

APPENDIX 10

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: INDO-PACIFIC KING MACKEREL (2024)

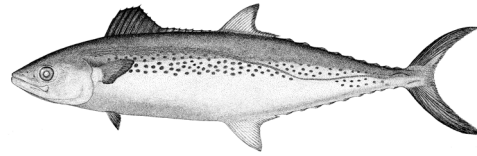


TABLE 1. Status of Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*Scomberomorus guttatus*) in the Indian Ocean

Area ¹	Indicators		2024 stock status determination ³
Indian Ocean	Catch (2023) (t) ²	46,255	27%
	Mean annual catch (2019-2023) (t)	46,008	
	MSY (1,000 t)	47 (39–56)	
	F _{MSY}	0.74 (0.56–0.99)	
	B _{MSY} (1,000 t)	63.1 (43.1–92.4)	
	F _{current} /F _{MSY}	0.95 (0.82–2.13)	
	B _{current} /B _{MSY}	1.02 (0.46–1.19)	
	B _{current} /B ₀	0.51 (0.23–0.60)	

¹Stock boundaries defined as the IOTC area of competence;

²Proportion of catch fully or partially estimated for 2023: 69.5%;

³2022 is the final year that data were available for this assessment

Colour key	Stock overfished (SB _{year} /SB _{MSY} < 1)	Stock not overfished (SB _{year} /SB _{MSY} ≥ 1)
Stock subject to overfishing (F _{year} /F _{MSY} > 1)	24%	24%
Stock not subject to overfishing (F _{year} /F _{MSY} ≤ 1)	25%	27%
Not assessed/Uncertain/Unknown		

INDIAN OCEAN STOCK – MANAGEMENT ADVICE

Stock status. A new assessment was conducted in 2024 using the data-limited techniques (CMSY and CMSY++) (using data up to 2022). Analysis using the catch only method CMSY indicates the stock is being exploited at a rate that is below F_{MSY} in recent years and that the stock appears to be above B_{MSY}, although the estimates would be more pessimistic if the stock productivity is assumed to be less resilient. An assessment using CMSY++ was also explored in 2024. The stock estimates with CMSY++ are estimated to be very close to the biomass target even though the stock status is more pessimistic than with CMSY. Despite some of the caveats of the underlying assumptions, the catch-only model has provided a more defensible approach in addressing the uncertainty of key parameters and the currently available catch data for the Indo-Pacific king mackerel appear to be of sufficient quality. Based on the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock is considered to be **not overfished and not subject to overfishing (Table 1; Fig. 1)**.

Outlook. Total annual catches for Indo-Pacific king mackerel have increased steadily over time, reaching a peak of 51,600 t in 2009 and have since fluctuated between around 40,000 t and 51,300 t. There is

considerable uncertainty about stock structure and total catches. Aspects of the fisheries for this species, combined with the limited data on which to base a more complex assessment (e.g., integrated models), are a cause for concern. Although data-poor methods are used to provide stock status advice, further refinements to the catch-only methods and application of additional data-poor approaches may improve confidence in the results. Research emphasis should be focused on collating catch per unit effort (CPUE) time series for the main fleets, size compositions and life trait history parameters (e.g., estimates of growth, natural mortality, maturity, etc.).

Management advice. Reported catches of Indo-Pacific king mackerel in the Indian Ocean has increased considerably since the late 2000s with recent catches fluctuating around estimated MSY, although the catch in 2021 and 2023 was below the estimated MSY. This suggests that the stock is close to being fished at MSY levels and that higher catches may not be sustained despite the substantial uncertainty associated with the assessment, a precautionary approach to management is recommended.

The following should be also noted:

- The Maximum Sustainable Yield for the Indian Ocean is estimated to be 47,000 t with a range between 39,000–56,000 t
- Limit reference points: the Commission has not adopted limit reference points for any of the neritic tunas under its mandate;
- Research emphasis should be focused on collating catch per unit effort (CPUE) time series for the main fleets, size compositions and life trait history parameters (e.g. estimates of growth, natural mortality, maturity, etc.).
- Further work is needed to improve the reliability of the catch series. Reported catches should be verified or estimated, based on expert knowledge of the history of the various fisheries or through statistical extrapolation methods;
- Data collection and reporting urgently needed to be improved, given the limited information submitted by CPCs on total catches, catch and effort and size data for neritic tunas, despite their mandatory reporting status. In the case of 2022 74.8% of the total catches of Indo-Pacific king mackerel was either fully or partially estimated by the IOTC Secretariat, which increases the uncertainty of the stock assessments using these data. Therefore, the management advice to the Commission includes the need for CPCs to comply with IOTC data requirements per Resolution [15/01](#) and [15/02](#).

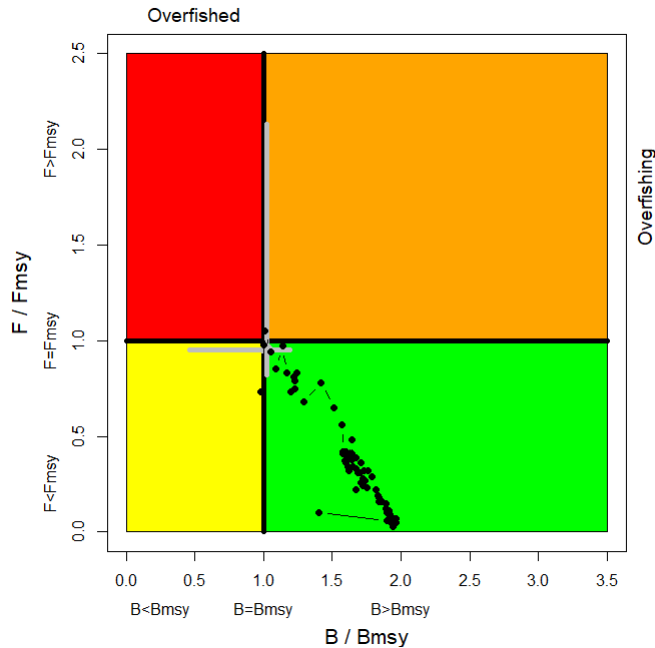


Fig. 1 Kobe plot of the CMSY assessment for the Indo-Pacific king mackerel. The Kobe plot shows the trajectories (geometric mean) of the range of plausible model options included in the formulation of the final management advice. The grey cross represents the estimated stock status in 2021 (median and 80% confidence interval).

Fisheries overview.

- **Main fisheries (mean annual catch 2019-2023):** Indo-Pacific king mackerel are caught using gillnet (63.7%), followed by other (23.3%) and line (9.7%). The remaining catches taken with other gears contributed to 3.3% of the total catches in recent years (Fig. 2).
- **Main fleets (mean annual catch 2019-2023):** the majority of Indo-Pacific king mackerel catches are attributed to vessels flagged to Indonesia (32.3%) followed by India (26.8%) and I. R. Iran (22.2%). The 15 other fleets catching Indo-Pacific king mackerel contributed to 18.7% of the total catch in recent years (Fig. 3).

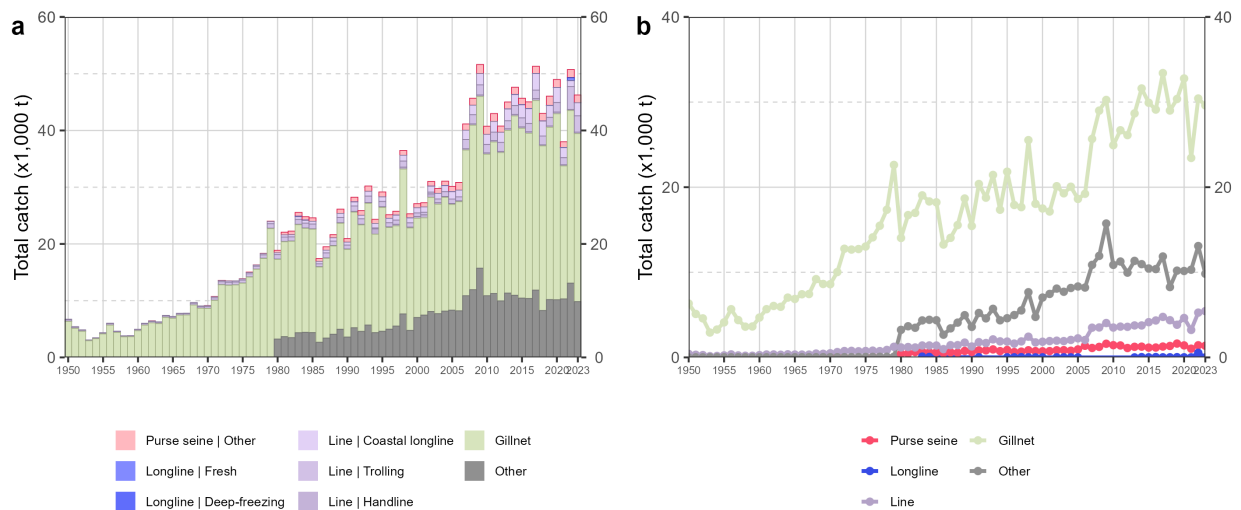


Fig. 2. Annual time series of (a) cumulative nominal catches (t) by fishery and (b) individual nominal catches (t) by fishery group for Indo-Pacific king mackerel during 1950-2023

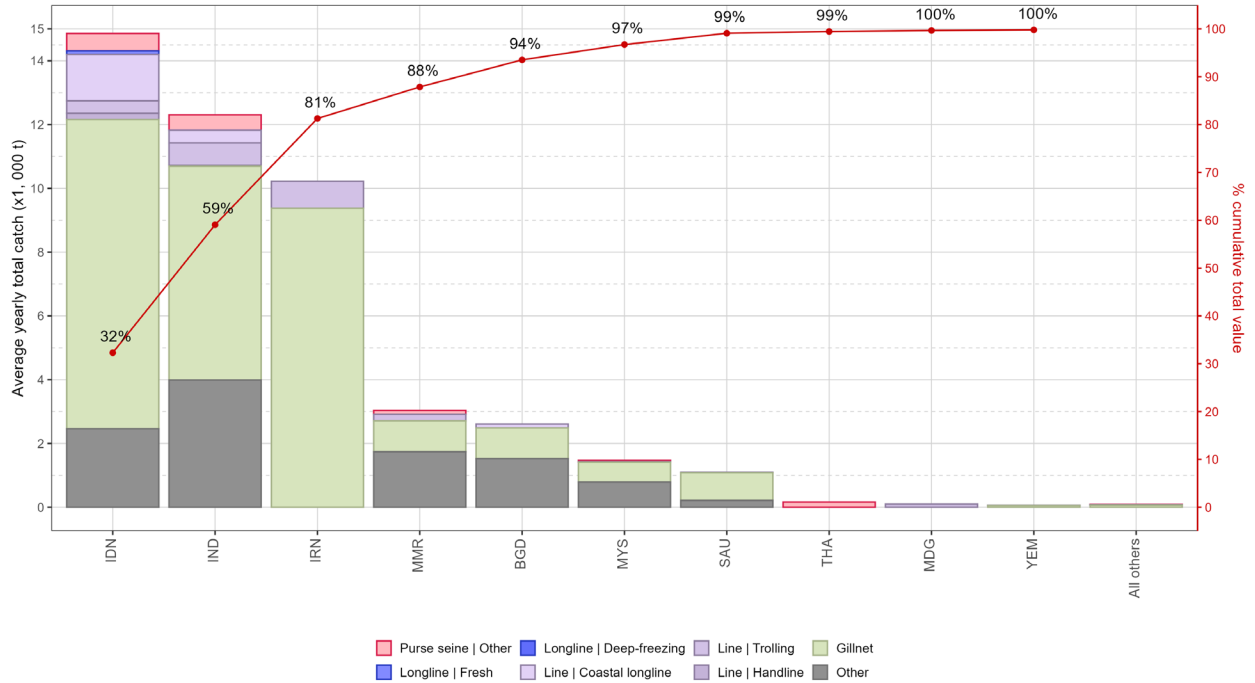


Fig. 3. Mean annual catches (t) of Indo-Pacific king mackerel by fleet and fishery between 2019 and 2023, with indication of cumulative catches by fleet.