
Vanuatu National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2013

Fisheries Department of Vanuatu

INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

In accordance with IOTC Resolution 10/02, final scientific data for the previous year was provided to the Secretariat by 30 June of the current year, for all fleets other than longline	NO No fleet other than longline
In accordance with IOTC Resolution 10/02, provisional longline data for the previous year was provided to the Secretariat by 30 June of the current year REMINDER: Final longline data for the previous year is due to the Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year	YES 11/March/2013
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

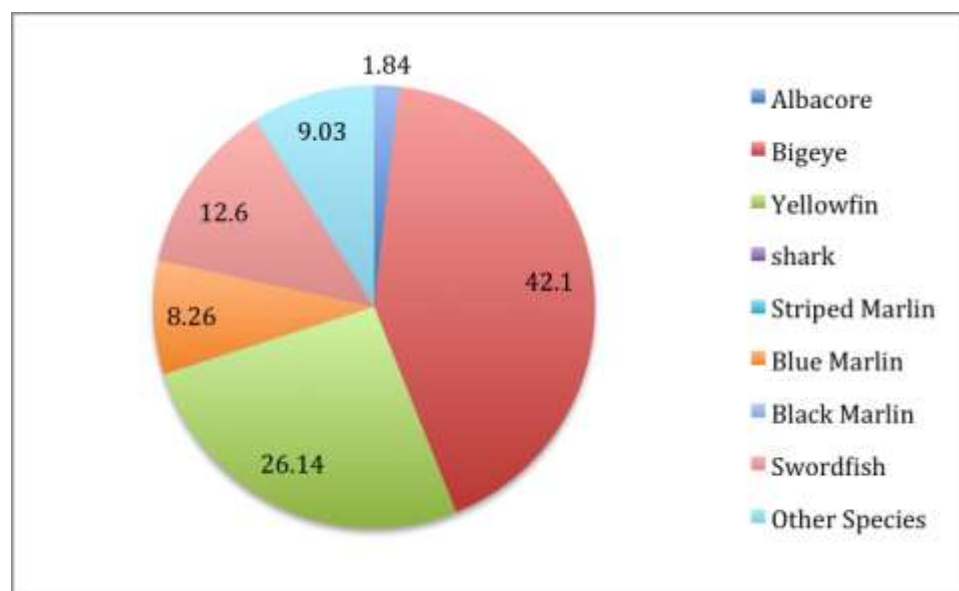
There was only longline fishery operated by Vanuatu in 2012 in the Indian Ocean. 2 longliners targeted the 2 major tuna species, yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna with albacore tuna, shark, blue marlin and sword fish as the by-catch. Total catch of 2012 was estimated to be 347.584 mt, comprising of 146.280 mt for yellowfin, 90.862 mt for bigeye tuna, 6.421 mt for albacore tuna, 107 mt for shark, 8 mt for striped marlin, 28.741-mt for blue marlin and 43.763 mt for sword fish. These data were compiled from the logsheets that submitted by the vessels to the Vanuatu Department of Fisheries.

1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION

Vanuatu is a developing coastal country and fishery plays an important role to the stability of the country. There is only longline fleet operated by the country in the Indian Ocean. The fishery commenced in 2010 with four longliners catching mainly oilfishes, with yellowfin, bigeye and albacore tunas as bycatch in the southwestern region of the IOTC convention area, and in 2012 there were only 2 vessels whom were active in the convention area. Similar to 2010 these two vessels operated solely on the high seas, without bilateral cooperation with coastal states.

Since this is the second year for compiling catch data of the fleet, and again Vanuatu longline vessels have been slowly moving in and out of the IOTC therefore in 2013 there were no vessels operating in the IOTC convention area.

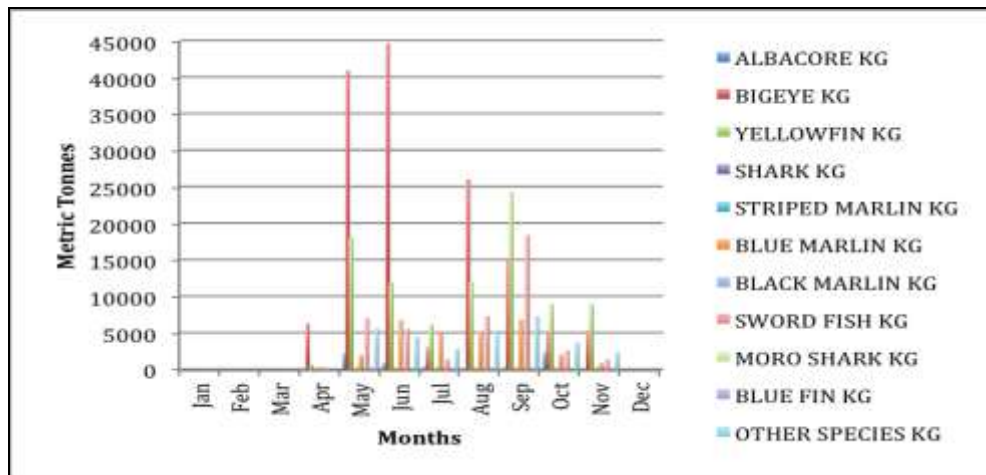
Figure 1. Pie Chart Showing Catch distribution by species



2. FLEET STRUCTURE

There were only 2 longliners operating in the Indian Ocean in 2012. They were both less than 24 meters in size. They operated in the south-western region as since between 20° N- 40°S and 18° S- 59°-85°E (Figure 1, 2 and 3) .

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND GEAR)



The two longliners targeted the two major tuna species, yellowfin and bigeye in the southwestern region of the Ocean with the one major tuna and 2 major billfish as bycatch in 2012. Total percentage of catch was dominated by the two target species yellow fin tuna and big eye tuna at 41.1% and 26.14% then the by catch were 12.6% of sword fish, 8% of blue marlin 1.84% of albacore tuna and 0.03% of sharks and the rest.

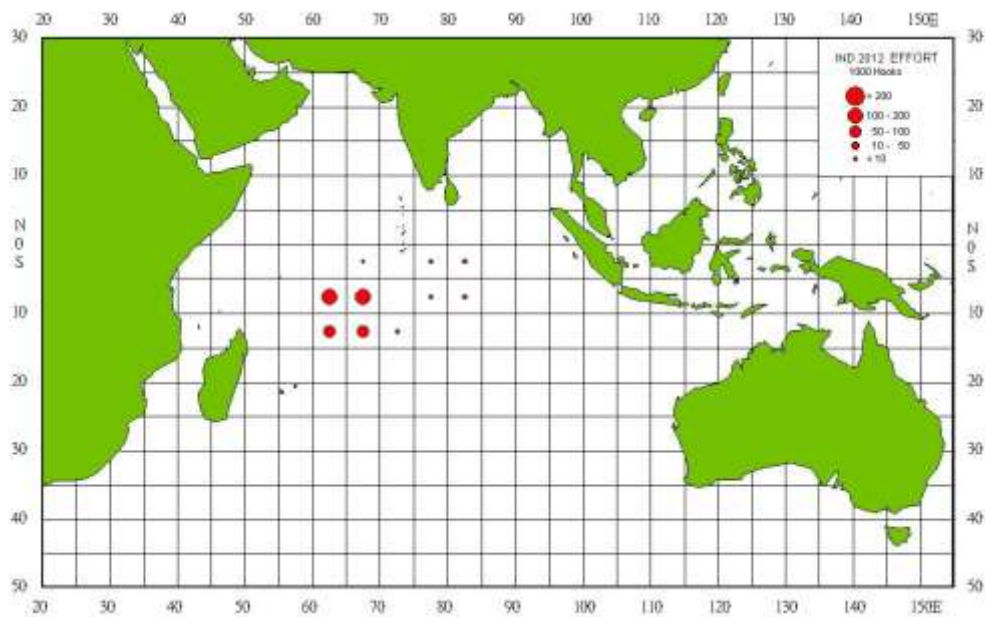


Fig. 1. Effort distribution of Vanuatu longliners in 2012.

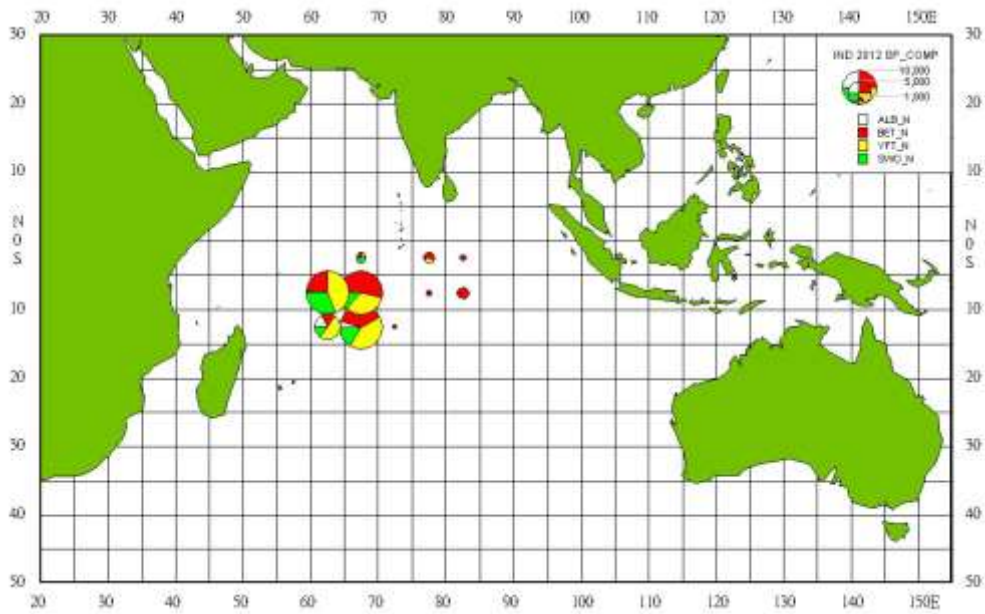


Fig. 2. Catch distribution (number of fish) of Vanuatu longliners in 2012.

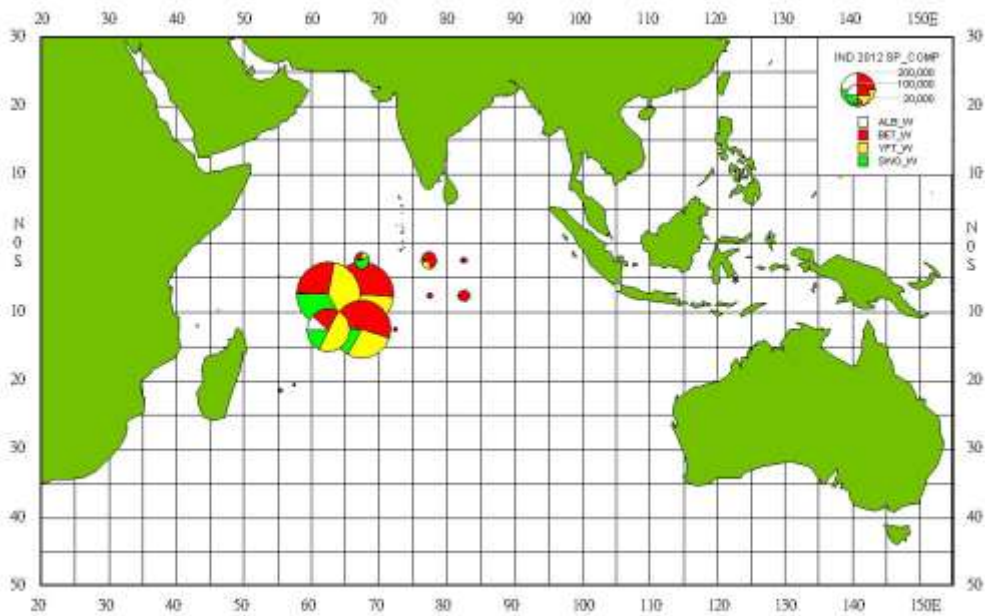


Fig. 3. Catch distribution (in weight) of Vanuatu longliners in 2012.

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY

There is no recreational fishery in the Indian Ocean by the country.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES

Since 2012 there were only 2 vessels active in the IOTC convention area, there is no information regarding the ecological related species available from the fleet.

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS

Vessels operating in the Indian Ocean were requested to submit logsheet data including fishing date and location and catches by species. Catch and effort data were compiled from the logsheets. The two vessels were requested to carry operational VMS for monitoring purpose. Due to budgetary limitation, no observer program or port sampling program was implemented on the fleet.