



Socio-economic importance of Ethmalose and the spatial and temporal distribution of its abundance in Guinea

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Abstract

In Guinea, among the small pelagics exploited, ethmalose is the subject of an intense maritime artisanal fishing and constitutes one of the most important species from an economic point of view. The present study aims to highlight the socio-economic importance of the fishing of ethmalose and to analyze the spatio-temporal distribution of its abundance. We exploited the database of the National Center for Fisheries Science in Boussoura to estimate: (i) the number of canoes targeting ethmalose, (ii) the evolution of landings over the period 1995-2013, (iii) the number of jobs generated by this fishery and (iv) breeding periods. The results indicate that the number of pirogues targeting ethmalose is constantly increasing. From 978 in 1992 to over 3,800 in 2016. At the same time, landings increased from 23,613 kg in 1995 to more than 74,900 kg in 2013. Over the period 1995-2013, catches of ethmalose constituted one third of artisanal landings. These landings are unevenly distributed in time and space. The period from October to January corresponds to good fishing. Low catches are recorded from February to September. The main fishing grounds are the Boké and Boffa prefectures on the northern coast, where seasonal upwelling is prevalent. Ethmalose reproduces throughout the year with a peak observed in September. The direct employment generated by this fishery is estimated at 17 000.

Keywords: Ethmalose, Guinea, abundance, distribution, jobs.



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