

**I.R.Iran National Report For** IOTC-2018-SC21-R10  
**The 21<sup>st</sup> Scientific Committee of the IOTC, 2018**



***INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS***

<p>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 long-line [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2018, final data for the 2017 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2018)</p>	<p>Submitted the 30 June 2018</p>
<p>In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional long-line 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 2018, preliminary data for the 2017 calendar year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2018). <b>REMINDER:</b> Final long-line 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 2018, final data for the 2017 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2018).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>If no ,please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: <i>We don't have any active specific industrial long-line vessel but, some of the vessels were encouraged extensionally to move to long- line fisheries seasonally.</i></p>	

***Executive Summary***

Iran fishing grounds in southern part of the country is the most important resources for large pelagic species. There are 4 coastal provinces (Khozeastan, Boshehr, Hormozgan and Sistan& Blochestan Provinces) beside the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea where they are located between the longitudes from 48° 30' north to 61° 25' east. Iran, with an interest in fisheries has concluded a number of bilateral agreements that regulate fishing in the area (through RECOFI and bilateral agreement e.g. Iraq, Oman, Kuwait and etc.) For Iranian fishermen the Arabian Sea is the gateway to the northwest Indian Ocean and the opportunity to harvest tuna and other highly migratory large pelagic species. It has been a tradition for Iranian fishers to fish

offshore and in the last few decades gillnet and purse seine fisheries have become the established fishing method for Iranian fishers in the international waters of the northwest of the Indian Ocean. So, Iran joined the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) in 2002 and it has been one of the active countries in the commission.

In a brief view the total amount of fish production including catch and aquaculture has been 1202086 tons in 2017, which around 724817 tons came from catch and 477269 tons from aquaculture. Around 131000 fishermen with 10493 different type of vessels including fishing boats, dhows and ships are active in gillnet, Purse seine, Trolling, Trawl and Wire-trap which are engaged in fishing operation according to time schedule during different fishing seasons in the coastal and offshore waters and landed their fish in 130 fishing harbors or landing areas. On this way, large pelagic species catch is one of the most important group of fish that are caught by Iranian fishermen. There are four fishing gear types which targeting large pelagic species in the IOTC area of competence, included gillnet, purse seine, long line (by traditional boats) and also some of small trolling boats in coastal fisheries.

The main fishing grounds for large pelagic species in southern part of the country are located in the coastal area of the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea. Total production of tuna and tuna like species (including by-catch and discards) was 296192 Mt In 2017, which 274589 Mt belongs to tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Indian Ocean. This amount of catch contains 75.1% (222279 Mt) of Tunas, 11.3% (33514 Mt) of Seerfish, 6.3% (18795 Mt) of Billfish, 1.2% (3623 Mt) different species of shark and 6.1% (17981 Mt) other species. Also around 93.6% of tuna and tuna like species catch comes from gillnet gear, while around 2.1% of catch belong to purse seiners and 1.5% comes from trolling vessels and 2.8% comes from small artisanal gillnetter as a seasonal and temporal long-liner where they are fish in coastal waters.

Iran, has been one of the active countries in tuna fisheries and has had a progressively trend in participation of IOTC programs and implementation of the resolutions. As, the amount of compliance with IOTC resolutions has rising year to year and has increased from 11% in 2011 to 71% in 2017. Although, Iran's tuna fisheries is an artisanal fisheries and majority of fishermen only are working for their livelihood, but during past decade, Iranian fisheries organization monitoring and control system are developed very well and the country intent to make more progress in implementation of responsible and sustainable fisheries.

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## 1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION

There are three major areas for Iran fisheries activities consist to the southern part catch (Persian Gulf, Oman Sea and Indian Ocean), northern part catch (in the Caspian Sea) and inland water aquaculture and catch (in total Aquaculture). Figure 1.1 shows the total catch and fish production in the country during 2013-2017.

The quantity of large pelagic Catch was 327 thousand tons in 2017. According to reported information to the IOTC Secretariat, 274,589 Mt of these catch belongs to tuna and tuna-like species and are caught in the Indian Ocean area of competence. Those catches are mainly comprised 6 tuna species with 222,279 Mt, 2 Seerfish species with 33,514 Mt, 5 billfish species with 18,795 Mt, 623 Mt different types of shark species and around 17,981 Mt other large pelagic species, where are landed in southern fishing harbors of Iran. Figure 1.2

Figure 1.1 Total Catch & production in the country during 2013-2017

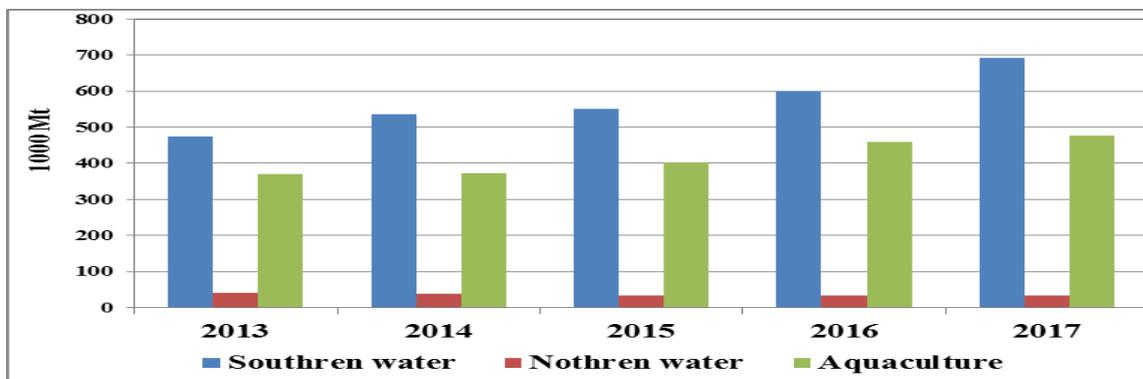
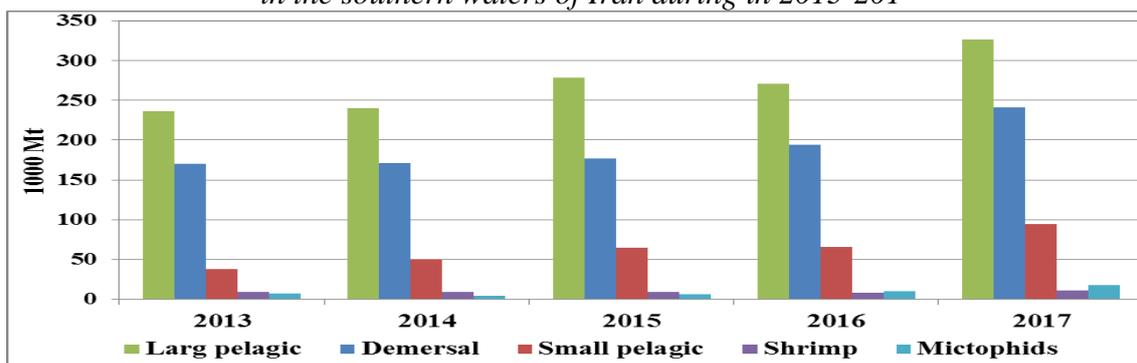


Figure 1.2 The catches quantity of different aquatic species group in the southern waters of Iran during in 2013-2017



## 2. FLEET STRUCTURE

Around 6287 fishing crafts were engaged in tuna and tuna-like fishing operation, of which 2758 were gillnet boats (less than 3 GT), 557 gillnet Dhows of less than 50 GT, 316 gillnet Dhows of 51-100 GT, 326 gillnet Dhows of more than 100 GT, 1820 Trolling boats of less than 3 GT, 324 traditional long-line boats of less than 3 GT, 165 traditional long-line Dhows of less than 50 GT, 14 traditional long-line Dhows of 51-100 GT and 5 Purse seiners. Table 2.1 shows the fishing fleet is disaggregated into the following (GT) categories during 2013-2017.

Table 2.1: Number of active vessels which are operating in the IOTC area of competence,  
By gear type and size (2013-2017)

GEAR GROUP	Capacity GT	No. of active Crafts by year				
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Purse seine	1000 - 2000	4	5	5	5	5
Coastal Artisanal Long-line*	< 3	0	0	0	300	324
	21 to 50	0	0	0	80	165
	51-100	0	0	0	0	0
	101 up	0	0	0	14*	14*
Gillnet	< 3	3741	3155	3630	3319	2758
	3 - 20	270	271	266	258	239
	21 - 50	1060	825	364	391	318
	51 - 100	534	480	181	171	316
	101 - up	338	275	293	283	326
Trolling	< 3	805	1914	2019	2190	1820

\*We don't have any specific active industrial long-line vessel butt, some of the vessels were encouraged extensionally to move to long- line seasonal fisheries.

## 3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND GEAR)

Tuna and Tuna like fisheries by Iranian fleet, are done in coastal area and offshore by different type of vessels that the result of catch reflected in Table 3.1 . Also, figure3.1 shows the total annual catch by gear type and fish species. In addition, Figure 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 shows the total amount of catch for different fishing gears by species during and 2013 to 2017 and Table 3.2 shows fishing effort of tuna and tuna like species by

different vessel types for the all fleet consist of purse seine, gillnetter and trolling during recent years.

According to Iran national regulation, offshore fisheries baseline starts at 24 miles. While, defined offshore fisheries by IOTC is rather different from Iran and offshore fisheries starts from 200 miles. and this point make some minor differences in statistical information.

*Table.3.1 Annual catch by gear type and species (Mt)*

GEAR GROUP	SPECIES	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Purse Seine	KAW	0	11	0	0	5	
	LOT	1520	140	814	50	1891	
	SKJ	1605	798	489	1202	2477	
	YFT	1980	4832	3842	3465	1764	
	BET	100	10	135	138	29	
	COM	11	0	0	0	0	
	SFA	74	0	0	0	0	
	BLM	150	0	0	0	0	
	FAL	53	0	0	0	0	
	Other non targeted species	242	3	29	24	39	
	<b>Total Catch</b>	<b>5735</b>	<b>5794</b>	<b>5308</b>	<b>4879</b>	<b>6206</b>	
Coastal Artisanal Longline	YFT	0	0	0	5760	8452	
	BET	0	0	0	0	0	
	SFA	0	0	0	0	0	
	BLM	0	0	0	0	0	
	SWO	0	0	0	0	0	
	DOL	0	0	0	0	122	
		<b>Total Catch</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5760</b>	<b>8574</b>
Gillnet	FRI	6848	13265	10422	10238	10251	
	KAW	28377	28936	27877	33677	38311	
	LOT	62704	60771	57555	54596	56658	
	SKJ	31722	38931	38232	37956	50822	
	* YFT	30421	41326	38412	35110	45551	
	BET	1549	2259	2309	2931	3577	
	COM	18324	21218	20617	20759	22529	
	GUT	5638	6705	6997	7501	9326	
	SFA	7401	11595	9693	7552	10405	
	BLM	4023	6179	5958	4148	4974	
	SWO	804	1134	1174	887	1054	
	MLS	574	810	839	634	753	
	S-Other Billfish	1254	1738	1816	1363	1561	
	1-FAL	1812	1293	1567	523	586	
	2-SPN	68	49	63	20	22	
	3-MAK	113	80	94	33	37	
	4-OCS	136	97	118	39	44	
	5-THR	0	0	0	0	0	
	6-CCW	438	554	499	409	272	
	7-CCO	877	1107	997	818	544	
	8-RHA	2606	3302	2976	2447	1623	
	9-Other sharks	574	651	616	448	316	
	Other non targeted species	9533	10731	12292	13577	17819	
		<b>Total Catch</b>	<b>215795</b>	<b>252729</b>	<b>241121</b>	<b>235668</b>	<b>277035</b>
	Trolling	FRI	25	228	233	6	14
KAW		387	452	516	231	458	
LOT		2348	4672	1278	501	1665	
YFT		2	57	345	775	354	
COM		1687	2420	2181	2922	1538	
GUT		114	162	245	158	120	
SFA		0	3	53	257	48	
Sharks		317	0	205	59	180	
Others		0	7	68	0	0	
		<b>Total Catch</b>	<b>4879</b>	<b>8002</b>	<b>5122</b>	<b>4908</b>	<b>4378</b>
<b>Total all gear catch</b>		<b>226410</b>	<b>266524</b>	<b>251551</b>	<b>251215</b>	<b>296070</b>	

\* According to Iran national regulation, offshore fisheries baseline starts at 24 miles. While, defined offshore fisheries by IOTC is rather different from Iran and offshore fisheries starts from 200 miles.

Figure 3.1- Annual Catch by Gear Type

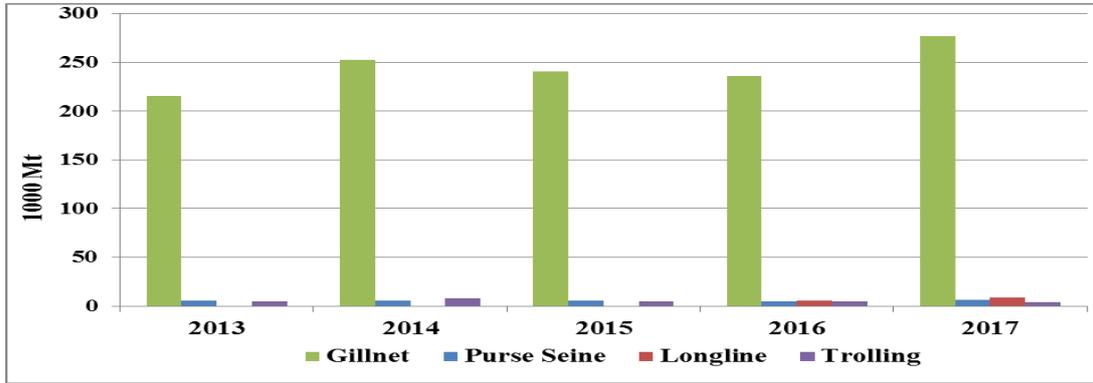


Figure 3.2 Annual Catch of Purse Seiners by Species

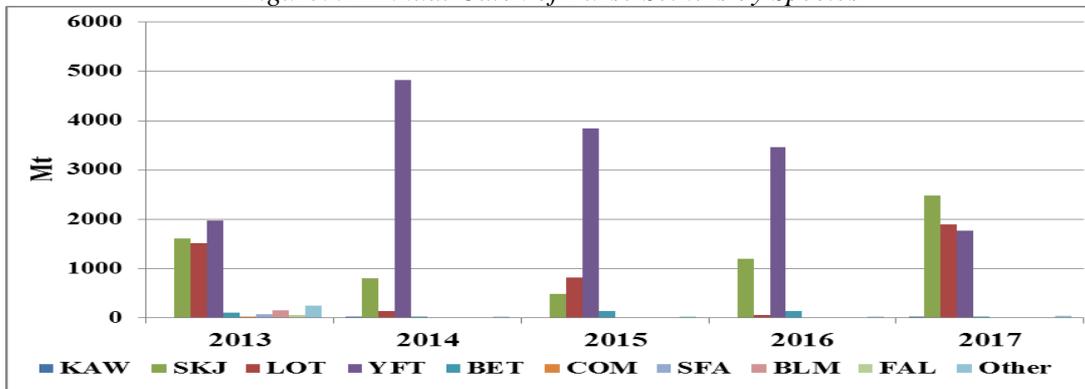


Figure 3.3 Annual Catch of Gillnets by Species

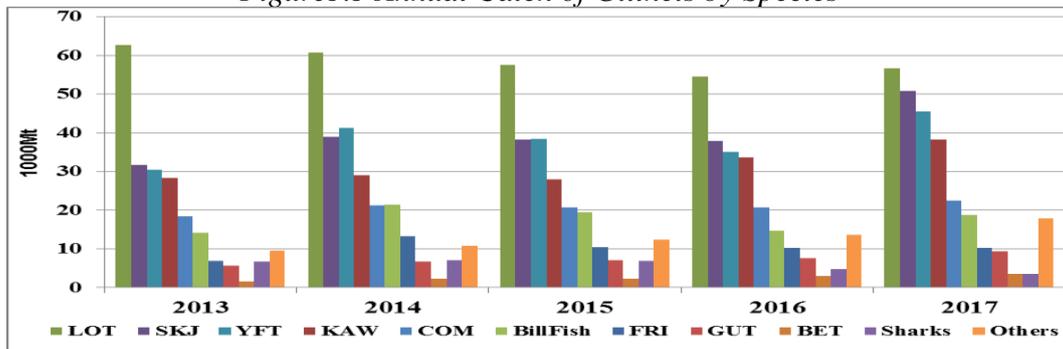


Figure 3.4 Annual Catch of Trolling Method by Species

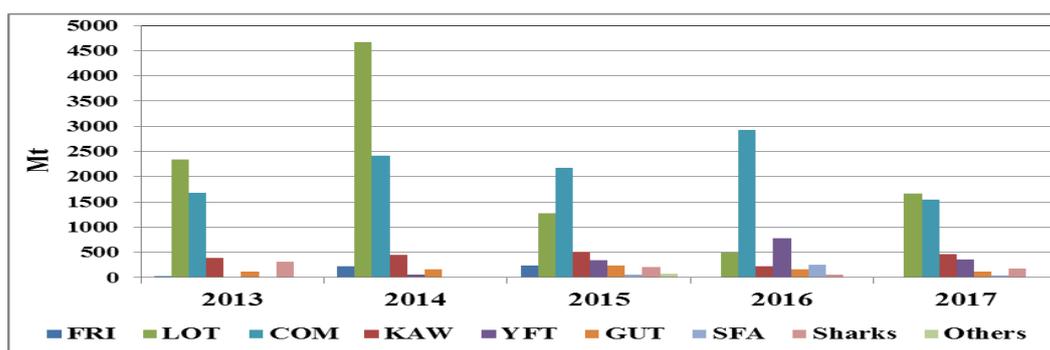
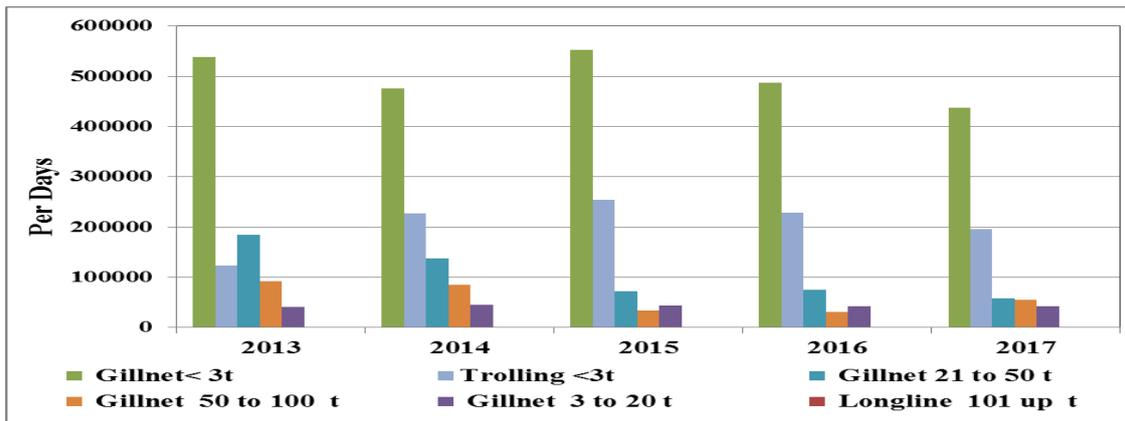


Table 3.2: Fishing effort by different types of vessel

GEAR GROUP	Capacity GT	Fishing effort by gear(days)				
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Purse seine	1000 - 2000	727	1080	1005	1164	1085
Coastal Artisanal Longline	< 3	0	0	0	18000	19440
	21 to 50	0	0	0	3200	6600
	101 up	0	0	0	560	560
	Mechanized	0	0	0	0	0
Total Coastal Artisanal Long-line fishing effort		0	0	0	21760	26600
Gillnet	< 3	538550	476632	552367	487646	438046
	3 - 20	40985	44679	44374	41682	43035
	21 - 50	184070	137860	72121	74870	58114
	51 - 100	91790	84658	33749	30337	54873
	101 - up	60400	53020	51260	50530	59746
Total Gillnet fishing effort		915795	796849	753871	685064	653815
Trolling	Non-mechanized(< 3)	123450	226770	254934	229190	196440
Total Trolling fishing effort		123450	226770	254934	229190	196440
Total all Gear fishing effort		1039972	1024699	1009810	937178	877940

Figure 3.5 Tuna and tuna like fishing effort by all fleet in 2017(fishing day)



#### 4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY

According current regulations of Iran Fisheries Organization, there are no tuna recreational fisheries. In fact there is no interest for tuna recreational fisheries, so any licenses are not issued for this type of fisheries.

#### 5. Ecosystem and by-catch issues

Base on Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) current procedure, monitoring and control of fishing vessels and their catch are happening in fishing harbours and landing areas, by port based monitoring system. On this way our experts control all catch gears and devices, related standards and the vessel crews before starting sailing and in the end of each trip by focus on catch results, its composition and related by-catch.

IFO usually arranges some training workshops for the fishermen who are active in tuna and tuna like fisheries during the time when the vessels are landing in fishing harbours. Through this training system fishermen be familiar with IOTC regulations and resolution especially which were adopted related to ecosystem and By-catch issues. In addition IFO has tried to train experts for identification different species, especially sharks and turtles, where we have really need technical supports of IOTC. Also, IFO has tried to train fishermen to teach them, how they must to obey international maritime laws and regulations related to fisheries and other countries rights and regulation especially during innocent passage through territorial waters of third party. In total IFO has trained more than 300 person/ days of fishermen in different aspects in 2017.

IOTC also has distributed around 1000 translated IOTC species ID cards to Persian language and we hope they will be useful for fishermen and in-port observers. In addition, Iran has had close cooperation with IOTC secretariat through regular meetings, especially the meetings related with Observer scheme, because of interest of Iran for implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme, ROS pilot project according to Paragraph 6 of Res. 16/04 (just port observer).

According to, Iran Fisheries organization regulations and Iran Environment supreme council Resolution No.380, Sharks catches completely banded and the fishermen only have permission to retain the sharks that are caught as by-catch in IOTC acceptable level (less than 5%). Also all sharks must to release safely alive, except that they are not in a good condition or dead. According to 2017 the amount of different species of sharks that are caught as by catch has been 3624 tons which is equal to 1.2% of total catch in tuna fisheries. This shows the strong developed and implemented regulation has had affected positively reduction of sharks by-catch in Iran.

### ***Sharks***

Base on IFO regulations we have never issued any licences for catch of different species of Sharks and fishermen only landed the Sharks which are caught as a By-catch. Also base on Iranian religious believes more than 90% of Iranian people do not eat Sharks. In this case only some people who are living in south eastern part of Iran eat Sharks. Recognizing the importance of Sharks landing in whole body, all resolutions are translated and contents of them related with Sharks conservations are transferred during different level of meetings. Also we have tried to transfer these concepts to fishermen during training workshops. On this way there is close cooperation among Iran fisheries organization, Fisheries Unions, Environment organization and *NGOs*.

Accordingly, we have not received any reports about total number of released/discarded of sharks, by species from national fleet in the IOTC area of competence because of on board observer lack. But IFO monitors and controls all the species during landing times in fishing harbours. However, although there are weaknesses in access to historical data of different species especially sharks, but sharks information had recorded by species since 2012. According collected information the amount of Sharks species in 2017 reflected in figure 3.1.

Although base on current IOTC resolutions, CPCs has not been mandated to have NPOA of Sharks, due to national regulation of countries is enough to conserve different sharks species, but in order to preparing NPOA of Sharks, Iran Fisheries

Organization has used some information from different sources specially the printed guideline by FAO to prepare infrastructure of NPOA . So we expected Iran Sharks NPOA by end 2020. In order to complete it, we need cooperation of all the organization, fisheries union and cooperatives and all stockholders. In order to collecting historical data for sharks, IFO has started a study on shark data which it presented in WPEB in 2017 and maybe printed very soon.

Base on Statistical information total weight of sharks, by species, that retained by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence has been recorded during 2013–2017 as table 3.1. It is obviously clear the total catch of different shark's species have had a decreasing trend. According to scientific assessment, this trend has two major visions. First, the stocks of different species of sharks showed a decreasing trend all over the world. Secondly, Iran national regulation severity, the penalties and sanctions that approve by courts and Iran fisheries organization which are really strict. So, there is no motivation for the fishermen to catch sharks, or other Haram species, because there is no market for them in Iran.

## **5.2. Seabirds**

Base on IOTC 12/06 Resolution, reduction of Seabirds by-catch only distinguished for long-line fisheries as a target gear and it is not applicable for other gears. Also base on our current fleet structure, we have not had any industrial long-line active vessels, so it is not applicable for Iran. For more insurance, IFO has have tried to give more awareness and explanation to fishermen about Seabirds importance and necessity of their conservation during different training workshops and meetings.

## **5.3. Marine Turtle**

The main national strategy of Iran related to marine turtles is, conservation of different species of turtles, and this strategy practically implemented, because there is no use for turtles in Iran. Although, the Environment Organization is identified as a national competent authority for protection of Sea turtles by the government, but we intent to define a joint project with them regarding to survey on sea turtles and incident entanglement of them in fishermen nets. So for increasing of public awareness of fishermen, IFO has continued related training programs by hold of workshop, distribution of some brochures and posters. On this way the capacity of NGOs were used and around 50 fishermen are trained on their vessels by cooperation of NGOs. Although environment organization have had some projects about the biology of turtles, but both organizations intent to develop a joint project related with fisheries activities.

#### **5.4. Other ecologically related species (e.g. marine mammals, whale sharks)**

Base on national laws and Iran Fisheries Organization regulations, catch of Mammals or any other sensitive and endangered species, are forbidden and if any fishermen catch accidentally any Mammals, Turtles, Sharks or any other sensitive species, they should release them safely and rapidly. In the other hand if our inspectors or fishery guard (fisheries/ Environment Guard or Police) find any endangered species on board, the owner and captain of the vessel are introduced to court and also punish by fishery infraction investigation commission which are defined and active in different cities and provinces and has the authority to stopped fish up to three months. According to IFO regulations, the offices have never issued any licences for catch of different species of Mammals or Sharks and fishermen try to release all entangled Mammals or endangered species and only Sharks are seen as a By-catch in landing places. Also base on Iranian religious believes more than 90% of people do not eat Sharks or any mammals. On this way we have not received any reports about total number of Mammals or different species of sharks, by species which are released/discarded by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence.

As we mentioned before, we have not received any reports in detail about incidental catch of different species of seabirds, marine turtles and marine mammals because of on board observers' lack. On this way, lack of on board acceptable accommodation space and facilities, is the main problem for implementation observer scheme. So, it is not possible to record important events by species, gears and positions (timeline) for the national fleets. In order to implementation effective observer program on ports, Iran has joint to the IOTC ROS pilot project which has developed according to IOTC 16/04 Resolution. Also we just started to establish a net through the virtual networks on Mobile phone a few months ago. So, we have received some news, Pictures or movies about safe releasing of these species, where most of them received from Iranian territorial waters. Also there are some NGOs which are active in working with local people and fishermen. They normally focused on training of these people and making improvement in public awareness.

### **6. National data collection and processing system**

#### **6.1. Logbook program was implemented for Iranian artisanal gillnets and industrial purse seiners as follows:**

In recent years, Iran has started to complete the logbooks for the industrial purse seiners, and we hope to extent to other artisanal fleets in future, according to the Iranian fisheries regulations which adopted in 2018, that will cover 10% of the high seas vessels.

#### **6.2. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)**

As we reported before, Iran Fisheries Organization has started the implementation of satellite base vessel monitoring system (VMS) and IFO hope the artisanal fishermen will have enough cooperation in implementation of the system. For further information, VMS has been installed on board for industrial vessels, including tuna purse seiner in end of 2017. And they have not allowance to sail without online VMS system.

### **6.3. Observer program**

Iran Fisheries Organization has not developed Observer programme yet, but as we mentioned before, on this way, lack of suitable accommodation space for observers is the main problem. So it is not possible to record exact events by species and gear for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence. In order to implementation effective observer program on ports we have joint with IOTC ROS pilot project which has developed according to IOTC Resolution 16/04. So our data and information are collected by monitoring in fishing harbours and landing places and showing spatial distribution of observer coverage on map is not possible. On this way IFO has continued its port state controls by current observers and we hope by implementation of joint project with IOTC, we will start our port observer plan effectively.

### **6.4. Port sampling program**

#### **6.4.1. Catch Data sampling**

Catch and effort and biological data of the coastal and offshore large pelagic fishery are collected at the 43 out of 63 fish landing sites Consist of 10 landing sites in KHOZESTAN Province, 8 landing in BUSHEHR Province, 20 landing sites in HORMOZGAN Province and 5 landing sites SISTAN-BLUCHESTAN Province in the alongside the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea coastlines, and port samplers stay on landing sites during disembarkation time of fish and they collect the data and fill out the forms. Also Biometry of fish for collecting length/weight frequency data is done during landing time. Catch and Effort data were collected in all the above sites by stratified random sampling by the samplers, in this way, 10% of total fishing crafts for different vessel classes of fishing dhows and boats are picked out randomly and their fishing data will be registered. Tuna and Tuna-like species are mainly comprised of 6 tuna species, 2 seerfish species and 5 billfish species which are identified in the large pelagic categories. Landing surveys are undertaken to obtain data on catches in the artisanal fisheries.

Port sampling was carried out for small-scale fisheries. In this way, 10% of fishing vessels are randomly selected and the sample data are raised to all active fishing vessels and total catches are maintained by vessel categories, gear types and

species composition, landing site and each month. In each landing site, there is one enumerator who is responsible to collect data. All of the operations are fulfilled by Iran Fisheries Organization fish statistic Software called AMAR Software. In addition Control of fishing license and Questionnaire carry out by the Head of fishery Statistical Unit in the relevant port. This kind of control will then be carried out in Province center through computer. Afterwards this will be processed in Data Center in Tehran. Cross Check by total census in one or two landing site will then be undertaken.

#### 6.4.2. Size data sampling

There are 13 important commercial species in Iranian southern waters which their size frequency data will be compiled. The species comprised of:

1. Narrow-barred spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus Commerson*),
2. Tigertooth croaker (*Otolithes ruber*),
3. Silver pomfret (*Pampus argenteus*),
4. Black pomfret (*Parastromateus niger*),
5. Javelin grunter (*Pomadasydys kaakan*),
6. Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*),
7. Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*).
8. Fourfinger threadfin (*Eleutheronema tetradactylum*),
9. Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacores*),
10. Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*),
11. Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*),
12. Grouper(serranidae),
13. Emperor(lethrinidae),

The length and weight frequency of species has been recorded from 2001. Sampling in southern waters carried out in 16 landing centers consist of, Choebdeh and Hendijan in Khozestan Province, Daylam, Dayer, Jofreh & Bandargah in Bushehr Province, Jask, Javad'el'aemeh, Salakh, Bostaneh , Kong & Kohestak in Hormozgan Province, Ramin, Pozm, Beris & Pasabandar in Sistan & Bluchestan Province.

At each landing center there are fish measuring board and precise Balance (scales). A number of biometry equipment has been provided thanks to the IOTC-OFCF project in 2012 and disseminated among the nominated landing centers and size data compilation is in progress.

Port samplers are all trained on how to measure different fishes. Fishing vessels catches were irregular for all species, but biometry carried out on-board from time to time to get precise data. Raw data will be processed in some statistical Softwares like

SPSS, Excel, MiniTab and FiSat. The output results are in the form of some indicators which show the present status of fish exploitation.

There is biometry software to input the size frequency data in a data bank. Data entry interface for length frequency is available; it just needs to be connected to the AMAR Software as integrated software. For strengthened tuna size sampling, we added two more landing centers in Sistan & Bluchestan Province (Ramin & Pasabandar Ports) to compile Tuna size frequency data by gillnet fishery. Size frequency data reported to IOTC per fleet, year, gear, type of school, monthly and 5° square areas for purse seine fishery. For oceanic gillnet fishery a pilot plan is in progress and gradually all Iranian gillnetters in high seas will be equipped with logbook system and vessel position can be derived via logbooks. The species for which the size data is reported include 6 tuna species comprised of: YFT, SKJ, BET, KAW, COM & LOT at 16 landing places.

As an overview, collection of information as port sampling is one of the regular monitoring that has implemented many years ago for all fishing activities and it would be a part of ROS pilot project of IOTC for making more progress on it. On this way Iran offered its interest to join the project. On this way IFO expect beside of making a progress in our monitoring and data collection system , we select as a pilot for learning other countries for port sampling methods.

Table.6.1. Number of Tuna and Tuna like species that their length are measured by gear types

Size Data recorded in the IOTC Database						
GEAR GROUP	SPECIES	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Gillnet	FRI	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	KAW	15,467	6,036	13,765	14,678	26,088
	LOT	24,680	11,174	18,116	21,889	19,449
	SKJ	13,212	10,857	19,574	23,410	30,577
	YFT	11,146	11,261	22,161	26,287	25,885
	BET	435	630	724	888	2,639
	COM	16,435	18,283	21,087	29,315	39,753
Total Gillnet Length Frequency		<b>81,375</b>	<b>58,241</b>	<b>95,427</b>	<b>116,467</b>	<b>144,391</b>
Purse seine	KAW	0	0	0	0	0

	LOT	433	0	1,158	125	0
	SKJ	957	1,010	416	797	1,576
	YFT	1,296	3,682	1,892	4,333	1,923
	BET	777	523	629	560	716
<b>Total Purse seine Length Frequency</b>		<b>3,463</b>	<b>5,215</b>	<b>4,095</b>	<b>5,815</b>	<b>4,215</b>
<b>Trolling/ Hand &amp; Line</b>	COM	407	2,808	4,416	2,511	980
	LOT	Nil	1,289	0	0	0
	YFT(by Coastal_LL_Method)	Nil	0	0	0	18,457
	YFT(by Hook & Line_Method)	0	0	0	0	2,485
<b>Total Trolling/ Hand &amp; Line Length Frequency</b>		<b>407</b>	<b>4,097</b>	<b>4,416</b>	<b>2,511</b>	<b>21,922</b>
<b>Total Length Frequency</b>		<b>85,245</b>	<b>67,553</b>	<b>103,938</b>	<b>124,793</b>	<b>170,528</b>
<b>Mean Length recorded in the IOTC Database</b>						
<b>GEAR GROUP</b>	<b>SPECIES GROUP</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Gillnet</b>	FRI	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	KAW	58.8	53.2	56.2	56.1	50.7
	LOT	64.9	62.0	60.8	69.3	64.1
	SKJ	60.8	61.7	58.5	56.8	56.4
	YFT	78.9	82.4	80.8	84.3	93.4
	BET	78.3	82.0	79.0	81.5	85.8
	COM	79.8	84.0	89.0	91.5	88.8
<b>Purse seine</b>	FRI	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	KAW	70.4	0.0	72.6	48.2	0.0
	LOT	50.2	49.8	49.9	53.4	55.1
	SKJ	83.8	99.3	113.4	90.2	97.9
	YFT	51.7	77.4	75.9	74.3	78.3
<b>Trolling/ Hand &amp; Line</b>	COM	92.4	86.0	84.1	87.1	110.3
	LOT	Nil	64.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	YFT(by Coastal_LL_Method)	Nil	0.0	0.0	0.0	119.8
	YFT(by Hook & Line_Method)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.1

## 7. National Research Program

### Abstract

*Euthynnus affinis* (Kawakawa) is one of the most commercial tuna species in Northern of the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea. In order to come up with the responsible fishing pattern, there was a need to identify some of characteristics and population dynamic parameters. Data were collected randomly from three major artisanal fish-landing sites Bandar Jask, Bandar Abbas and Bandar Lengeh in Hormozgan Province, from April 2015 to March 2016. The average of fork length estimated 60.1 cm. The "a" and "b" parameters in Length- Weight relationship were estimated 2.84 and 0.0000212 respectively and showed that *E.affinis* has allometric growth. The growth parameters of  $L_{\infty}$ , K and  $t_0$  were computed 90.9 (cm), 0.78 (1/year) and -0.15 year respectively. The fork length attained at the end of 1, 2 and 3 year to be 53.8, 73.9 and 83.1 cm respectively. Growth performance index calculated 8.77 which was in agreement with the finding of the other studies. Total mortality, natural mortality and fishing mortality were estimated 2.49, 0.85 and 1.64 (1/year) respectively. The  $F_{opt}$  and  $F_{limit}$  as biological reference point were calculated 0.43 and 0.56 (1/year) respectively. The exploitation ratio was estimated 0.66. The results showed overfishing on *E.affinis* stocks in Hormozgan Province and it is necessary to reduce activity for fishing management.

**Table 8.**Summary table of national research programs, including dates.

Project Title	Period	Countries Involve	Budget	Funding Source	Objective	Short Description
Growth Parameters, Mortality and exploitation ratio of <i>Euthynnus affinis</i> (Cantor, 1849) in Hormozgan Province	2015-2016	Iran	11500 US \$	IFRO	Estimation of population dynamic parameters	

## 8. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC.

Para 26, of 20nd SC report:

Iran, Islamic Rep.: The SC noted that, following a Data Compliance and Support mission by the IOTC Secretariat in November 2017, I.R. Iran has agreed to submit future data in a format and template agreed with the IOTC Secretariat, in accordance with the reporting requirements of Resolution 15/02, which lead to improvements in the availability of time-area catches for the Iranian fisheries.

*According to APPENDIX XXXV 20nd SC meeting, the IOTC Secretariat conducted a Data Compliance and Support mission to I.R. Iran to assess the status of data collection and reporting of IOTC datasets, notably catch-and-effort, and the availability of data that could be used as a basis of a future standardized CPUE series gillnet fleets. Base on the travel feedback, the results were very good and the related reports are available in the secretariat.*

*On this way, IFO has started a joint cooperation with IOTC secretariat for making more progress on data collection system and historical data. For this IOTC secretariat experts traveled to Iran and have done some site visit, and our cooperation is on going now for making more progress in Iran statistic system.*

Part 7.1.2, Paragraph 35 of 20nd SC report,

SC RECOMMENDED that the development of standardized CPUE series is explored, based on the guidelines developed by the SC in 2015 (*Guidelines for the presentation of CPUE standardizations and stock assessment models1*), with priority given to fleets which account for the largest catches of neritic tuna and tuna-like species (e.g., I.R. Iran, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka).

*For this, Iran recommend to held a workshop for training CPUE standardizations and stock assessment models1(Kobe Plot) and during the workshop train some expert for data collection and related analysis.*

## 9. Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission,

Adopted between 2005 and 2017

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	Catch and efforts by gears and vessel types are recorded and reported monthly,
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	According to the Res. Iran submitted 1-Total catch data, 2-Catch by gear and effort data, 3- Size (Biometry) data, But, Only Iran dose not submitted, 1- Timelines and position of data,
15/05	On conservation measures for striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin	Paragraph 4	Catch by gear and efforts submitted, but size and timeline (position) did not report.
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	Training fishermen Translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks ( <i>Rhincodontypus</i> )	Paragraphs 7– 9	Training fishermen Translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	Training fishermen, Translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	Training fishermen Translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
12/06	On reducing the incidental by-catch of seabirds in long-line fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	Not Applicable, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	Training fishermen, Translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their



<b>Res. No.</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Scientific requirement</b>	<b>CPC progress</b>
			catch because of no market. related report has sent before to the secretariat.
11/04	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 9	Partially adopted before (Port Observing). Related report has sent before to the secretariat.
05/05	Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 1–12	Training fishermen Translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Related report has sent before to the secretariat. In total in 2017 the amount of sharks that are caught during tuna fisheries is around 1.2% of total catch.
16/06	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraph 1	Related report has sent before to the secretariat.