Comment on essd-2021-93
Anonymous Referee #3


The paper provides some historical data series of swordfish catches in the central Mediterranean that would help to improve our knowledge regarding changes on the size structure and abundance of the stock over time. Given that the data refer to a low exploitation period, certain data metrics (e.g. mean weight of individual fish) could be potentially useful indicators of population changes induced by intense fishing activities in the most recent years. In this concept, data provide complementary information that can be utilized for conservation purposes and support the efforts for rebuilding the over-exploited Mediterranean swordfish stock, through appropriate management measures. Based on the above, I recommend publication of the article.