Fishing strategies, economic performance and management of moored FADs in Guadeloupe

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Résumé

Fishing on moored FADs has developed since the early 90s in Guadeloupe with the objective of reducing fishing effort on the island shelf and improve fishermen's incomes through the fishing for large pelagic species. The fishing fleet has changed significantly with the increase of size and power of vessels. The aim of the paper is to study more precisely the fishing strategies of vessels operating on anchored FADs and the economic implications in terms of investment and income generation. Data collected as part of fisheries information system set up in Guadeloupe since 2007 (vessel fishing calendar, landings surveys, fuel consumption, economic and social data, ...) are used for this paper. The paper analyses the degree of polyvalence and the economic dependence of vessels fishing for large pelagic on anchored FADs. We then tries to identify the implications in terms of fishing effort allocation towards island shelf activities (pots, nets, ...). Economic performance are finally put into perspective in relation to the issue of collective or private FADs management.

Mots-Clés: Moored FADs, small scale, effort allocation, investment

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