Tuna purse seiner fishing in Iran

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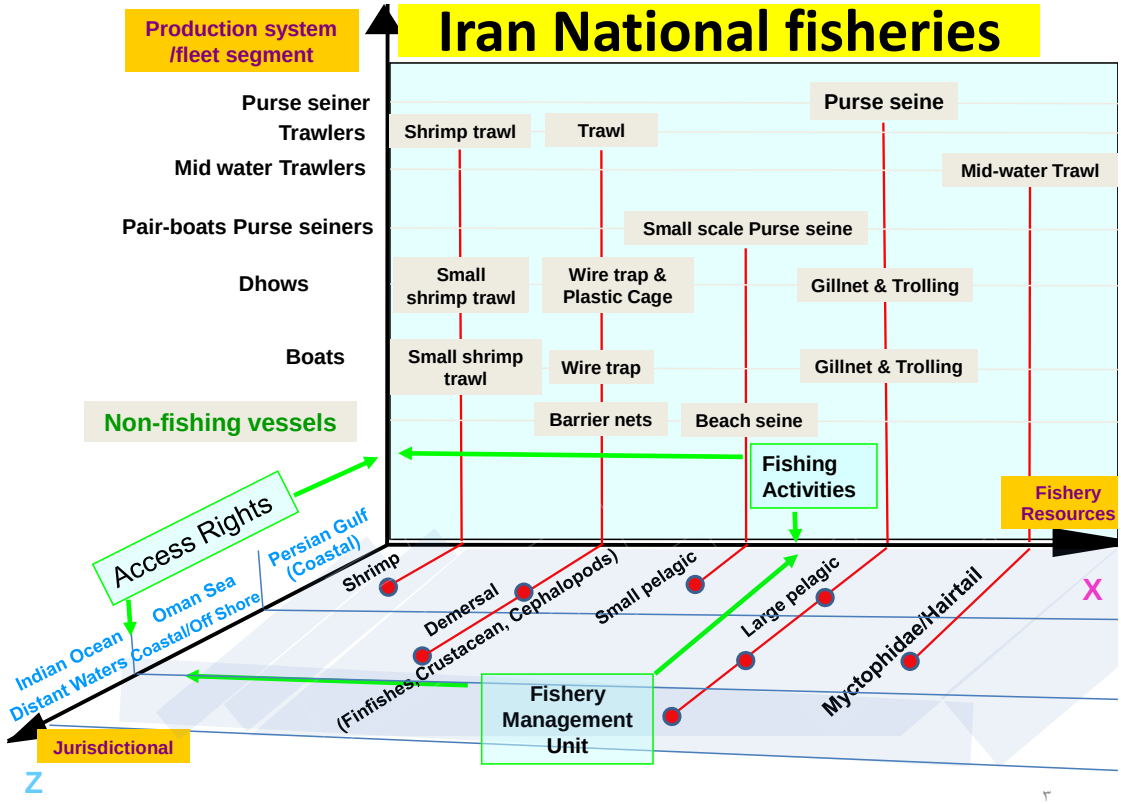
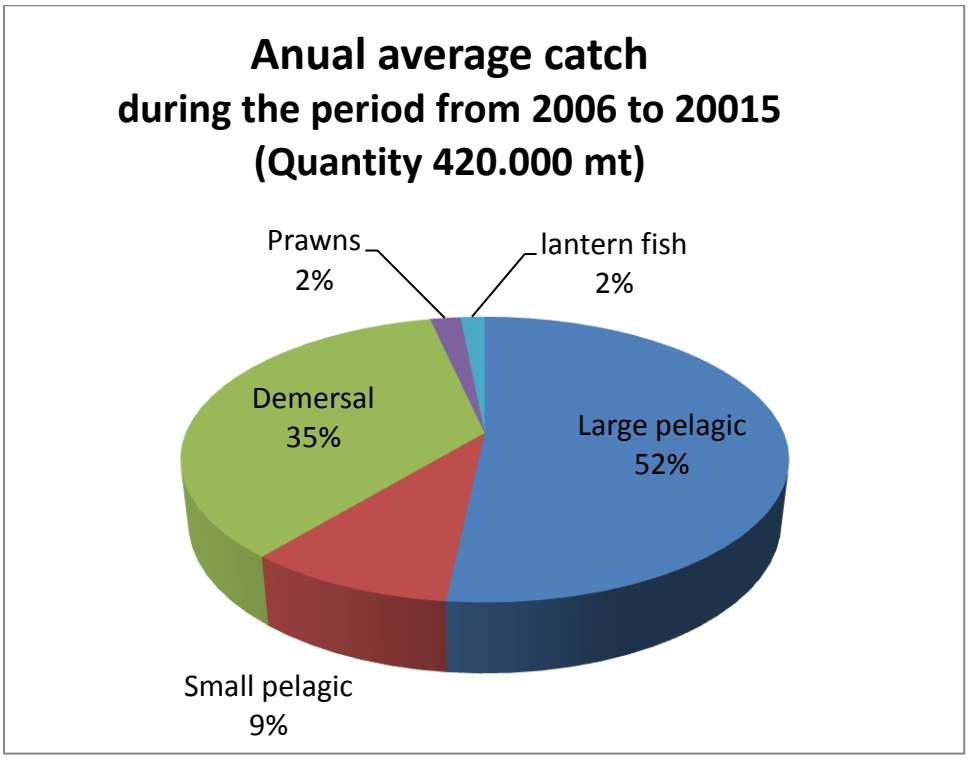
- Introduction

About 550000 Mt. of various fishes have been harvested in 2015 from Persian Gulf, Oman Sea and Indian Ocean by 10.600 vessels including boats, Dhows and ships. These vessels are equipped with different fishing gears to harvest variety of aquatics e.g. Large and small pelagic, Reversal species, Lantern fish and Shrimp, within allowed areas. Following diagram demonstrates harvest geographical position, capture type and method of harvest as well.



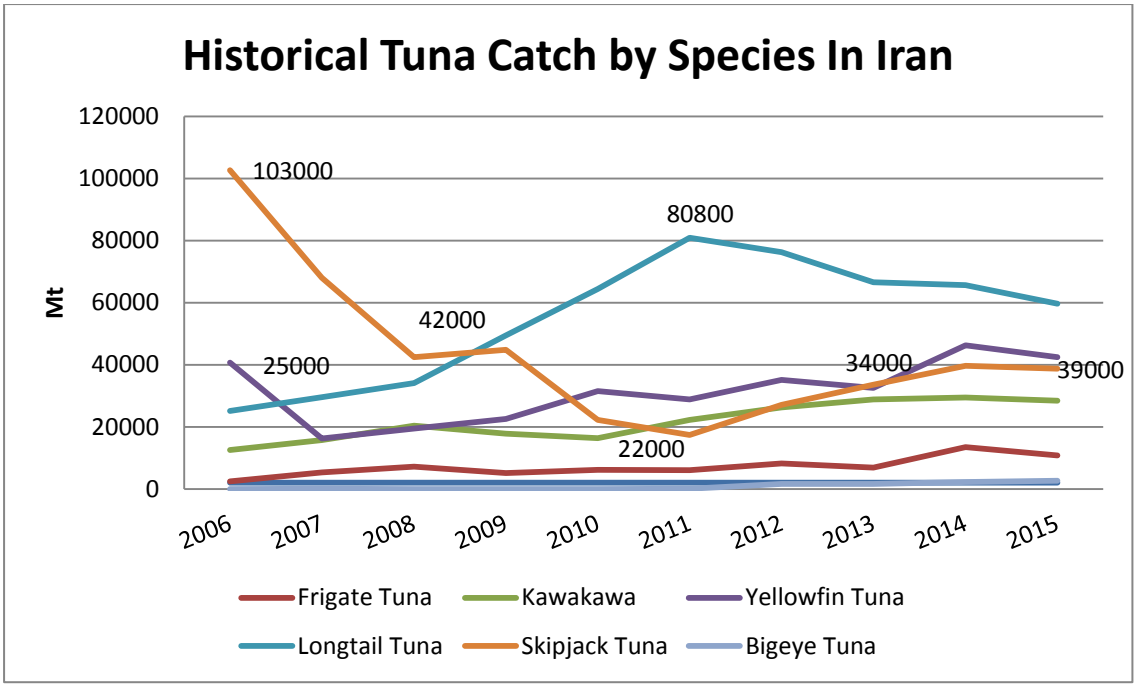
Large pelagic has the biggest share of harvest amount comparing to other species i.e. demersal, small pelagic, prawns and lantern fish. Following pie chart shows the contribution of each group to national southern capture fisheries during a 10 year period.

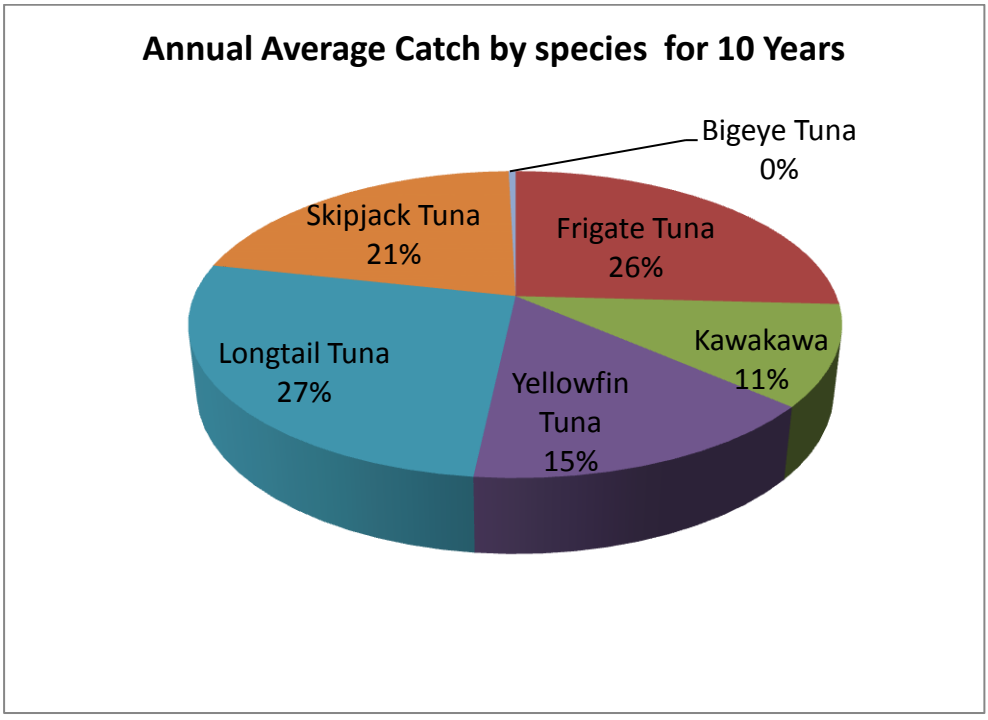


- **Tuna Fish**

Tuna harvest amount is approximated near 240.000 Mt. in 2015 which is considered as 75% of total large pelagic harvest. This amount has been captured by 4600 Gillnet and trolling boats, 2160 Dhows and 5 purse seiners**.**

Main Tuna captured species are: Skip Jack, Long Tail, Frigate Tuna, Kawakawa and yellowfin tuna. According to several studies during last decade, Skip jack harvest has been diminished since 2006. In contrast longtail tuna fisheries show a positive trend. Yellowfin fisheries also have been recovered after since 2007 and after a fall.





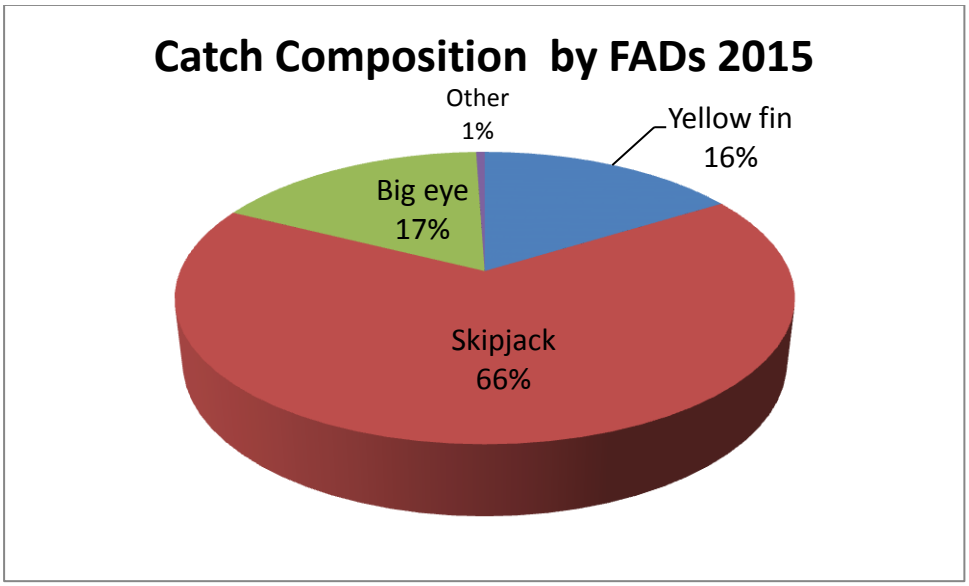
Tuna stocks Status are greatly associated due to high migration of Tuna schools within world oceans, Therefore Tuna harvest should be regulated based on International principles. For Tuna fisheries Management, IFO's main policy is to prevent gillnet expansion and find alternatives such as Purse seine and Long line method.

- Tuna Purse seiners

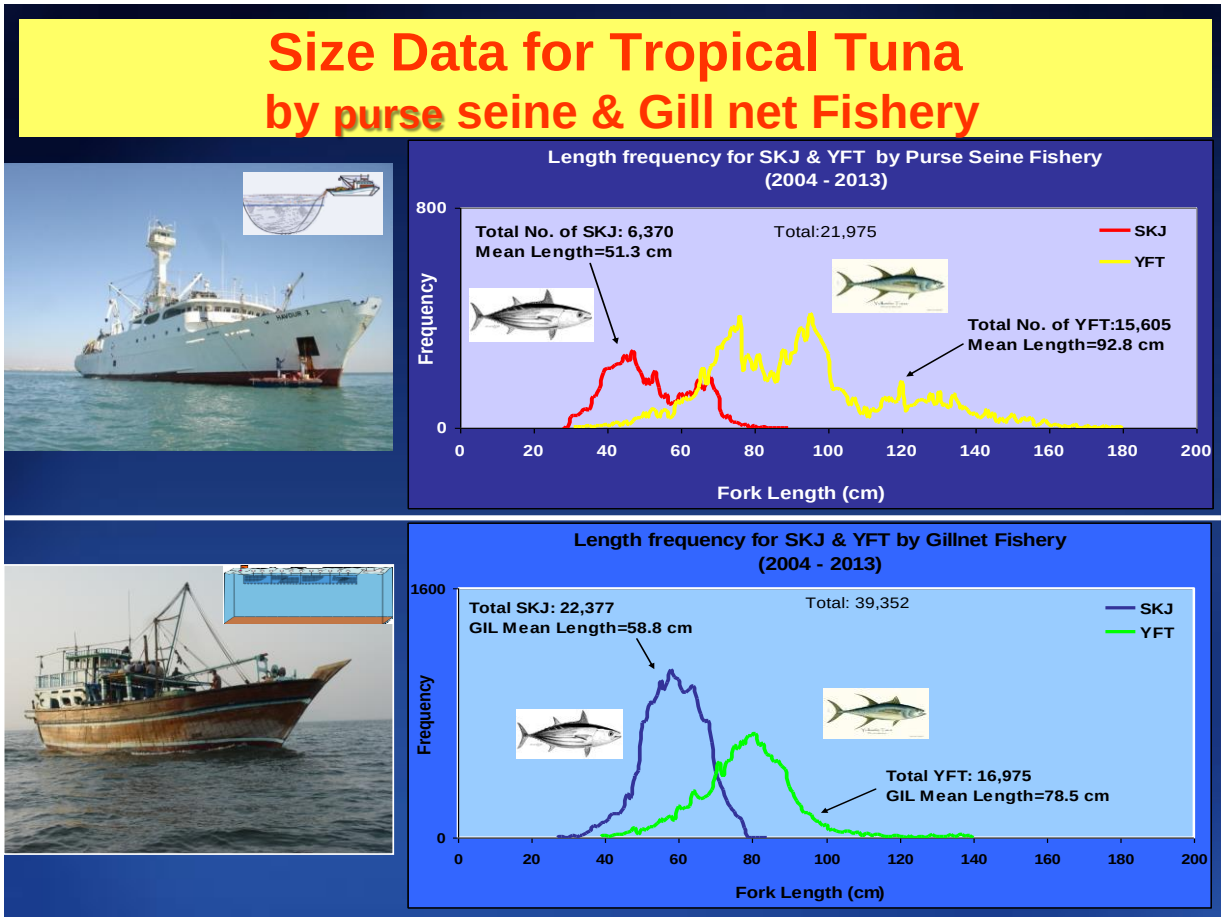
Only 5 Purse seiners are active in Iran. These vessels used in Iran a few D FADs（, each of the vessels 30 to 70 FADs） has almost caught less than 50% obtained by the FAD is done. the following diagrams, shows catch composition by FADs.

Purse seiners Catch by FAD- 2015

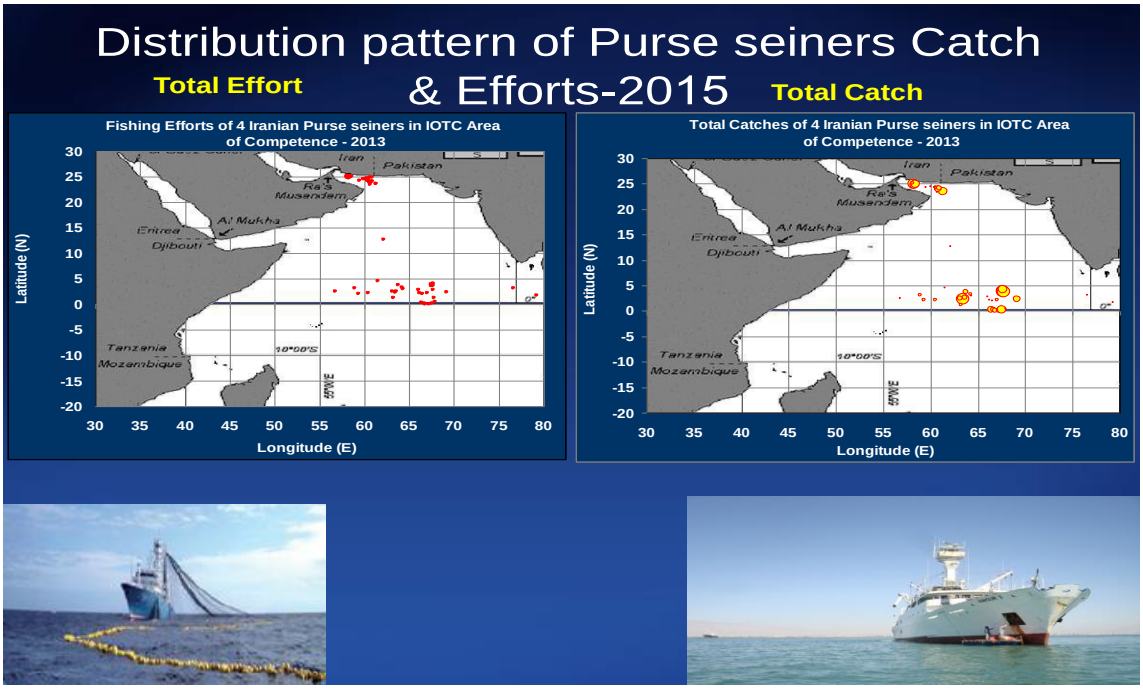
Total catch by 5 purse seiners	5300 tons
The number of used FADs	200
The amount of fish caught by FADs	2500 tons
Percent of the fish caught by FADs.	47%



Biometry findings during last decade also show that comparing to the skip jack caught by Dhows is bigger that those caught by purse seiners. (69 against 53 Cm) In contrast, Yellow fin Tuna which caught by purse seiners are bigger than those caught by Dhows. (92 against 79 Cm) following diagram shows this status.



Also following diagram shows Distribution pattern of Purse seiners Catch & Efforts-2015



Vessels performance control at sea is achieved from on-line report, Logbook data, reports from other vessels or regular visits catch quality and amount during anchoring in port.

Vessels are obliged to maintain a logbook to keep the catch record. This makes them able to set up a catch report to port authorities' end of each harvest season.

Some logbooks have been provided for fishing vessels to keep the catch record in this format. The data that collected via these logbooks is highly helpful to identify the catch composition, fishing areas and fishing effort, etc. catch amount and composition and fishing effort of purse seiners are shown in following.

Catch amount and composition and fishing effort of purse seiners

Year	long tail	yellowfin	Skipjack	Bigeye & etc.	Totai catch	fishing effort	The average effort per vessel
2014	140	4832	798	24	5794	675	135
2015	988	3763	231	159	5141	881	176.2

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As you can see, fishing effort for each vessel is less than 6 months a year. This is because:

1- Some of the vessels are relatively old and every now need to fix
2- Due to the sanctions, Supply of equipment takes time
3- Mooring in Port and receive services in Iran requires a long process.
4- Supply of skilled staff due to the current circumstances it is very difficult
5- The vessels use the very low number of FADs.