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Philippines National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2015

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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** [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)	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.
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). **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).	YES. Sent via e-mail by Benjamin F.S. Tabios Jr., Assistant Director for Administrative Services, BFAR through email on June 9, 2015. This was acknowledged by Lucia Pierre, IOTC Data Management Assistant Please see attached pdf copy of email.
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

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

Executive Summary

The Republic of the Philippines is a distant water fishing nation within the IOTC Convention area. The Philippine fleet authorized to conduct fishing activities in the IOTC Convention area is composed of both purse seine and longline fishing vessels. However, for the year 2014, the active fishing vessels are only longline fishing vessels. There are plans of fishing vessel operators to activate their purse seine fleet in the convention area.

The main target species is Bigeye tuna and the other species that are caught, retained and reported are all by-catches.

As of the 2014 year end, legislation on the amendments to its Fisheries Code was pending before the National Legislature. This will introduce amendments to ensure compliance to its international commitments to international agreements that the Philippines had entered into after 1998.

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 2014, the active fishing vessels are only longline fishing vessels.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE [MANDATORY]

Philippine tuna fishing fleet

Tuna fisherfolks uses various types of fishing boats ranging from traditional dugout or "bangka" which are propelled by wooden paddles or single piston engines 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, and under the jurisdiction of the Local Government Units (LGUs). Those fishing vessels greater than 3 GT comprises the commercial sector with vessels (> 3GT) are required to fish outside municipal waters[beyond 15km off the shoreline] and are required to be registered with the Maritime Industry Authority [MARINA] secure commercial fishing vessel and gear license (CFVGL) at 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 tuna 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 24 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 46 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 ___ longline fishing vessels were active in the year 2014.

Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence

	Number of Vessel	Gear type	Size
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	382 GT - 930 GT
2014	4	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND GEAR)

Please see attached IOTC Form 3 which represents its catch and effort data for the year 2014. For the year 2014, the number of hooks used were _____.

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

Table 2

Year : 2007

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

Year : 2010

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

Year : 2011

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

Year : 2012

Specie	Gear	Quantiy	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

Year : 2013

Specie	Gear	Quantiy	Effort (hooks)	Latitude/Longitude

				5x5
Bigeye	LL	911,595	2,445,146	00N - 50E
				05N - 60 E
				5 N - 55E 5 N - 65E 0 S - 55E 0 S - 65 E

Year : 2014

Specie	Gear	Quantiy	Effort (hooks)	Latitude/Longitude
				5x5
Bigeye	LL	319,001	677,875	00 N - 50 E
				15 N - 55 E
				00 S – 50 E 00 S – 55 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. 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. 2014).

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).

Figure 3a. Since the main target species is bigeye tuna and the rest of the catches are bycatch, the above map 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).

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 in the convention area.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES [Mandatory]

This may not be applicable to the Philippine is not a coastal state in the IOTC Convention are. Nevertheless, we have submitted our NPOA on Sharks to the Science Manager. The NPOA on seabirds are 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: 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).

	Shortfin Mako	Blue Shark
2009	853 kgs	871 kgs
2010	1,125 kgs	763 kgs
2011	1,531 Kgs	1,912 kgs
2012		2,302 Kgs
2013		52,650 kgs

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.
All catches of Shark were retained

5.2 Seabirds [Mandatory]

Legislation on the mandatory application of conservation and management measures that are adopted by the various Regional Fisheries Management Organizations [RFMOs] was pending as of the end of 2014. However, this became part of the law of the land as this became Republic Act 10654 in early 2015.

5.3 Marine Turtles [Mandatory]

Philippines advertise the use of circle hooks for LL fishing operations to reduce sea turtle bycatch as part of its activities in the Coral Triangle [CTI] initiatives).

As early as November 15, 1979, the Philippine government through "MNR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 12, Series of 1979", declared the 7 islands located in Tawi-tawi as a protected area. For five islands the government decided for special protection zones. Within this zones only scientific and conservation activities are allowed. In other zones there are certain rules in order to prevent too much impact by people on the environment and the turtles. Visiting these zones is only possible with strict guidance and under supervision of the staff of the officials of the government.

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

Whalesharks are protected by legislation in the Philippines. All PH flag PS vessels are prohibited from setting on whale sharks, if animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set. This species is also protected under the Fisheries Administrative Order 193.

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).

No incidental catch reported

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS [Mandatory]

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

BFAR Administrative Circular Number 252 mandates the submission of catch logsheets. Under section 8 thereof, these are to be submitted on a monthly basis. Later these are verified through comparison of other sources of data.

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 are covered by VMS. This is stated in BFAR Administrative Circular Number 252.

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/Transhipment [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 7th Tuna Fisheries Catch Estimates Review Workshop last 25 - 26 May 2015 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 2014 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	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

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			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. 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. Please take note that these fishing 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 (*Rhincodon typus*)	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	Paragraph 5–6	Philippine flagged fishing vessels records all catches of sharks of whatever species.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
	of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries		
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, 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

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			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). In order to achieve its objectives, the project has instituted three major programs: - Resource Management and Protection, - Research and 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	Paragraphs 1–12	Data on catches are aggregated by species and submitted to IOTC. Al catches

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
	with fisheries managed by IOTC		are retained and fully utilized.

9. LITERATURE CITED

MATERIALS AND STATISTICS TAKEN FROM THE NATIONAL FISHERIES PROFILE.