



Philippines National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2014

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INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

<p>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 [e.g. for a National report submitted to the Secretariat in 2014, final data for the 2013 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2014)</p>	<p>Not applicable. The Philippine fleet which operated in the IOTC convention area was composed of longline vessels only even though there are purse seine vessels listed in its authorized list. The purse seine fishing fleet has remained inactive in the IOTC convention area.</p>
<p>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 [e.g. for a National report submitted to the Secretariat in 2014, preliminary data for the 2013 calendar year was provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2014).</p> <p>REMINDER: Final longline data for the previous year is due to the Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year [e.g. for a National report submitted to the Secretariat in 2014, final data for the 2013 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2014).</p>	<p>YES. Sent via e-mail by Benjamin F.S. Tabios Jr., Assistant Director for Administrative Services, BFAR through Mr. Florian Giroux, IOTC Compliance Officer on June 16, 2014. Please see attached pdf copy of email.</p>
<p>If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:</p>	

Executive Summary [Mandatory]

Executive Summary

This Report contains the following information:

1. Background/General fishery information
2. Fleet Structure
3. Catch and effort
4. Recreational fisheries
5. Ecosystems and Bycatch issues

1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION [MANDATORY]

The Philippine fleet authorized to conduct fishing activities in the Indian Ocean is composed of both purse seine and longline fishing vessels. However, for the year 2013, the active fishing vessels are only longline fishing vessels. The number and list of active vessels were submitted to the IOTC in compliance to Resolution 10/08 on February 10, 2014. These are Jetmark No. 101, San Carlos No. 18, Sun Warm No. 8, Castro No. 168, Jetmark No. 102, Jetmark No. 726, Boada No. 5, Castro No. 668, and Marigold 2.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE [MANDATORY]

Philippine tuna fishing fleet

Tuna fisherfolks uses various types of fishing boats ranging from traditional dugout which are propelled by wooden paddles to large steel hulled vessels which are fully equipped with modern fishing equipment for long distance fishing. Traditional boats represent the municipal fishing sector with vessels less than 3 GT in size. Their management and regulation are in accordance to the jurisdiction of the Local Government Units (LGUs) though national legislation also govern their operations. The latter comprises the commercial sector with vessels (> 3GT) which are required to fish outside municipal waters [beyond 15km off the shoreline] and are required to secure commercial fishing vessel and gear license (CFVGL) from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources which is subject to renewal every three (3) years. With the implementation of RA 9379 or the Handline Fishing Law, this gives a separate category for the handline vessels which were formerly considered under the municipal fishing vessels.

Table 1: Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence, by gear type and size

There were a total of 46 purse seine and 22 longline Philippine flagged fishing vessels in the list of authorized fishing vessels in the IOTC. Of the 46 purse seine fishing vessels, 17 are over 500 GT, 15 are over 250 but smaller than 500GT while 14 are less than 250GT. Of the 22 longline fishing vessels, 15 are over 500 GT while the remaining longline fishing vessels are over 250 GT. Though the Philippine has a list of purse seine authorized with the IOTC, these have remained inactive. It operates a fleet of long line for the five most recent years. The main target specie is bigeye tuna. Only 9 longline fishing vessels were active in the year 2013.

Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence

	Number of Vessel	Gear type	Size
2005	12	Tuna Longline	366 GT - 930 GT
2006	16	Tuna Longline	284 GT - 930 GT
2007	17	Tuna Longline	284 GT - 930 GT
2008	17	Tuna Longline	284 GT - 930 GT
2009	7	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT
2010	8	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT
2011	3	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT
2012	14	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT
2013	9	Tuna Longline	314 GT - 688 GT

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND GEAR) [Mandatory]

Please see attached IOTC Form 3CE which represents its catch and effort data for the year 2013.

Table 2. Annual catch and effort by gear and primary species in the IOTC area of competence.

Table 2

Year : 2007

Specie	Gear	Quantity(kgs.)	Effort (hooks)	Latitude/Longitude
				5x5
Bigeye	LL	2,081,471	3,672,792	00 S - 60 E
				00 N - 80 E
				00 S - 85 E

Year : 2008

Specie	Gear	Quantity	Effort (hooks)	Latitude/Longitude
				5x5
Bigeye	LL	1,876,009	2,957,482	05 S - 65 E
				05 S - 60 E
				00 N - 60 E

Year : 2009

Specie	Gear	Quantity	Effort (hooks)	Latitude/Longitude
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				5x5
Bigeye	LL	528,560	1,374,262	25 S - 40 E
				10 S - 90 E
				00 S - 70 E

Year : 2010

Specie	Gear	Quantity	Effort (hooks)	Latitude/Longitude
				5x5
Bigeye	LL	242,706	584,330	10 N - 85 E
				10 N - 85 E

Year : 2011

Specie	Gear	Quantity	Effort (hooks)	Latitude/Longitude
				5x5
Bigeye	LL	81,845	176,422	00 N - 85 E
				05 N - 85 E

Year : 2012

Specie	Gear	Quantity	Effort (hooks)	Latitude/Longitude
				5x5
Bigeye	LL	2,364,336	4,678,062	0 N - 50 E
				0 N - 60 E
				5 N - 55 E
				5 N - 65 E
				0 S - 55 E
				0 S - 65 E
				5 S - 55 E
				5 S - 60 E

Figure 1. Please see also the above table for the Philippines' historical annual catch for the national fleet, by gear and primary species, for the IOTC area of competence for the entire history of the fishery/fleet.

Figure 2a. Please see map of the area of operations. The Philippines has yet to determine the appropriate manner by which the distribution of fishing effort of its active longline fleet in the IOTC area of competence. That would mean deriving the data from logsheets the effort in terms of hooks per 5x5 area.

Figure 2b. The map of the distribution of fishing effort, by gear type for the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (average of the 5 previous years e.g. 2009–2013) is yet to be determined.

Figure 3a. Since the main target species is bigeye tuna and the rest of the catches are bycatch, the above map also represents the area of the by-catch.

Figure 3b. Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence (average of the 5 previous years e.g. 2009–2013) is not available.

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY [Mandatory]

The Philippines is not engaged in this activity in the IOTC Convention area as the Philippines is not a coastal state.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES [Mandatory]

This may not be applicable to the Philippines as it is not a coastal state in the IOTC Convention area. Nevertheless, we have submitted our NPOA on Sharks to the Science Manager. The NPOA on seabirds is still to be developed.

5.1 Sharks [Mandatory]

The Philippines has submitted our NPOA on Sharks to the Science Manager. National legislation on the sharks are still being discussed in the National Legislature.

Table 3: The total number and weight of sharks, by species, retained by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence for the year 2013 is 52.65 tons for *Prionace glauca* or blue shark. This could be found in the submission for the Philippines in IOTC Form3CE.

Table 4: All sharks caught were retained and is included in our summary of catches.

5.2 Seabirds [Mandatory]

The Philippines does not have an NPOA on seabirds. However, the strategy as regards seabirds is to apply the following mitigating measures. The fishing company operators were instructed CPCs to seek ways to avoid bycatch of seabirds across all fishing areas. One method was to ensure that fishing shall be conducted in such a way that hooklines sink beyond the reach of seabirds as soon as possible after they are put in the water and the other is the use of tori lines. From Table 2, one can see that for the year 2013, no Philippine longline vessels were fishing South of 25°S.

5.3 Marine Turtles [Mandatory]

There were no reported interactions with Marine Turtles. The Philippines has not yet provided legislation on the implementation of the FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations. However, the fishing companies had been informed on IOTC RESOLUTION 12/04 on the Conservation of Marine Turtles. What the Philippines has done so far as regards Marine and Sea Turtles is to provide protection to its nesting spots all over the Philippines prohibit the catch. Also Sea turtles are protected under Philippine law and catching them is punishable by at least 12 years in jail.

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

Since whalesharks are a protected specie in Philippine laws, the Philippine flagged vessels are not allowed to catch or retain these.

Table 5. Observed annual catches of species of special interest by species (seabirds, marine turtles and marine mammals) by gear for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2009–2013 or to the extent available).
[Mandatory]

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS **[Mandatory]**

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification

Catch data is transmitted by fishing vessel captains/master every week to the fishing vessel operators/companies. These data are then submitted to the BFAR on a monthly basis.

Verification is usually conducted after every year.

6.2. Vessel Monitoring System (including date commenced and status of implementation)

All Philippine flagged vessels operating in the high seas or in waters under the jurisdiction of other coastal state

6.3. Observer programme

The Philippines' regional observer program commenced officially on May 2010 when the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Officially granted accreditation of its program. However, the preparation commenced a year prior with the WCPFC providing training assistance. Since the Observer Program is geared towards compliance with WCPFC

requirements, there are still no available observers for the IOTC operations. There is the matter of continuous training of additional observers, some of whom shall be deployed in the coming years to the IOTC area.

Table 6. Annual observer coverage by operation, e.g. longline hooks, purse seine sets (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2009–2013 or to the extent available). There are no observers available for the IOTC area.

Figure 4. Map showing the spatial distribution of observer coverage. **[Mandatory]**

Please reply above.

6.4. Port sampling programme

Since 1987, the official fishery statistics for the Philippines have been compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), based on probability (stratified random sampling by data collectors) and non-probability surveys (interviews by regular BAS staff) surveys, supplemented by secondary data from administrative sources e.g. landings sites and ports (Vallesteros, 2002). Annual Fisheries Statistics for commercial, municipal, inland and aquaculture sectors are

published for three year time frames and include volume and value of production by province and by region, information on fish prices and foreign trade statistics.

However, there are no specific port sampling for catches in the IOTC area as these are not landed on any port in the Philippines but are sold through the supply chain to Japan.

Catch breakdown by the 31 main marine species is available¹. Estimates of annual bigeye and yellowfin catches for the past years have been reported as a combined catch (yellowfin/bigeye tuna) but for 2005 BAS started to separate catches for these two species of tunas (Table 2). However, there is still a need to improve the identification of these two (2) species to accurately reflect the actual catch of yellowfin and bigeye.

Table 7. Number of individuals measured, by species and gear] **[Mandatory]**

6.4. Unloading/Transshipment [including date commenced and status of implementation]

The annual tuna catch estimates include all the tuna catch unloaded in Philippine ports regardless where they were caught and does not separate those catches from foreign waters or whether it is caught by foreign-flagged vessel.

BFAR launched the catch documentation scheme which requires purse seine, ringnet and longline operators to submit monthly logsheets report and for the canneries to submit monthly cannery unloading data. BAS is also in the process of implementing the new statistical frames and methodologies in order to address the above issue. All these efforts are geared towards improvement of the country's catch estimates.

The 6th Tuna Fisheries Catch Estimates Review Workshop last 23 - 24 May 2013 was conducted to review and validate Philippine catch estimates by species and gear type. However, this annual activity is purely for WCPFC data review. Data from different sources, namely, BFAR (NSAP, logsheets, cannery receipts), BAS, PFDA and industry were presented and reviewed. Table 3 provides a breakdown of catch by gear and species according to the process undertaken in the workshop with the current 2012 BAS estimates. The workshop participants noted that while the industrial fleet estimates are now becoming more reliable, there is still a major problem in determining and validating the estimates of the small-scale municipal fisheries that needs to be resolved in the near future. One of the activities done to somehow address this issue was the study conducted in Region 8 and Region 1 to determine the likelihood that hook-and-line vessels at nearby landing sites would catch significant amounts of oceanic tuna species.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS [Desirable]

There are presently no research activities in the IOTC convention area.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC. [Mandatory]



Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2005 and 2014.

Res No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
13/ 03	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1-11	<p>There are basically two logbooks on board a Philippine flagged fishing vessel. One logbook is bound where the Captain places his required data on the fishing and navigational data. There is a second logbook that utilize printed forms based on the BFAR approved formats. These are filled up utilizing data coming from the same forms which when originally are filled up are not necessarily clean but may contain erasures. Thereafter, when the data have been clarified, verified and confirmed, these data are transferred to the clean sheets of the same format. After having completed 1 page, these are faxed on a weekly basis so that the Philippine flagged fishing vessel operator will receive the same and can have updated data which are then submitted our office [BFAR] for updating. After these forms are faxed, they are inserted and bound onto the logbook.</p> <p>However, this system has since been replaced after meeting of the LSTLV fleet with the MRAG and IOTC Secretariat during the 2014 Commission meeting by a similar system now using a bound logbook of the same format where the information on catch and effort data are put in place and a second loose leave format. The first refers to the permanent one while the latter is a duplicate copy which can be faxed.</p> <p>Please take note that these fishing</p>



Res . No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			vessels cannot fax a sheet if the same is already bound in the traditional way meaning sewn onto a book. We utilize this system to ensure that the fishing vessel and their fishing vessel operator's office have the same copies. This office [BFAR] is also provided with updated. BFAR is using this faxed weekly catch report in issuing Statistical Document and authority to transshipment.
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7-9	Not applicable as there are no active purse seine fishing vessels in the IOTC Convention area.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>)	Paragraphs 7-9	Not applicable as there are no active purse seine fishing vessels in the IOTC Convention area.
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5-6	Philippine flagged fishing vessels records all catches of sharks of whatever species.
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4-8	Philippine flagged fishing vessels records all catches of sharks of whatever species.
12/06	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3-7	The fishing company operators were instructed CPCs to seek ways to avoid by catch of seabirds across all fishing areas. One method was to ensure that fishing shall be conducted in such a way that hooklines sink beyond the reach of seabirds as soon as possible after they are put in the water and the other is the use of tori lines. There are no Philippine longline vessels were fishing South of 25°S. Thus, only one method was utilized.
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6-10	The above activities are merely an extension of the existing Pawikan Conservation Project,



Res · No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			<p>though this is mostly done within Philippine jurisdiction. By virtue of Executive Order No. 542, signed on 26 June 1979, the Task Force Pawikan (Marine Turtle Task Force as Pawikan is a local term for sea turtles), now referred to as the Pawikan Conservation Project (PCP), became the Philippine government's urgent response to conserve and manage the dwindling marine turtle resources of the country. The PCP is responsible for the development and implementation of conservation and protection policies, management and propagation schemes, and public information and education programs to ensure the survival and growth of the country's remaining marine turtle populations. At present, the project is attached to the Wildlife Division of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau now renamed the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The project has a nationwide scope with pilot sites in the Turtle Island Group in Tawi-Tawi and El Nido (Bacuit Bay in Northwestern Palawan).</p> <p>In order to achieve its objectives, the project has instituted three major programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Resource Management and Protection,- Research and



Res No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			Investigation, and - Information and Education. Additional activities are need to be put in place in order to extend the Philippines activities on the protection of marine turtles in the Indian Ocean.
11/ 04	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 9	No observer coverage for the year 2013. The Philippines is still developing its advisory on the hiring of private maritime security personnel which are to be engaged when operating in high risk area. This being the case, the BFAR did not provide observer coverage as the Indian Ocean is a high risk area.
10/ 02	Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC members and cooperating non contracting parties	Paragraphs 1- 7	Fishing vessel operators are instructed to submit data to Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources [BFAR] on a monthly basis. These were then seasonably sent to the IOTC.
05/ 05	Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 1- 12	Data on catches are aggregated by species and submitted to IOTC. All catches are retained and fully utilized.

9. LITERATURE CITED [Mandatory]

Some materials were derived from the Philippine Tuna Fisheries Profile. this can be downloaded from its website at www.bfar.da.gov.ph.