

**Statistics Catch of Tropical Tunas from Longliners  
Landing at Port of Phuket, Thailand, during 1994-2016**

Sampan Panjarat and Supachai Rodpradit

Upper Andaman Sea Fisheries Research and Development Center (Phuket)

77 Tumbon Vichit, Maung District, Phuket 83000 Thailand

**Abstract**

Foreign tuna longliners in Indian Ocean have landed their catch in Phuket Province since 1994. The supporting infrastructure and directed flight from Phuket to Narita airport of Japan are the main factor of their decision to landing there. So, this paper summarizes tropical tunas landing in the ports of Phuket Thailand in the last 23 years, 1994-2016. The catch from IOTC area was mainly from foreign fishing vessels including from Taiwan, Belize, Malaysia, India and Indonesia. The number of entry was highest in 1999 of 883 entries. However, it has gradually decreased, and there were only 204 entries in 2016. The landing retained catch included the four majority groups of tunas, billfish, sharks and bycatch. The majority of tunas were yellowfin and bigeye tunas while skipjack tuna was rarely found in the catch composition. The catch trend and species composition during this period have been figured.

**Keywords:** Yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, billfishes, bycatch, sharks

## Introduction

Foreign tuna longliners in Indian Ocean have landed their catch in Phuket Province since 1994. The supporting infrastructure and directed flight from Phuket to Japan are the main factor of their decision to landing there. So, this report presents the historical landing of retaining landing catch particularly of tropical tunas in the last 23 years, 1994-2016. The landing retained catch included the four majority groups of tunas, billfish, sharks and bycatch. The majority of tunas were yellowfin and bigeye tunas while skipjack tuna was rarely found in the catch composition. The catch trend and species composition during this period have been figured.

## 2. Data Collection

- Foreign Tuna Longliners in Indian Ocean: landing and inspection record of the port of Phuket, the PSM port of landing of foreign longliners from the Indian Ocean.

## 3. Result

3.1 Statistic of entry: The foreign longliners include Taiwan, Belize, Malaysia, India and Indonesia. The number of entry was highest in 1999 of 883 entries. However, it has gradually decreased, and there were only 204 entries in 2016.

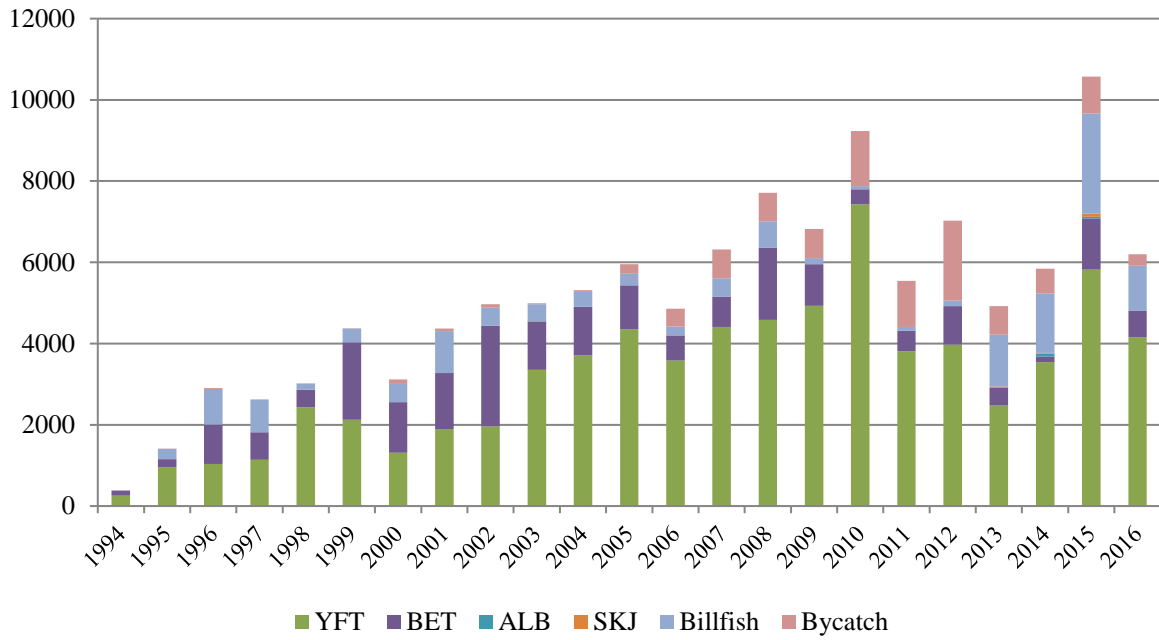
3.2 Statistic of Catch: The landing retained catch included the four majority groups of tunas, billfish, sharks and bycatch. The bycatch species included dolphinfish, Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomerus commersoni*), Barracuda (*Sphyraena barracuda*), oil fish (*Ruvettus pretiosus*) and miscellaneous species that include escolar fish (*Lepidocybium* spp.), deep sea promfret and sunfish (Table 1). The majority of tunas were yellowfin and bigeye tunas while skipjack tuna was rarely found in the catch composition. The catch trend and species composition during this period shows in **Table 1** and **Figure 1**.

Year	No. of entry	Total landing catch	Tunas					Billfish	Bycatch
			Sub total	YFT	BET	ALB	SKJ		
1994	72	622	381	254	127	0	0	122	119
1995	187	1416	1,158	958	200	0	0	246	12
1996	567	2903	2,003	1,038	965	0	0	851	49
1997	558	2632	1,814	1,138	676	0	0	808	10
1998	655	3015	2,867	2,435	432	0	0	147	1
1999	883	4373	4,033	2,124	1,909	0	0	339	1
2000**	665	3118	2,554	1,310	1,244	0	0	456	108
2001**	876	4372	3,273	1,894	1,378	1	0	1031	68
2002**	816	4971	4,445	1,960	2,485	0	0	441	85
2003**	563	4996	4,554	3,354	1,190	4	6	415	27
2004**	582	5317	4,905	3,708	1,197	0	0	385	27
2005**	517	5953	5,431	4,354	1,077	0	0	284	238
2006**	442	4861.3	4,200	3,581	617	1.6	0.7	220	441
2007**	494	6315	5,158	4,410	748	0	0	451	706
2008**	533	7710	6,359	4,587	1,772	0	0	655	696

2009**	521	6821	5,951	4,926	1,025	0	0	156	714
2010**	575	9230	7,796	7,425	371	0	0	80	1,354
2011**	375	5543	4,317	3,810	507	0	0	91	1,135
2012	315	7024	4,919	3,976	943	0	0	135	1,970
2013	261	4924	2,947	2488	431	0	28	1,274	703
2014	241	5841	3,770	3,540	139	76	15	1,465	606
2015	295	10575	7,199	5,823	1,256	43	77	2,465	911
2016	204	6200	4,802	4157	645	0	0	1,113	285

**Remark:** \* Billfish included MLS WM SFA SSP and SWO; \*\* MSC= escolar fish, deep sea promfret and sunfish.

landing catch (ton)



**Figure 1** Retained catch (tons) from foreign longliners landed in Phuket during 1994 -2016.