

**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 thirty-eight (38) boats reported contact with EPT species for the year 2019. Eighteen vessels from Nobel House Seafood, sixteen vessels from Pritipaul Singh Investment and four vessels from Gopie Investment Incorporated submitted data reporting their interactions with ETP species.

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

Nobel House Seafood	Pritipaul Singh Investments	Guyana Investment Incorporated
Trade winds	Maria SO	ESP110
Olivia	Maria ZO	ESP
Shark 11	Maria TW	Raoul
Gulf sun	Maria AT	N. Bacchus
Taipan	Rebel	NIL
Sugam	YM72	NIL
Pacuma	Divinity	NIL
	Sea knight	NIL
Ebb-tide	Angel eyes	NIL
Screamer	Angel wings	NIL
Valiant	Typhoon	NIL
Tidal wave	Maria YM 72	NIL
shoal	Maria YM 83.1	NIL
WF101	Maria YM721	NIL
World Friend 307	Angel Wing 3	NIL

Highliner	Sunrise	NIL
Queen of dreams	Falcon	NIL
Lady fish		NIL
Cat Shark		NIL

ETP count by quarter

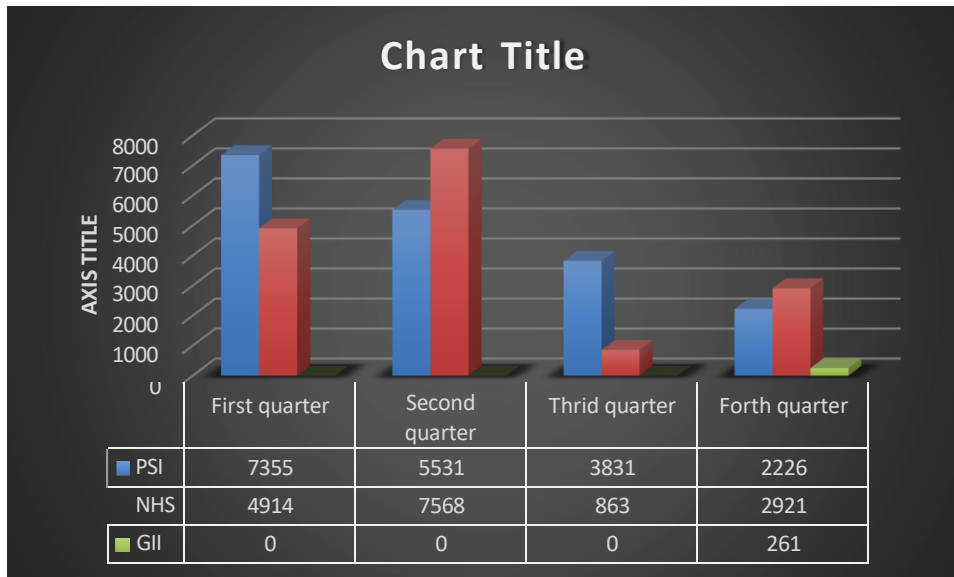


Figure1-ETP count by quarter

Figure: 1 above illustrates ETP encounter by the various company for the year 2019. The second quarter show the highest combine total of ETP interactions for the year 2019 and this stood at twelve thousand two hundred and sixty-nine (12269). The third quarter had the least amount of interaction with ETP species by the various company vessels. Collectively, NHS and PSI encountered a total of four thousand six hundred and ninety-four (4294).

Comparison of NHS and PSI ETP interactions

Figure2-comparisonof NHS, PSI and GII

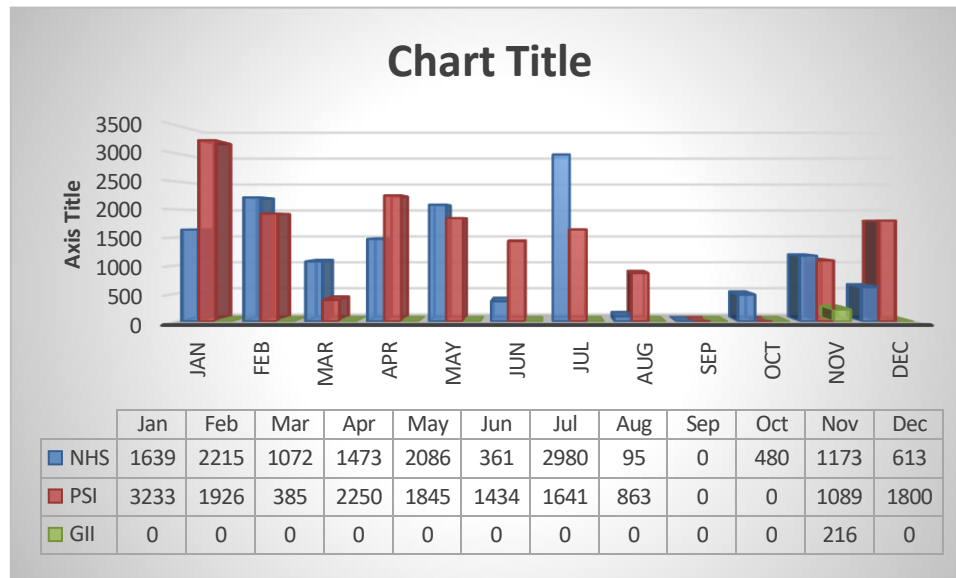
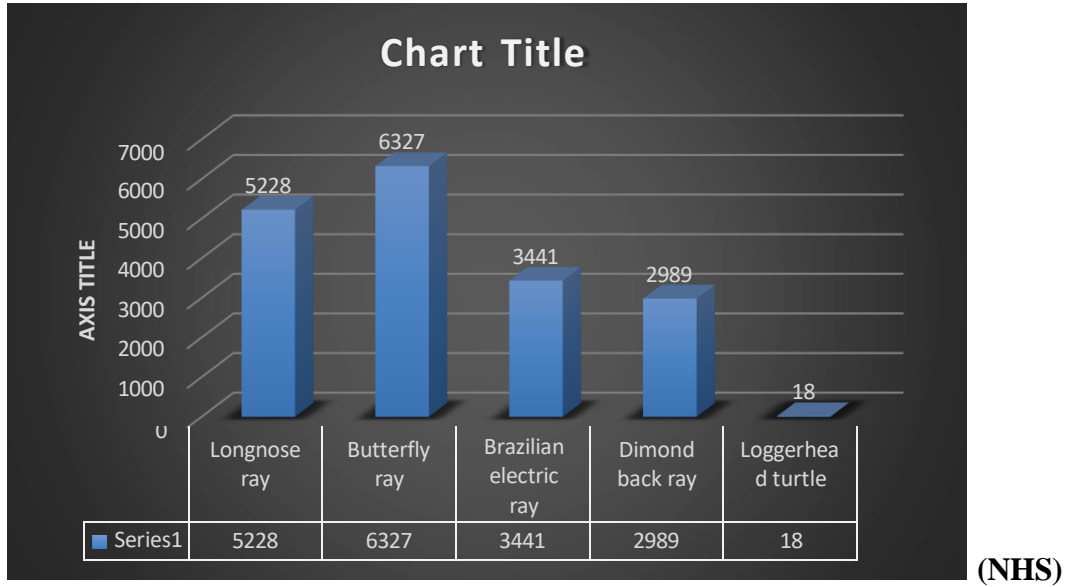


Figure 2 shows a month by month comparison of ETP encountered by vessels owned by Nobel House Seafood, Pritipaul Singh Investment and Gopie Investment Inc. The month of August had the lowest number of ETP encountered by NHS vessels. It produced a total of ninety-five (95) interactions. The month of July saw the highest number of interactions and this was two thousand nine hundred and eighty (2980) for the same company. The month of March had the lowest number of ETP interactions by PSI vessels. It produced a total of three hundred and eighty-five (385) encounters. The month of January saw the highest interactions and it produced three thousand two hundred and thirty-three (3233) same company. Gopie Investment Incorporated saw its highest encounter in the month of November and it produced two hundred and sixteen. The company reported no interaction for the reminding months of the year 2019. There was no interaction for the month of September and the greater part of October because the closed season commenced on the 1st September 2019 and concluded on the 22nd October 2019.

Species encountered by company

Figure: 3 shows species composition and quantity



A total of seventeen thousand four hundred and forty-nine interactions were reported by NHS Vessels for the year 2019. Five species were encountered in these interactions. The butterfly ray accounts for the species with the highest number of interactions and it stood at six thousand three hundred and twenty-seven (6327), which constitute 36.2% of the total interactions. The longnose ray had the second highest encounter, with five thousand two hundred and twenty-eight (5228) and it constitute 29.9% of the total. Those two species together make up 66.1% of the total ETP interactions. The loggerhead turtle had the lowest encounter and it stood at 18

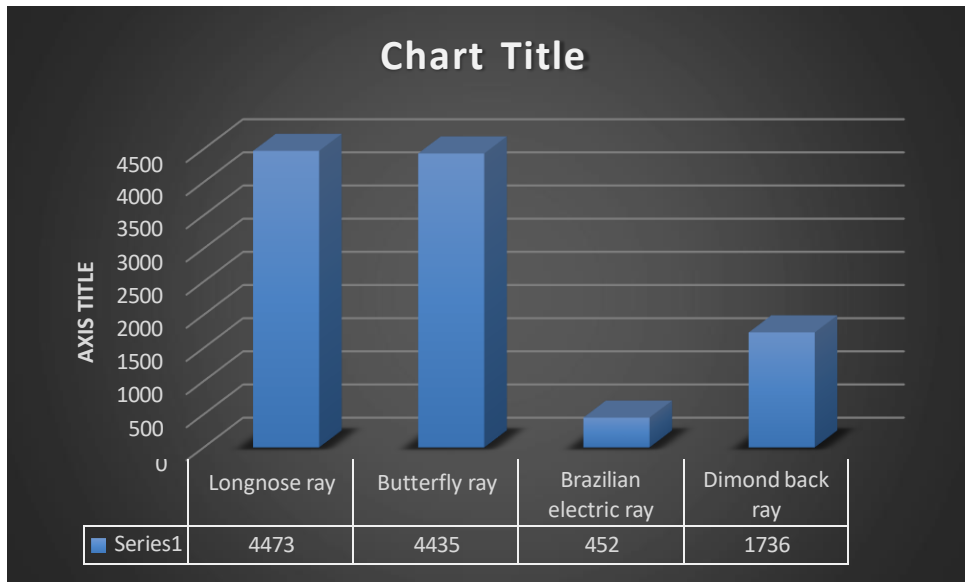
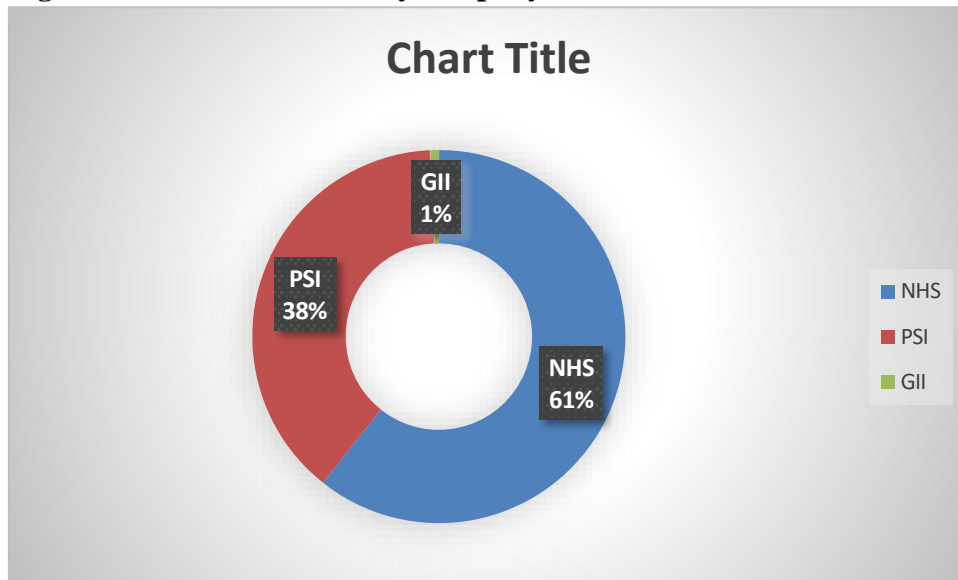


Figure: 4 shows species composition and quantity (PSI)

A total of eleven thousand and eighty ninety-six (11096) interactions were reported by NHS Vessels for the year 2019. Four species were encountered in these interactions. The longnose ray, accounted for the species with the highest interaction and it mounted at four thousand four hundred and seventy-three one (4473), which constitute forty one percent (40.3%) of the total interactions. The butterfly ray had the second highest encounter, with four thousand four hundred and thirty-five (4435) and it constitute forty (39.9%) of the total. Those two species together make up 80.5% of the total ETP interactions. The Brazilian electric ray produced four hundred and fifty-two encounters, and this represented the species with the lowest number of interactions when compared to other species

Figure:5 ETP interactions by company



The figure above depicts the overall ETP interface by company. Nobel House Seafood was responsible of forty eight percent (61%) of all reported interactions, Pritipaul Singh Investments was responsible for fifty-two percentages (38%) and GII 1% of all interactions.

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. 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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