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Somalia National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2016

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INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, final scientific data for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year, **for all fleets other than longline** [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2016, final data for the 2015 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016)	No
In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional **longline data** for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2016, preliminary data for the 2015 calendar year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2016). **REMINDER:** Final longline data for the previous year is due to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2016, final data for the 2015 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2016).	Not Applicable
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: Somali is currently recovering from decades of civil wars since the collapse of the central government in 1991. The government of does not any pure seine or longliners operating under its flag at the moment. There are small artisanal fleets ranging from 3 – 10m made of glass reinforced plastic or wood operating in coastal waters and no data collection system in place.	

Executive Summary
Somalia has the longest coastline in mainland Africa covering over 3,300 Km of which 2000 Km is facing the Indian Ocean. The fishery resources in Somali waters are said to be one of the richest in the African continent. Marine researches and a number of fishing expeditions carried out jointly with the Somali government and other international organisations in mid1970s revealed abundance of marine resources.

Large pelagic species including tuna and tuna-like species such as yellow fin, big-eye, skipjack, mackerel etc are the most highly priced species locally. Although they are highly migratory, the traditional fishing grounds for these species are found along the Indian Ocean from latitude 05 to 10^0 N due to upwelling that occurs twice annually in the period of southwest monsoons. It is also known that there are good fishing opportunities in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean for tuna during the Southwest monsoon in the deeper waters.

The fishing seasons of Somali waters is governed by the monsoon winds that occur in the calendar year between May and September. In this period, high waves and strong winds compel small and medium size commercial boats not to call at Somali ports. In this period, coastal fishing of the artisanal fishery is limited but it does not have much effect on the industrial fishery as it is engaged mainly on larger fishing vessels. The fishing days of the artisanal fishery varies between 220 to 240 days per year while the offshore fishing vessels were forced to change their fishing ground, gear or target species.

During the last 25 years or so, civil war and anarchy caused the destruction of all fishery infrastructures through looting and vandalism. To revive the fishery sector, there is a need to rehabilitate the sector by providing inputs and capacity building to the coastal communities. The sector currently contributes 2% national economy (GNP) but if fully developed it would contribute much more than that.

Besides, there is no Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of the marine resources and data collection system on marine products on both inshore and offshore fisheries. The sector has also experienced collapse of maritime and other technical educational institutes, hence, limiting attainment of knowledge to manage the activities in the fishing communities.

1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION [MANDATORY]

With the exception small artisanal fishing fleet, Somalia does not have any fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. There is no vessel of or above 24m, or less than 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ, targeting tuna and tuna-like species and flagged in Somalia, and therefore there is no Somali vessel on the IOTC Record of Authorized vessels. The Somali artisanal fleet does not specialized in targeting tuna and tuna-like species and catch IOTC species on an opportunistic basis like many other artisanal fisheries of the Indian Ocean.

Since Somalia does not have fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna-like species, however, Somalia licensed for 3 months, 10 foreign longliners to operate in the EEZ in 2015.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE [MANDATORY]

Somali does not have fishing fleets currently engaged in fishing Tuna and Tuna-like specie. The artisanal fleet is composed of vessels ranging from traditional canoes to 8.5m open fiberglass boats powered by outboard engines. The main fishing gears used are fix or drift gillnets, trolling, longlines, handlines and traps.

For the artisanal fleet, the number of fishermen and fishing vessels is largely unknown, however, through an FAO project, Somalia has started to registered fishermen in Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug, and so far a total of 65,144 fishermen have been registered. Similar project is underway in Jubbaland.

Table 1: Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence, by gear type and size

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Purse Seiners	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliners	0	0	0	0	0	0
Artisanal	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND GEAR) [Mandatory]

Somali artisanal fleet composed of small motorized and non-motorized fishing boats with a length varying from 3 – 10m engage in fishing coastal waters, targeting both demersal and pelagic species, including highly migratory species, mainly with gillnets, longline, trolling and handlines.

In 2015, FAO with funding Japan, Switzerland and the European Union deployed 25 anchored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) along the Indian Ocean in cooperation with the federal and regional ministries of fisheries. Although not data collection system in place it is expected to increase the fish production of the artisanal fishing fleets.

At present, no data collection or sampling system is set up in the different States of Somalia, and very few fisheries data is currently being collected on the Somali artisanal fleet.

Table 2. Annual catch and effort by gear and primary species in the IOTC area of competence. **[Mandatory]**

No data available

Figure 1. Historical annual catch for the national fleet, by gear and primary species, for the IOTC area of competence for the entire history of the fishery/fleet. **[Mandatory]**

No data available

Figure 2a. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by gear type for the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (most recent year e.g. 2015). **[Mandatory]**

No data available

Figure 2b. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by gear type for the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (average of the 5 previous years e.g. 2011–2015). **[Mandatory]**

No data available

Figure 3a. Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence (most recent year e.g. 2015). **[Mandatory]**

No data available

Figure 3b. Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence (average of the 5 previous years e.g. 2011–2015). **[Mandatory]**

No data available

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY [Mandatory]

There is no recreational or sport fishery in Somalia

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES [Mandatory]

In late 2014, a new Somali Fisheries Law was passed in Somalia, and this new legislation includes provisions on endangered species, including sharks, seabirds, marine mammals and marine turtles.

5.1 Sharks [Mandatory]

No NPOA-sharks has yet been developed in Somalia despite it has been fishing for longtime. No data is available on shark catches in Somalia. However, sharks are targeted by the Somali artisanal fleet and shark – shark products are fully utilised in Somalia and are landed whole with fins attached.

Table 3: Total number and weight of sharks, by species, retained by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2011–2015). **[Mandatory]**

No data available

Table 4: Total number of sharks, by species, released/discarded by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2011–2015). Where available, include life status upon released/discard. **[Desirable]**

No data available

5.2 Seabirds [Mandatory]

No NPOA-seabirds has yet been developed in Somalia, and no data is available on seabird bycatch in Somalia.

5.3 Marine Turtles [Mandatory]

No specific strategy has yet been developed in Somalia regarding marine turtles, and no data is available on marine turtle bycatch in Somalia.

5.4 Other ecologically related species (e.g. marine mammals, whale sharks) [Desirable]

No data available

Table 5. Observed annual catches of species of special interest by species (seabirds, marine turtles and marine mammals) by gear for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2011–2015 or to the extent available). **[Mandatory]**

No data available

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS [Mandatory]

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification (including date commenced and status of implementation)

There is no vessel of or above 24m or less than 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ flagged in Somalia. No logsheet data collection system is in place for the Somali artisanal fleet.

6.2. Vessel Monitoring System (including date commenced and status of implementation)

There is no vessel of or above 24m or less than 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ flagged in Somalia. No VMS is implemented for the Somali artisanal fleet.

There is a project underway with aim develop its MCS capacity, Somalia is working with FAO to set up a VMS in Somalia, which will primarily allow Somalia to follow the activities of future licensed vessels while operating in the Somali EEZ.

6.3. Observer programme (including date commenced and status; number of observer, include percentage coverage by gear type)

There is no vessel of or above 24m, or less than 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ, flagged in Somalia. No observer programme is implemented for the Somali artisanal fleet.

However, with the support of FAO, Somali observers have been trained in 2015, for future deployment on board foreign licensed or Somali registered vessels.

Table 6. Annual observer coverage by operation, e.g. longline hooks, purse seine sets (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2011–2015 or to the extent available). **[Mandatory]**

Somalia did not deploy observer during this period as there is no national fleet on which to deploy observers.

Figure 4. Map showing the spatial distribution of observer coverage. **[Mandatory]**

6.4. Port sampling programme [including date commenced and status of implementation]
Somalia does not have a sampling system in port or at landing sites for the moment to collect statistics on its artisanal fleet. Somalia is currently working with donors to develop such systems, and some training already took place.

Table 7. Number of individuals measured, by species and gear] **[Mandatory]**

6.4. Unloading/Transhipment [including date commenced and status of implementation] **[Mandatory]**
Somalia does not have a sampling system in port or at landing sites for the moment to collect statistics on its artisanal fleet.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS [Desirable]

Due to lack of fund and capacity in the country, no research is being carried out since the fall of the last government in 1991 but Somalia is eager to participate to regional research project on tuna and tuna-like species, and will cooperate to its maximum capacity with such initiative

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC. [Mandatory]

Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2005 and 2016.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	No data collection system is currently operational in Somalia however, training of samplers has started.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	As there is no data collection system in place, Somalia does not report statistical data to IOTC
15/05	On conservation measures for striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin	Paragraph 4	Level of marlin catches in Somalia are unknown for the artisanal fleet
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	The new fisheries law makes provision for the protection of cetaceans in Somali waters. Other provisions will be included in the fisheries regulations.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)	Paragraphs 7– 9	The new fisheries law makes provision for the protection of cetaceans in Somali waters. Other provisions will be included in the fisheries regulations.
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	Specific provisions regarding shark caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries in Somalia will be included in the fisheries regulations
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	The new fisheries law makes provision for the protection of cetaceans in Somali waters. Other provisions will be included in the fisheries regulations.
12/06	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	The new fisheries law makes provision for the protection of cetaceans in Somali waters. Other provisions will be included in the fisheries regulations.
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	The new fisheries law makes provision for the protection of cetaceans in Somali waters. Other provisions will be included in the fisheries regulations.
11/04	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 9	Somalia does not have a fleet on which observers shall be deployed. Somalia is working at developing sampling systems at landing sites for its artisanal fleet
05/05	Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 1–12	Somalia does not have a fleet on which observers shall be deployed. Somalia is working at developing sampling systems at landing sites for its artisanal fleet
16/06	On measures applicable in case of non-	Paragraph 1	Somalia is working with its partners to develop its fisheries

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
	fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC		management capacities, including data collection system. At the moment, due to the last decades of civil war and instability in the countries, no data collection system is currently operational in Somalia. Large portion of the coast remain inaccessible due to the security situation. .

9. LITERATURE CITED [Mandatory]

FOR IOTC CONTRACTING PARTIES AND COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES (CPCS)

PARAGRAPHS 1–7