore, a threat to food security and sustainable fisheries production. In many shrimp-trawl fisheries several thousand turtles, stingray sharks among other species are caught and drowned each year.

The impact, combined with other human activity such as long line fishing, hunting and coastal development, has resulted in six of the world's seven species of sea turtle being listed in the 2003 IUCN World Conservation Union Red List of Threatened Species. Five of these species are listed as critically endangered (high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future) and one species is listed as endangered (very high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future). The threat of these animals becoming extinct has also led to the listing of all sea turtle species in Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Additionally, proper management and monitoring of these species is paramount to sustainable development.

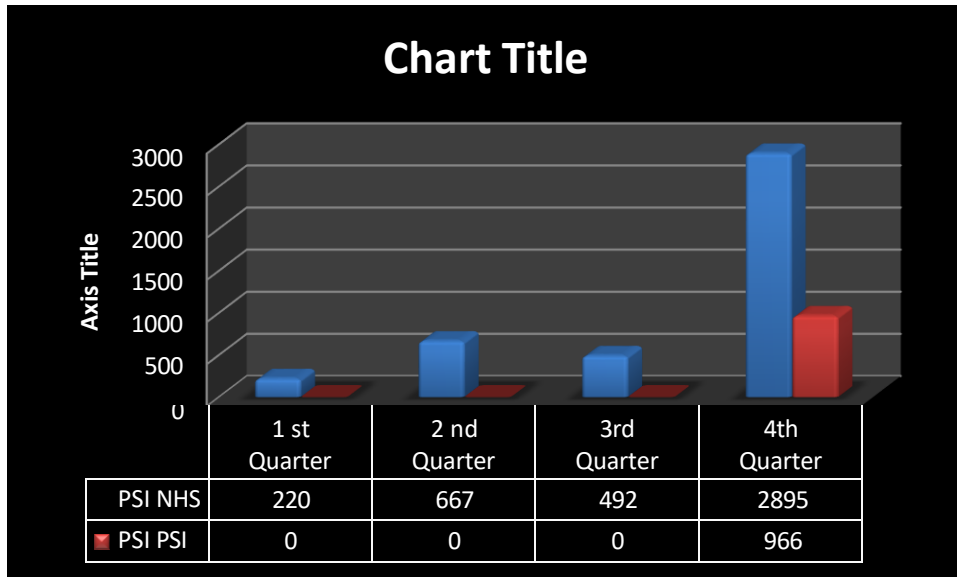
## Boats Reported ETP Species Encounter

A total of nineteen (19) boats reported coming contact with EPT species for the year 2017. Twelve vessels from Nobel House Seafood and six vessels from Pritipaul Singh Investment submitted data reporting their interactions with ETP species. Noteworthy, to date no data has been submitted by BEV Processers and Guyana Investment Incorporated.

Figure: 1 shows the boats from the respective companies that reported ETP interaction.

Nobel House Seafood	Pritipaul Singh Investments	Guyana Investment Incorporated	BEV Processers
Shoals	Liberty	NIL	NIL
Holly G	Maria ZO	NIL	NIL
Tidal wave	Maria AS	NIL	NIL
Trade wind	Maria FA	NIL	NIL
Olivia	Falcon	NIL	NIL
Snook	YM72	NIL	NIL
Yatakamaru 32		NIL	NIL
Gulf sun		NIL	NIL
Wapasiana		NIL	NIL
Sugam		NIL	NIL
Monique		NIL	NIL
Queen of dreams		NIL	NIL
Pacuma		NIL	NIL

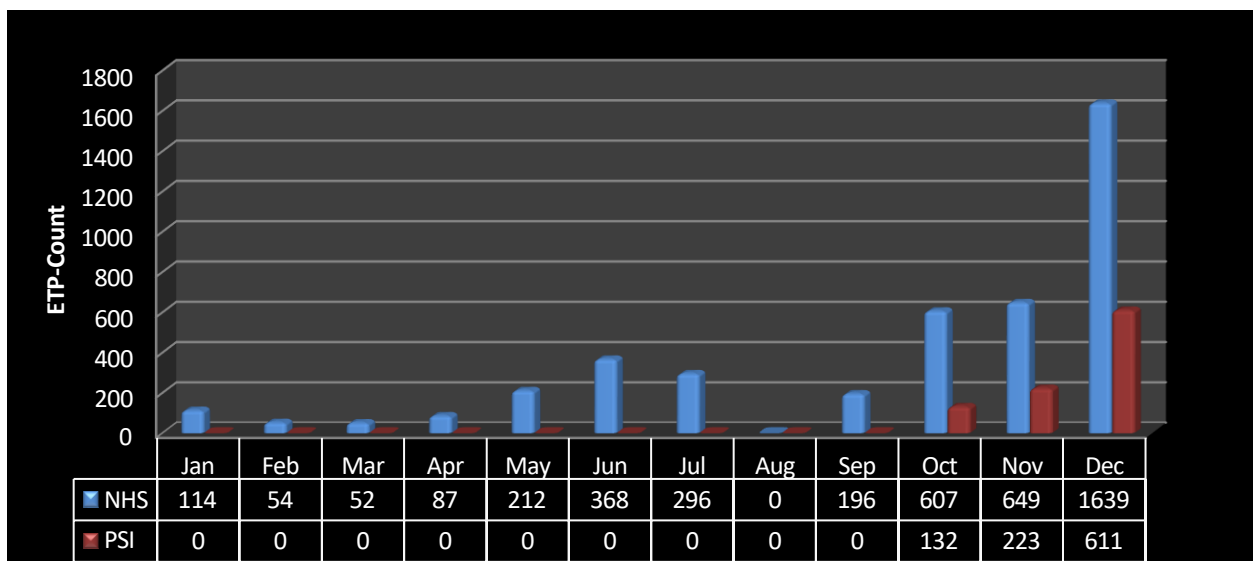
## ETP count by quarter



**Figure: 1-ETP count by quarter**

Figure: 1 above illustrates ETP encounter by the various company for the year 2017. The first quarter show minimal interaction with ETP species, (two hundred and twenty) Compared with the latter part of the year which saw a dramatic increase (Three thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight. Further, no contact with any ETP species was reported for the first three quarters by the vessels owned by PSI.

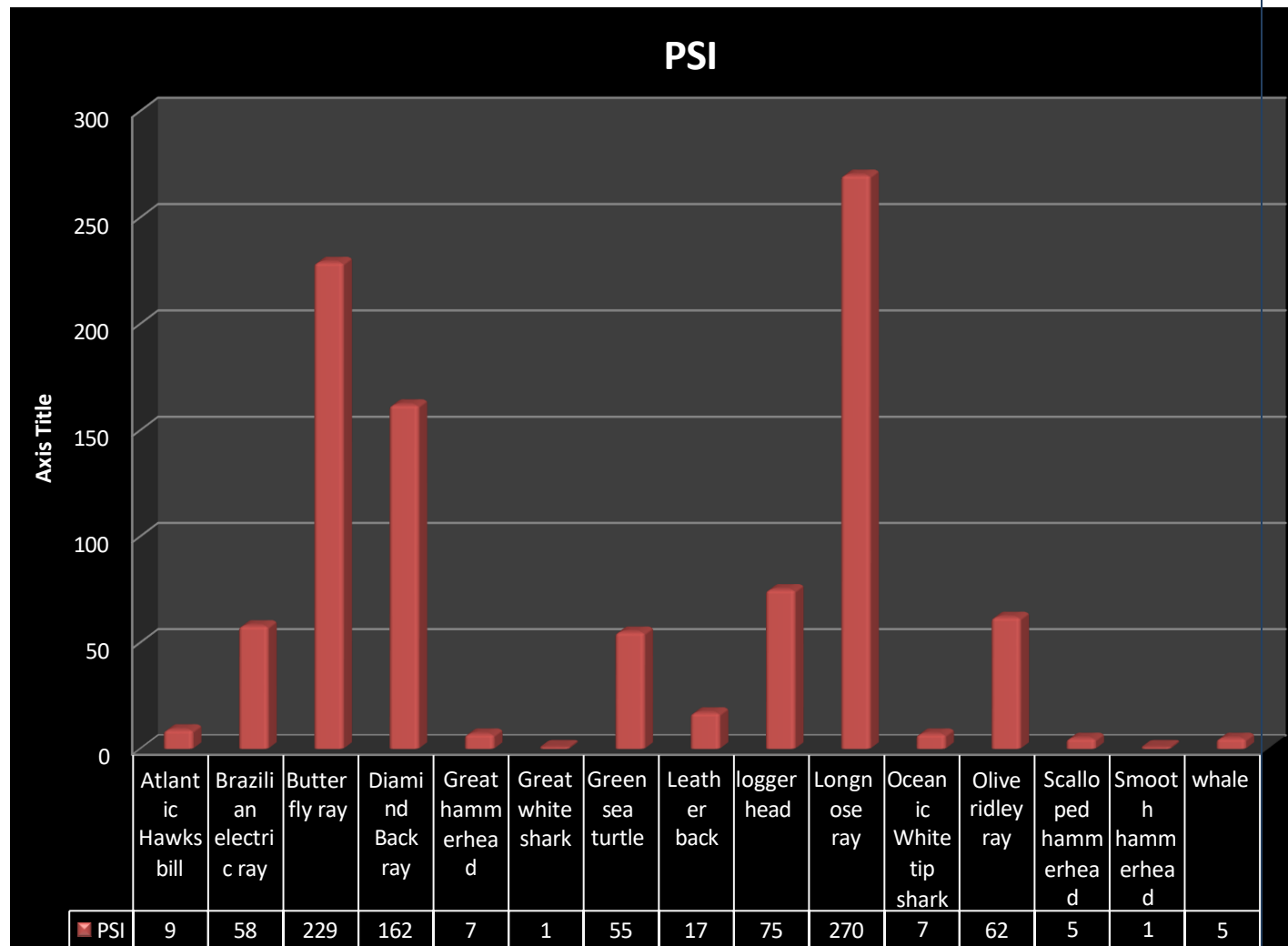
## Comparison of NHS and PSI ETP interactions



**Figure2-comparisonof NHS and PSI**

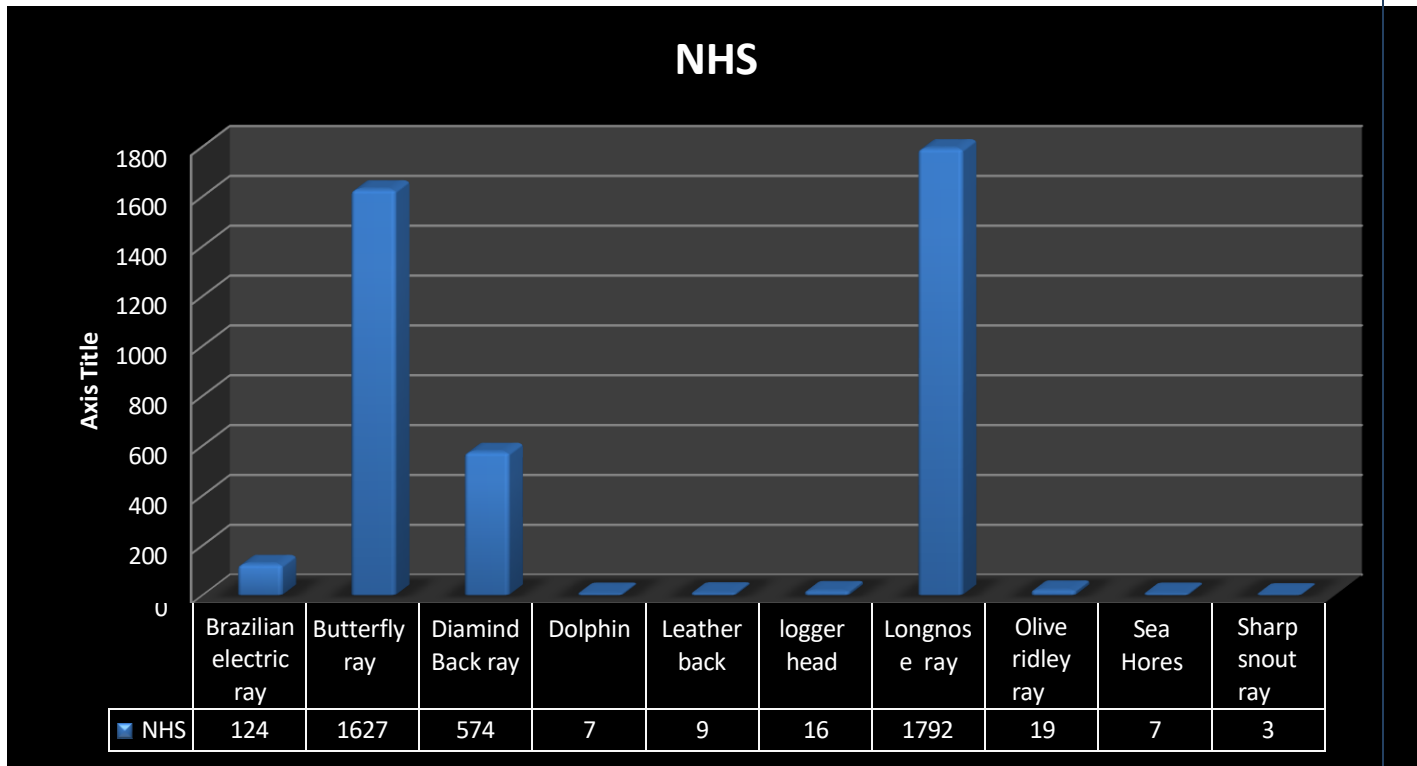
Figure 2 shows a month by month comparison of ETP encountered by vessels owned by Nobel House Seafood and Pritipaul Singh Investment. The month of March had the lowest number of ETP encountered. It produced a total of fifty-two (52) encounters. There was no report of ETP interaction for the first nine months by PSI. December saw the highest number of interactions for both companies. Those were one thousand six hundred and thirty-nine (1639) and six hundred and eight (608) respectively. There was no interaction for the month of August because the closed season commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 20017 and concluded on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

**Species encountered by company**



**Figure: 3 shows species composition and quantity (PSI)**

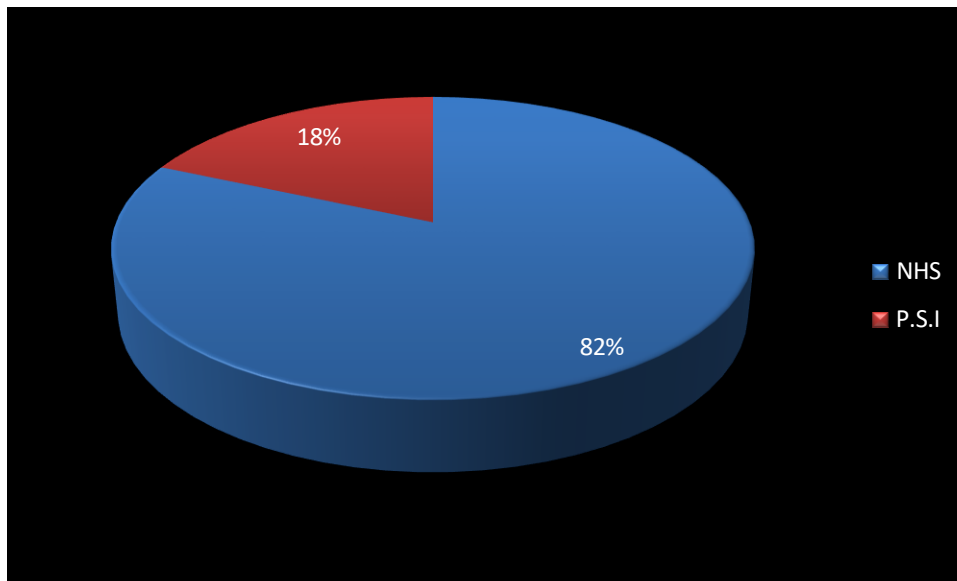
A total of five hundred and eighty-seven interactions were reported by PSI Vessels for the year 2017. Fifteen species were encountered in these interactions. The longnose ray accounts for the species with the highest number of interactions and it stood at two hundred and seventy (270), which constitute forty six percent (46%) of the total interactions. The butterfly ray had the second highest encounter, with two hundred and twenty-nine (229) and it constitute thirty nine (39%) of the total. Those two species together make up eighty five percent (85%) of the total ETP interactions. The great white shark and the smooth hammer both had a single encounter. Compose



**Figure: 4 shows species composition and quantity (NHS)**

A total of four thousand one hundred and seventy-eight interactions (4178) were reported by NHS Vessels for the year 2017. Ten species were encountered in these interactions. The longnose ray, comparable to PSI accounted for the species with the highest interaction and it mounted at one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two (1792), which constitute forty one percent (41%) of the total interactions. The butterfly ray had the second highest encounter, with

one thousand six hundred and twenty-seven (1627) and it constitute forty (40%) of the total. Those two species together make up eighty five percent of the total ETP interactions. The dolphin and the sea horse both had seven encounters, and they represented the species with the lowest number of interactions when compared to other species.



**Figure: 4 ETP interactions by company**

The figure above depicts the overall ETP interface by company. Nobel House Seafood was responsible of eighty two percent (82%) of all reported interactions and Pritipaul Singh Investments was responsible for eighteen percentages (18%).

## **Challenges**

Two of the four industrial companies submitted ETP reports for the year 2017. Those companies are Nobel House Seafood and Pritipaul Investment. Further, there were some difficulties emanating from the analysis of the ETP log sheets since vital information was omitted. The information includes boat name, Boat registration number, area fished and date.

Of note, the untimely submission of the data by all Seabob processors has led to much inefficiency with regards to the prompt reproduction of 2017 ETP report.

Moreover, although PSI submitted ETP reports for that entire year of 2017, the captains reported ETP encounter for only the last quarter of the year. It is my belief that the report is not a true representation of what occurs on sea.

## **Recommendation**

- ❖ Continuous training needs to be carried out with the various industrial companies with respect to ETP species identification and filling of log sheet correctly. Further captains need to be encouraged to fill their log sheets on sea and not when they dock at their respective landing sites the vessels. This will reduce the incidence of the generation of falsified data.
  
- ❖ In order to be presented with a fishing license from the fisheries department, each vessel that is engage in the harvesting of marine fauna in Guyana's Exclusive Economic Zone must produce their log sheet. I believe in order to mitigate the effects of untimely submission and no submission of data, these rules **MUST** to be enforced.

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