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### National Report of China in IOTC waters in 2003

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#### 1. FISHERY INFORMATION

Up to now, longlining has been the only fishing method applied by Chinese fishing companies for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC water. As shown in table 1, 3 tuna longliners from 6 fishing companies operated in the Indian Ocean in 2003. Fishing area of Chinese fleet in 2003 was  $45^{\circ}E - 90^{\circ}E, 10^{\circ}N - 15^{\circ}S$ . Number of small-scale longliners with the LOA between 24m and 30m is 17 and 16 large-scale longliners operated in the high seas of Indian Ocean in 2003.

The total nominal catch of tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC waters in 2003 is 7873 MT in round weight, 60 percent increase compared with that in 2002, see table 2. Bigeye tuna (BET) is targeted species, with the catch 4568.8 mt, accounting for the 58.03% of the total catch in 2003. Yellowfin tuna (YFT) catch is 2279.1 mt, making up 28.95% of the total catch. Other species of catch include swordfish (SWO), albacore (ALB) and southern bluefin tuna (SBF), whose catch were 753.1 mt, 30.7 mt and 14.1 mt respectively. Billfish (BIL) catch amount to 148 MT.

Approximately 94% of the Chinese total tuna catch came from west Indian Ocean (Table 3). And 93% of the bigeye tuna catch was caught from west Indian Ocean.

#### 2. CATCH STATISTICS AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Shanghai Fisheries University (SHFU) is in charge of the data collection and compilation of Indian Ocean tuna fishery statistics. The compiled data and number of fishing vessel have been routinely reported to

the IOTC Secretariat.

One observer were sent to Chinese Atlantic tuna longline fishing fleet operated in the high seas in 2002-2003. The observer surveyed area was 10° N - 15° S, 40° E- 90° E.

Additionally, logbook data submitted system was being established in order to obtain more detailed catch and fishing effort information.

**Table 1 Number of Chinese Tuna Fleet in 1995-2003 in Indian Ocean**

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number	12	52	89	120	96	98	93	54	33

**Table 2 Catch of tunas and tuna-like species during 1995-2003  
(round weight in MT)**

Species	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
YFT	138	494	750	402	2,335	2362	1771	1325	2279
BET	140	466	1,652	2,164	2,182	2699	2994	2792	4569
SWO	71	238	255	117	270	372	263	397	753
ALB	-	-	-	-	189	3	21	41	31
SBF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
SHX	-	-	-	-	187	98	-	-	-
BIL	-	-	-	-	287	486	380	255	148
OTH	96	299	306	396	712	487	293	112	79
Total	444	1,497	2,964	3,080	6,162	6507	5722	4922	7873

**Table 3 Catch of tuna and tuna-like species by east and west Indian Ocean in 2003 (round weight in MT)**

Species	BET	YFT	SWO	SBF	ALB	BIL	OTH	Total
East IO	310.7	96.8	47.9	14.1	5.6	19.3	12.0	506.4
West IO	4258.1	2182.3	705.2	0.0	25.1	129.2	67.2	7367.1
Total	4568.8	2279.1	753.1	14.1	30.7	148.5	79.2	7873.5