

**Ministry of Agriculture
Fisheries Department**

**Endangered Threatened and Protected Species
Annual Report
2018**

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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 Specie Encounter

A total of fifty-two (52) boats reported contact with EPT species for the year 2018. Twenty-six vessels from Nobel House Seafood and twenty-six vessels from Pritipaul Singh Investment submitted data reporting their interactions with ETP species. Noteworthy, no report of interactions has been submitted by Guyana Investment Incorporated for the year 2018.

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

Nobel House Seafood	Pritipaul Singh Investments	Guyana Investment Incorporated
Trade winds	Maria MO	NIL
Olivia	Maria ZO	NIL
Yataka Maru 32	Maria SU	NIL
Gulf sun	Maria AF	NIL
Miss Lina	Rebel	NIL
Lady Fish	YM72	NIL
Miss Amelia	A.Dock	NIL
Holly –G	Maria TW	NIL
Ebb-Tide	Maria AS	NIL
Miss Lisa	Angel Wings	NIL
Wapisiana	Maria SU	NIL
Tidal Wave	Maria YM 72	NIL
Tarek	Maria YM 83.1	NIL
World Friend 101	Maria YM721	NIL
World Friend 307	Maria TW	NIL

Highliner	Angel Wings 3	NIL
Fiona	Typhoon	NIL
Shoals	Liberty99	NIL
Sugam 32	Sun Rise	NIL
Queen of Dreams	Sea Knight 88	NIL
Miss Linda	Angel Eyes	NIL
Kukwari	Maria PA	NIL
East man 2	Miss Emma	NIL
Shark 2		NIL
Bangamary		NIL
Dorado		NIL

ETP count by quarter

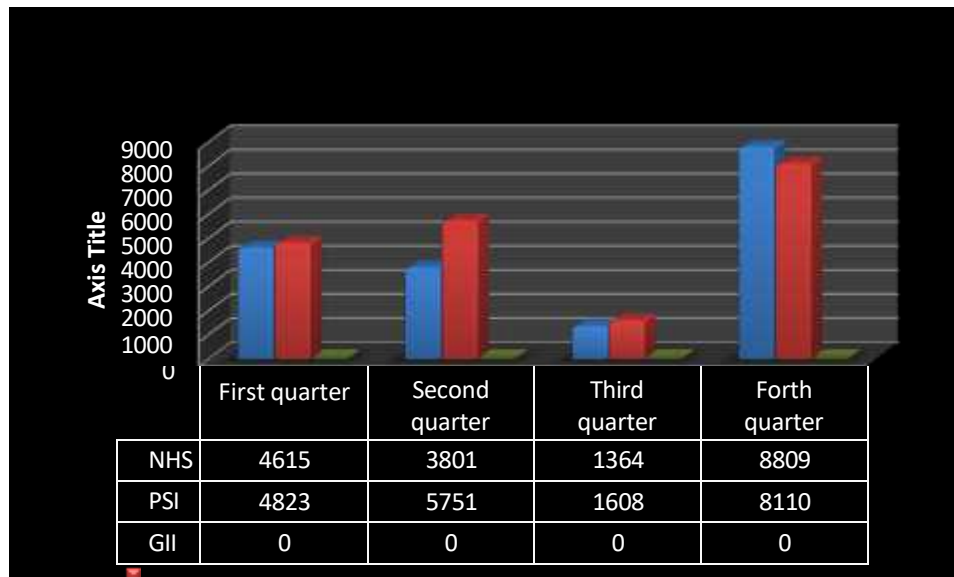


Figure1-ETP count by quarter

Figure: 1 above illustrates ETP encounter by the various company for the year 2018. The third quarter shows the least interaction with ETP species by the various company vessels, Collectively, NHS and PSI encountered two thousand seven hundred and two for the third quarter. Compared with the latter part of the year which saw a dramatic increase, Collectively NHS and PSI encountered sixteen thousand nine hundred and nineteen interactions. No contact with any ETP species was reported for the year by the vessels owned by GII.

Comparison of NHS and PSI ETP interactions

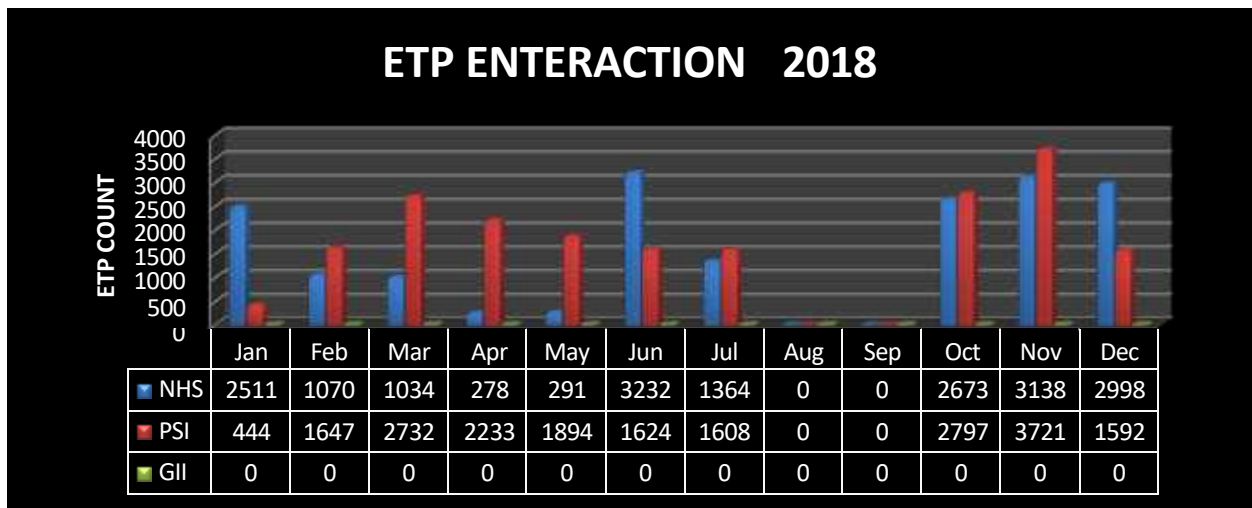


Figure2-comparisonof NHS, PSI and GII

Figure 2 shows a month by month comparison of ETP encountered by vessels owned by Nobel House Seafood, Pritipaul Singh Investment and Gopie Investment Inc. The month of April had the lowest number of ETP encountered by NHS vessels. It produced a total of two hundred and seventy-eight (278) interactions. The month of June saw the highest number of interactions (3232) for the same company. The month of January had the lowest number of ETP interactions by PSI vessels. It produced a total of four hundred and forty-four (444) encounters. The month of November saw the highest interactions (3721) same company. There was no interaction for the month of August and September because the closed season commenced on the 1st August 2018 and concluded on the 27th September 2018.

Species encountered by company

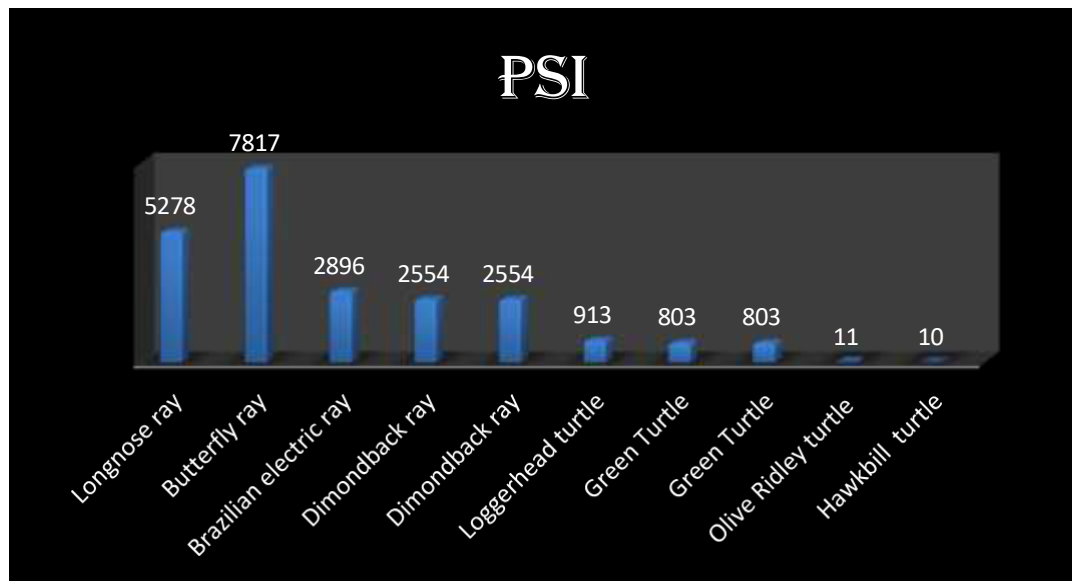


Figure: 3 shows species composition and quantity (PSI)

A total of twenty thousand two hundred and ninety-two interactions were reported by PSI Vessels for the year 2018. Ten species were encountered in these interactions. The butterfly ray accounts for the species with the highest number of interactions and it stood at seven thousand eight hundred and seventeen (7817), which constitute 38.5% of the total interactions. The longnose ray had the second highest encounter; with five thousand two hundred and seventy-eight (5278) and it constitutes 26% of the total. Those two species together make up 64.5% of the total ETP interactions. The Hawksbill turtle had the lowest encounter and it stood at 10

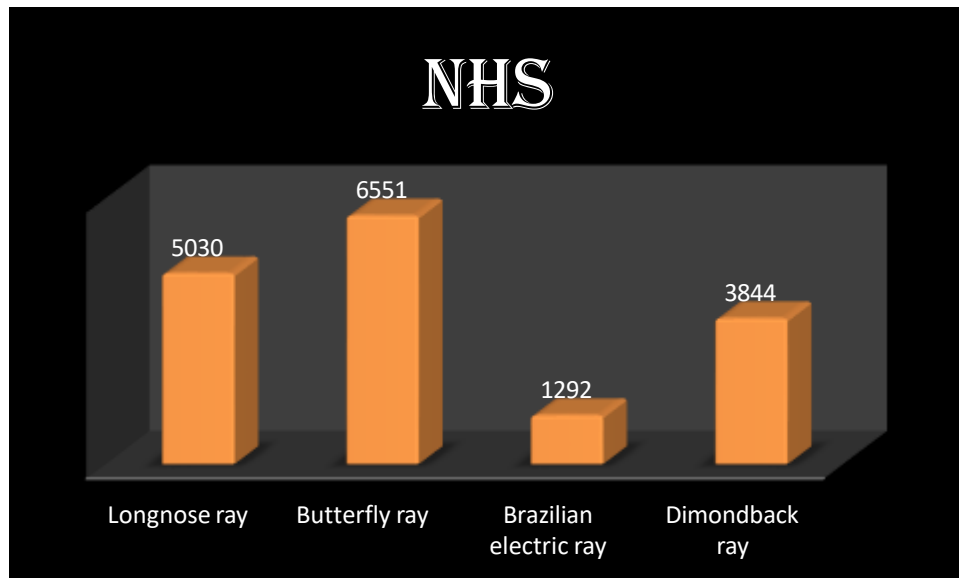


Figure: 4 shows species composition and quantity (NHS)

A total of eighteen thousand five hundred and eighty nine (18589) interactions were reported by NHS Vessels for the year 2018. Four species were encountered in these interactions. The butterfly ray, comparable to PSI accounted for the species with the highest interaction and it mounted at six thousand five hundred and fifty one (6551), which constitute forty one percent (35.2%) of the total interactions. The longnose ray had the second highest encounter, with five thousand and thirty (5030) and it constitute forty (27%) of the total. Those two species together make up 62.2 of the total ETP interactions. The Brazilian electric ray had one thousand two hundred and ninety two encounters, and they represented the species with the lowest number of interactions when compared to other species.

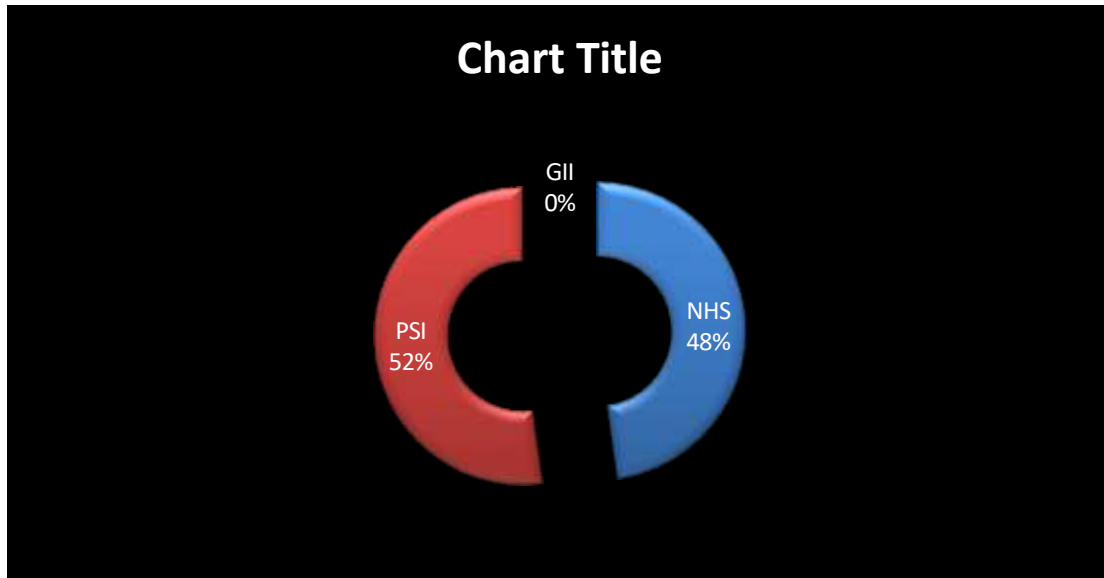


Figure: 4 ETP interactions by company

The figure above depicts the overall ETP interface by company. Nobel House Seafood was responsible of forty eight percent (48%) of all reported interactions and Pritipaul Singh Investments was responsible for fifty two percentages (52%).

Challenges

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 GII submitted ETP reports for that entire year of 2018, 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. 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. Therefore, the rules **MUST** be enforced In order to mitigate the effects of untimely submission and no submission of data.

- ❖ A vulnerable species is one which has been categorized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as likely to become endangered unless the circumstances that are threatening its survival and reproduction improve. It has become placidly clear through consultations that our **RAYs** are characterized as vulnerable species rather than ETP species. Therefore, it is recommended that a vulnerable species log sheet should be developed. This form should be independent of the ETP log sheet.

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