

NOTICE ON THE EXPERIMENTAL RELEASE OF REARED SENEGALESE SOLE (*Solea senegalensis*) IN SOUTHERN PORTUGAL

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The Senegalese sole (*Solea senegalensis*) is a high commercial value species in the Algarve, whose production has shown a downward trend in recent years. Consequently, the production of this species in aquaculture is of high importance, not only for direct human consumption but also for the enhancement of the local fishery.

As an experimental species for restocking, the Senegalese sole has the advantage of having two production seasons (March-June and Oct-Dec), which allows for two release seasons or releases with different sized fish.

A total of approximately 2500 juvenile specimens of different sizes were tagged (tag model FD94 T Anchor-Bar, Floy Tag & Mfg, Inc) and released during the summer in 2004 and 2005 and in spring 2006. The experiments conducted in the lab showed high tagging survival and no tag loss. Fish were released on three occasions near artificial reefs and inside the Ria Formosa, a coastal lagoon. This paper reports the preliminary results about the potential for stocking Senegalese sole.