

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

Authors

**Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources
Federal Republic of Somalia**



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>NO 23/10/2014</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>Not applicable 23/10/2014</p>
<p>If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: Somalia only became Member of IOTC on 22 may 2014. Moreover, Somalia does not have a longline fleet, and the only fleet operating currently in Somalia is a small artisanal fleet. Somalia is just recovering from 2 decades of civil war, and no collection system is in place for this fleet. However, the Ministry is looking at option with donors to develop sampling programmes and data collection system in the near future.</p>	

Executive Summary [Mandatory]

Somalia is recovering from 22 years of civil war that left the countries without any working institution. Somalia is now rebuilding its administration and since August 2012, the Federal Government of Somalia was established in Mogadishu. Fishing grounds in front of Somalia are well known by tuna fishermen and have been traditionally fished by longliners and purse seiners. However, since 2007, activities in the region has been drastically declining due to the increasing piracy activities of the coastal of Somalia. Since the Federal government is in place, and with the help of the International Community, piracy has been declining, and fishing vessels are returning in the North West Indian Ocean. Somalia is committed to fully participate to the regional management of tuna and tuna-like species, and became the 32nd Member of IOTC on the 22nd May 2014.

Somalia does not currently have a fishing fleet targeting tuna and tuna-like species, except a small artisanal coastal fleet. The newly established Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has not yet developed sampling programme and data collection systems for this fleet, however, it is working with funding agencies to develop such systems in the near future, which would allow Somalia to submit fisheries statistics to IOTC.

Somalia has not yet licensed any foreign fishing vessels to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in its EEZ. However, a licensing system is being developed at the moment, and licenses could be issued soon. In parallel, Somalia is working to develop Monitoring Control and Surveillance tools to monitor and control its EEZ.

Somalia will work to increase its compliance with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures and fully participate to the IOTC process.

Contents [Desirable]

1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION [MANDATORY]

In 2012, Somalia came out of a transitional Government and does not have yet any fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean, nor has it issued a fishing licence for foreign vessel. The only fleet currently active in Somalia is a small coastal fleet that can catch tuna and tuna-like species opportunistically.

Offshore fishing grounds in the Somali EEZ are highly productive, in particular due to an upwelling during the South-East monsoon, and have been traditionally fished by foreign vessels, *i.e.* purse seiners and longliners. However, for many years, Somalia did not benefit from these fisheries.

Somalia would like to participate in the regional management process for highly migratory species, and in May 2014, the Federal Republic of Somalia became the newest member of the IOTC.

The Federal Republic of Somalia is not working in collaboration with various donors, to continue developing its capacity, in particular to issue licenses to foreign vessels, to monitor and control its EEZ and to develop sampling and data collection systems in the countries.

Somalia has recently developed a new Fishing law which shall be passed in front of the parliament before the end of the year 2014.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE [MANDATORY]

The active fleet of Somalia is only composed of small coastal vessels, up to 8.5m, catching tuna and tuna-like species on an opportunistic basis, however, the number of the vessels and their specifications are not known. Somalia does not have a dedicated fleet targeting tuna and tuna-like species.

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Purse seiners	0	0	0	0	0
Longliners	0	0	0	0	0
Artisanal	Number unknown	Number unknown	Number unknown	Number unknown	Number unknown

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

Currently there is no national fishing fleet, except for artisanal fishers operating with small fishing boats of 8.5m catching tuna and tuna-like species on an opportunistic basis. However, there is currently no data collection system for this fleet due to the fact that Somalia is slowly recovering from two decades of civil war and is rebuilding its institutions. However, Somalia is currently working with donors in order to develop such systems.

Table 2. Annual catch and effort by gear and primary species in the IOTC area of competence. Include a ‘not elsewhere indicated – NEI’ category for all other catch combined. [Note: Multiple tables may be required e.g. **Table 2a, 2b, 2c).** [Mandatory]

No data to report as during that period no collection system was in place in Somalia during this period and Somalia did not have a proper centralized Government.

Figure 1. 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. **[Mandatory] N/A**

No data to report as during that period no collection system was in place in Somalia during this period and Somalia did not have a proper centralized Government.

Figure 2a. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by gear type for the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (most recent year e.g. 2013). **[Mandatory]**

No data to report as during that period no collection system was in place in Somalia during this period and Somalia did not have a proper centralized Government.

Figure 2b. 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). **[Mandatory]**

No data to report as during that period no collection system was in place in Somalia during this period and Somalia did not have a proper centralized Government.

Figure 3a. Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence (most recent year e.g. 2013). **[Mandatory]**

No data to report as during that period no collection system was in place in Somalia during this period and Somalia did not have a proper centralized Government.

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). **[Mandatory] N**

No data to report as during that period no collection system was in place in Somalia during this period and Somalia did not have a proper centralized Government.

3. RECREATIONAL FISHERY **[Mandatory]**

There is no recreational or sport fishery in.

4. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES **[Mandatory]**

The Federal Government of Somalia has prepared a new fisheries law which is suppose to pass in front of the parliament before the end of the year 2014. Protection of marine environment and endangered species are clearly stated in this new Somali fishery Law which will pass the parliament very soon.

No data is currently collected on sharks, seabirds, marine turtles and other ecologically related species. However, as Somalia is working on the development on data collection system, these species will be included in the collection requirements.

In addition, Somalia did not developed yet NPOAs for sharks and seabirds.

Therefore, Somalia does not currently have any data to report in the below section 5.1 to 5.4

5.1 Sharks [Mandatory]

A national strategy for the conservation of sharks cannot be developed until the Somali Fishery law passes the parliament

Table 3: Total number and weight of sharks, by species, retained by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2009–2013). [Mandatory]

Table 4: Total number of sharks, by species, released/discarded by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2009–2013). Where available, include life status upon released/discard. [Desirable]

5.2 Seabirds [Mandatory]

A national strategy for the protection of seabirds cannot be developed until the Somali Fishery law passes the parliament..

5.3 Marine Turtles [Mandatory]

Somalia is committed to the protection of marine turtles and it will come on the Fisheries Regulations once the Fishing law has been adopted by the parliament.

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

Somalia is committed for the protection of marine mammals, whale shark, and other endangered species and it will come on the Fisheries Regulations once the Fishing law has been adopted by the parliament.

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]

No data to report

5. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS [Mandatory]

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification (including date commenced and status of implementation)

Somalia does not have fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna-like species of 24m and above of LOA, or under 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ. No logsheet data collection system is in place for the coastal artisanal fleet operating in Somalia.

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

Somalia does not have fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna-like species of 24m and above of LOA, or under 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ, and therefore not vessel on the IOTC Record of Authorized vessels. No VMS Center has been established in Somalia, but Somalia is looking at options to develop one in the near future, as this would be an important tool to monitor and control its EEZ, and later a potential national fishing fleet.

6.3. Observer programme (including date commenced and status; number of observer, include percentage coverage by gear type)

Somalia does not have fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna-like species of 24m and above of LOA, or under 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ and therefore no observer was deployed.

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). **[Mandatory]**

Somalia did not deploy observer during this period, as there is no national fleet on which to deploy observers.

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

Not Applicable

6.4. Port sampling programme [including date commenced and status of implementation]

Somalia does not have in place any data collection system in port or at landing sites. However, Somalia is currently working with donors and FAO to develop such systems in the near future. The development of sampling system should help Somalia to report fisheries statistics for tuna and tuna-like species to IOTC in the future.

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

As no sampling system is in place, no size frequency data is available.

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

No Somali port is yet serving this service.

6. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS [Desirable]

Due to lack of fund and capacity in the country, no research has been carried out. However, research project are planned to be carried out next year, pending funding availability. In addition, Somalia is eager to participate to regional research project on tuna and tuna-like species, and will cooperate to its maximum capacity with such initiatives.

Table 8. Summary table of national research programs, including dates.

No research program is currently being undertaken

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

As Somalia recently became the newest member of the IOTC, the government is committed to implement IOTC Management and Conservation Measures relevant to the Scientific Committee. Somalia will present more detailed progress at the next Session of the Scientific Committee in 2015, after the new fishing law has been passed and Fisheries regulations developed.

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	Somalia is currently developing with donors and FAO fisheries data collection program. A first training session for samplers’ trainers should be organised in November in Tanzania.
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	The new fisheries law to be adopted by the parliament before the end of the year makes provision for the

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			protection of cetaceans in Somali waters. Other provisions should be included in the fisheries regulations.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>)	Paragraphs 7–9	The new fisheries law to be adopted by the parliament before the end of the year makes provision for the protection of endangered species in Somali waters. Other provisions should be included in the fisheries regulations.
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	Specific provisions regarding shark caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries in Somalia shall be included in the fisheries regulations
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	The new fisheries law to be adopted by the parliament before the end of the year makes provision for the protection of endangered species in Somali waters. Other provisions should be included in the fisheries regulations.
12/06	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	The new fisheries law to be adopted by the parliament before the end of the year makes provision for the protection of endangered species in Somali waters. Other provisions should be included in the fisheries regulations.
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	The new fisheries law to be adopted by the parliament before the end of the year makes provision for the protection of endangered species in Somali waters. Other provisions should be included in the fisheries regulations.
11/04	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 9	Somalia does not have a fleet on which observers shall be deployed
10/02	Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC members and cooperating non contracting parties	Paragraphs 1–7	Somalia does not currently have data collection system for its artisanal fleet, however, Somalia is currently developing data collection program with donors and FAO.
05/05	Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 1–12	Specific provisions regarding shark caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries in Somalia shall be included in the fisheries regulations

8. LITERATURE CITED [Mandatory]