

Options for a better monitoring and control of operational buoys

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Summary

Since 2012, ORTHONGEL has been monitoring the number of operational buoys used on Floating OBjects (FOBs) by the French and Italian purse seine fleet operating in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. In this document, we detail the methodology adopted with buoy providers for this monitoring as well as improvements in this methodology over 2012-2018. We underline the need for a transparent and harmonized control of the number of operational buoys used by purse seiners that would ensure compliance with existing buoy limitations. In particular, we address the issue of potential cycles of activation/deactivation that would lead to under-reporting of numbers of operational buoys. We propose minimum standards of operational buoy monitoring that would ensure that a given vessel does not circumvent buoy limitations with “ghost buoys”.