



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

Authors

Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources  
Federal Republic of Somalia



## INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

<p>In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, final scientific data for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year, <b>for all fleets other than longline</b> [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2015, final data for the 2014 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2015)</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional <b>longline data</b> for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2015, preliminary data for the 2014 calendar year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2015).</p> <p><b>REMINDER:</b> Final longline data for the previous year is due to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2015, final data for the 2014 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2015).</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:</p> <p>Somalia does not any longliners operating under its flag, and the only fleet currently operating in Somalia is a small artisanal fleet. However, no collection or sampling system is yet operational for this fleet, as Somalia is rebuilding itself after over two decades of civil war, and some coastal areas are still inaccessible. Somalia is currently working with partner to strengthen its capacity and implement data collection system along its coast for its artisanal fishery.</p>	

## Executive Summary [Mandatory]

Thanks to an upwelling during the South-East monsoon, the Somali basin is very productive during part of the year and has been traditionally fished by longliners and purse seiners targeting tuna and tuna-like species. In 2007, fishing activities in the region reduced tremendously due to increasing piracy activities off the coastal of Somalia. However, since the Federal government took office in 2012, and with the help of the International Community, piracy has been declining, and fishing vessels are returning in the North West Indian Ocean.

In late 2014, the Somali parliament adopted the new Somali Fisheries Law which was endorsed by the President. The law makes specific provisions for fisheries management, data collection, Monitoring Control and Surveillance as well as the protection of endangered species in Somali waters. Based on this new law, Somalia is working at developing new comprehensive fisheries regulations.

Somalia does not currently have a fishing fleet targeting tuna and tuna-like species, except a small artisanal fleet spread on its 3,300km of maritime coast. However, there is no data collection of sampling system yet in place for this fleet. The Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is working with donors, International Organizations and NGOs to develop such systems in the near future, in order for Somalia to be able to collect fisheries data for management purposes, and submit fisheries statistics to IOTC. In particular, with the support from FAO, seven participants from the Federal Ministry and the Ministries responsible for fisheries in Jubbaland, Puntland and Galmudug were trained during one month at the Tanzania Fisheries Education and Training Agency in Bagamoyo in November 2014.

Currently, a licensing system for foreign tuna vessels is being developed in Somalia with the support of FAO. In parallel, Somalia is working to develop Monitoring Control and Surveillance tools to monitor and control its EEZ.

### 1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION [MANDATORY]

Except an artisanal fleet, Somalia does not have any fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. There is no vessel of or above 24m, or less than 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ, targeting tuna and tuna-like species and flagged in Somalia, and therefore there is no Somali vessel on the IOTC Record of Authorized vessels. The Somali artisanal fleet does not specialized in targeting tuna and tuna-like species and catch IOTC species on an opportunistic basis like many other artisanal fisheries of the Indian Ocean.

While Somalia is a prime fishing ground for tuna and tuna-like species, since 2007 activities of foreign tuna fleets in Somali waters have been minimum. However, in 2015, Somalia licensed for 3 months, 10 foreign longliners to operate in the EEZ.

### 2. FLEET STRUCTURE [MANDATORY]

The artisanal fleet is composed of vessels ranging from traditional canoes to 8.5m open fiberglass boats powered by outboard engines. The main fishing gears used are driftnets and handlines.

For the artisanal fleet, the number of fishermen and fishing vessels is largely unknown, however, through an FAO project, Somalia has started to registered fishermen in Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug, and so far a total of 5,020 fishermen have been registered.

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

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Purse seiners	0	0	0	0	0
Longliners	0	0	0	0	0
Artisanal	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

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

The Somali artisanal fleet is operating in coastal areas, mainly within 12 to 15 nm from the coast. The fleet is targeting both demersal and pelagic species, including highly migratory species, mainly with gillnets and handlines.

At present, no data collection or sampling system is set up in the different States of Somalia, and very few fisheries data is currently being collected on the Somali artisanal fleet. However, in November 2014, seven participants from the Federal Ministry and the Ministries responsible for fisheries in Jubbaland, Puntland and Galmudug received a first training in fisheries data collection during one month at the Tanzania Fisheries Education and Training Agency in Bagamoyo, with the objective of being deployed at landing sites to collect fisheries data.

Somalia will continue to work with its partners in order to develop fisheries data collection system.

**Table 2.** Annual catch and effort by gear and primary species in the IOTC area of competence. [Mandatory]  
*No data available*

*No data available*

**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]

*No data available*

**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). [Mandatory]

*No data available*

**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. 2010–2014). [Mandatory]

*No data available*

**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. 2014). [Mandatory]

*No data available*

**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. 2010–2014). [Mandatory]

### 4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY [Mandatory]

There is no recreational or sport fishery in Somalia

### 5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES [Mandatory]

In late 2014, a new Somali Fisheries Law was passed in Somalia, and this new legislation includes provisions on endangered species, including sharks, seabirds, marine mammals and marine turtles.

#### 5.1 Sharks [Mandatory]

No NPOA-sharks has yet been developed in Somalia, and no data is available on shark catches in Somalia. However, sharks are targeted by the Somali artisanal fleet, and shark are fully utilised in Somalia and are landed whole with fins attached.

**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. 2010–2014) [**Mandatory**]

*No data available*

**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. 2010–2014). Where available, include life status upon released/discard. [**Desirable**]

*No data available*

## 5.2 Seabirds [**Mandatory**]

No NPOA-seabirds has yet been developed in Somalia, and no data is available on seabird bycatch in Somalia.

## 5.3 Marine Turtles [**Mandatory**]

No specific strategy has yet been developed in Somalia regarding marine turtles, and no data is available on marine turtle bycatch in Somalia.

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

No data is available

**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. 2010–2014 or to the extent available). [**Mandatory**]

*No data available*

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

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

There is no vessel of or above 24m or less than 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ flagged in Somalia. No logsheet data collection system is in place for the Somali artisanal fleet.

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

There is no vessel of or above 24m or less than 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ flagged in Somalia. No VMS is implemented for the Somali artisanal fleet.

However, in order to develop its MCS capacity, Somalia is working with FAO to set up a VMS in Somalia, which will primarily allow Somalia to follow the activities of future licensed vessels while operating in the Somali EEZ.

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

There is no vessel of or above 24m, or less than 24m fishing outside of the Somali EEZ, flagged in Somalia. No observer programme is implemented for the Somali artisanal fleet.

However, with the support of FAO, Somali observers have been trained in 2015, for future deployment on board foreign licensed or Somali registered vessels.

**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. 2010–2014 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]

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

Somalia does not have a sampling system in port or at landing sites for the moment to collect statistics on its artisanal fleet. Somalia is currently working with donors to develop such systems, and some training already took place.

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

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

Somalia does not have a sampling system in port or at landing sites for the moment to collect statistics on its artisanal fleet.

### 7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS [Desirable]

Due to lack of fund and capacity in the country, no research is being carried out but 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.

### 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 2015.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	No data collection system is currently operational in Somalia, however, training of samplers has started.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	As no data collection are in place, Somalia does not report statistical data to IOTC
15/05	On conservation measures for striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin	Paragraph 4	Level of marlin catches in Somalia are unknown for the artisanal fleet
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	The new fisheries law makes provision for the protection of cetaceans in Somali waters. Other provisions will 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 makes provision for the protection of endangered species in Somali waters. Other provisions will 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 will 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 makes provision for the protection of endangered species in Somali waters. Other provisions will be included in the fisheries regulations.



<b>Res. No.</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Scientific requirement</b>	<b>CPC progress</b>
12/06	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3-7	The new fisheries law makes provision for the protection of endangered species in Somali waters. Other provisions will be included in the fisheries regulations.
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6-10	The new fisheries law makes provision for the protection of endangered species in Somali waters. Other provisions will 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. Somalia is working at developing sampling systems at landing sites for its artisanal fleet
05/05	Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 1-12	Provisions regarding data collection for shark caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries in Somalia shall be included in the fisheries regulations

**9. LITERATURE CITED [Mandatory]**