

***"Review of Iran fisheries and tropical tuna catch in the  
Indian Ocean"***

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**By: Mokhtar Akhondi**

**Akhondi2200@yahoo.com**

There are three categories of fisheries activities in Iran consist of the southern fishery (the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea), the northern fishery (the Caspian Sea) and inland fishery and aquaculture. Figure 1 shows Catch & production in the country in Iran was about 983300 Mt in 2015, which can be distributed as 56% (549700 Mt) of the total catch and production contributed to the country fishing activities in the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea and offshore waters, about 3%(32600 Mt) of production from northern water (Caspian Sea) and 41%(401000 Mt) through inland water and aquaculture.

Iran fishing grounds in southern waters of the country are located in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea. There are 4 coastal provinces in that areas about 6500 out of 11300 vessels consist of fishing boat, dhows and vessels which are engaged in tuna and tuna-like species fishing activities in the coastal and offshore waters. Iran has well-established non-coastal water targeting tuna and like-Tuna species.

There are three fishing methods targeting tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area which include gillnet, purse seine and also some of small boats use trolling in coastal fisheries. Gillnet is the dominant fishing gear in the IOTC area, Majority of the production comes from the Gillnet vessels operating within EEZ as well as offshore fishery. In terms of area, more tropical tuna is caught in northwestern areas.

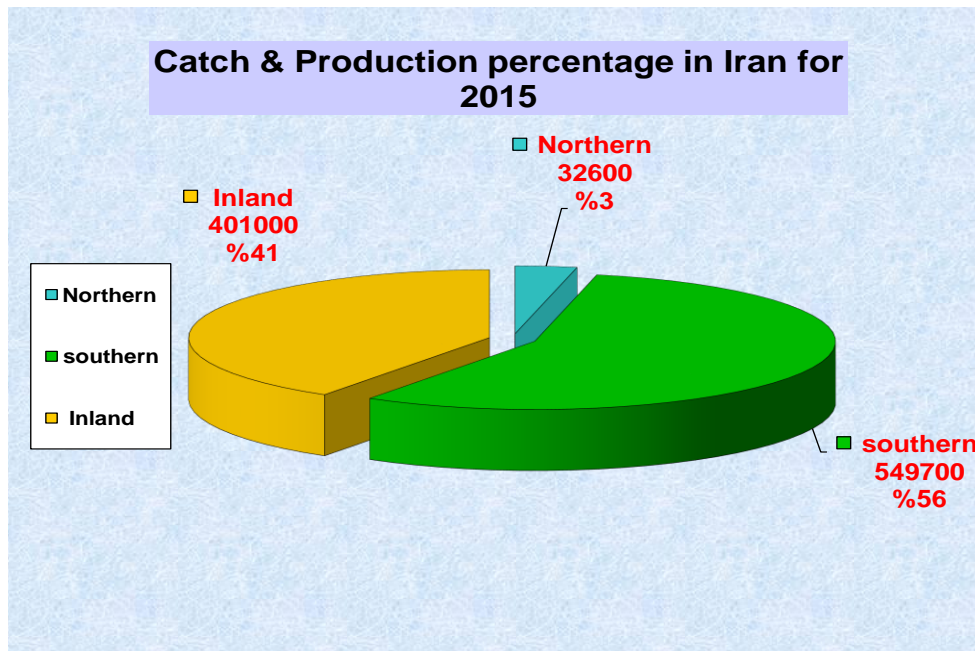


Figure.1 Catch & production in the country

Islamic republic of Iran has a longest coastline in Persian Gulf and Oman sea and Caspian sea with 5800 km long (including islands) and 193 port and landing places encompassing 140 thousand fishermen and 11300 fishing crafts with annual marine capture of around 582 thousand tones in 2015. Figure 2 shows the country catch trend in recent decade.

*Total country catches North (Caspian Sea) & southern Waters (Persian Gulf and Oman Sea)*

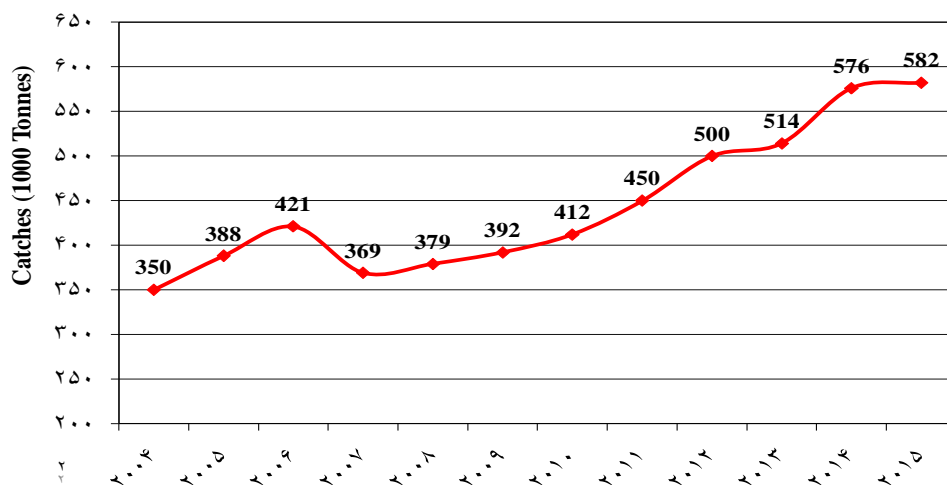


Figure2. Total country catches North (Caspian Sea) & southern Waters (Persian Gulf and Oman Sea )

Around 33 thousand tonnes of the catch was exploited from northern fishery (Caspian Sea) and 550 thousand tonnes from southern waters (Persian Gulf and Oman Sea). Of total catch amount of southern waters, 271 thousand tonnes attributed to large pelagic, 194 thousand tonnes demersals, 66 thousand tonnes small pelagic, 8 thousand tonnes shrimp and shellfish and 10 thousand tonnes myctophids. (Figure3)

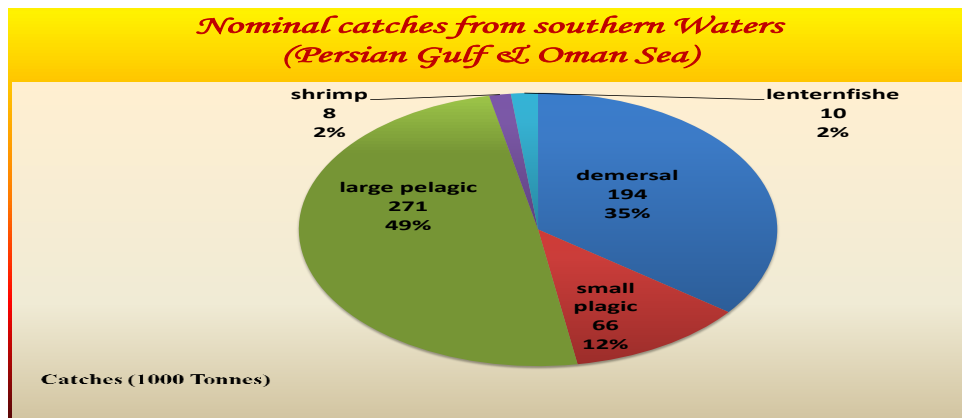


Figure3. Naminal catches from southern Waters (Persian Gulf and Oman Sea )

The total production of large pelagic fishes during 2015 was 271000 Mt of which 212000 Mt belongs to tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Indian Ocean areas. Those catches with 76.3% (182456Mt) of Tunas, 12.6% (30040 Mt) of Seerfish, 7.2% (19531Mt) of billfish and around 3% (7135 Mt) different species of shark the total large pelagic landings in Iran. (Figure4)

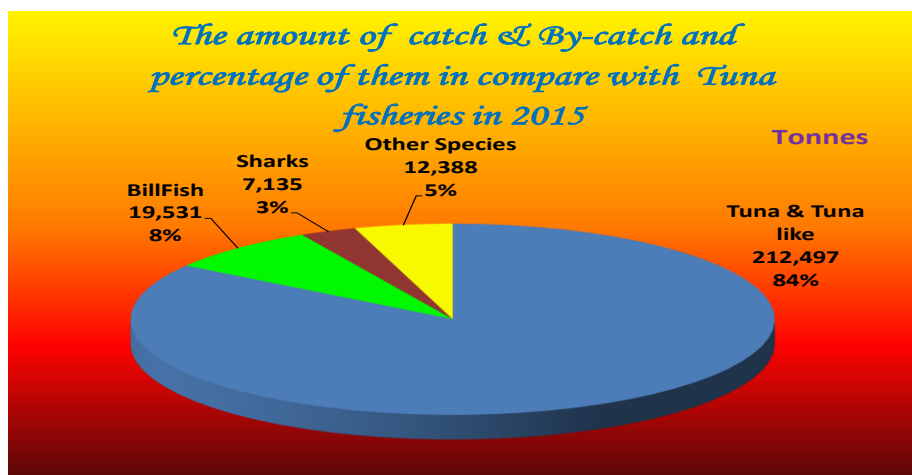


Figure4. The amount of Catch & By-catch and percentage of them in compare with Tuna fisheries By Iranian Tuna fishing vessels in 2015

Catches of tuna and tuna-like species have increased by 30%, from 161 thousand tonnes in 2004 to around 212 thousand tonnes in 2015. (Figure 5)

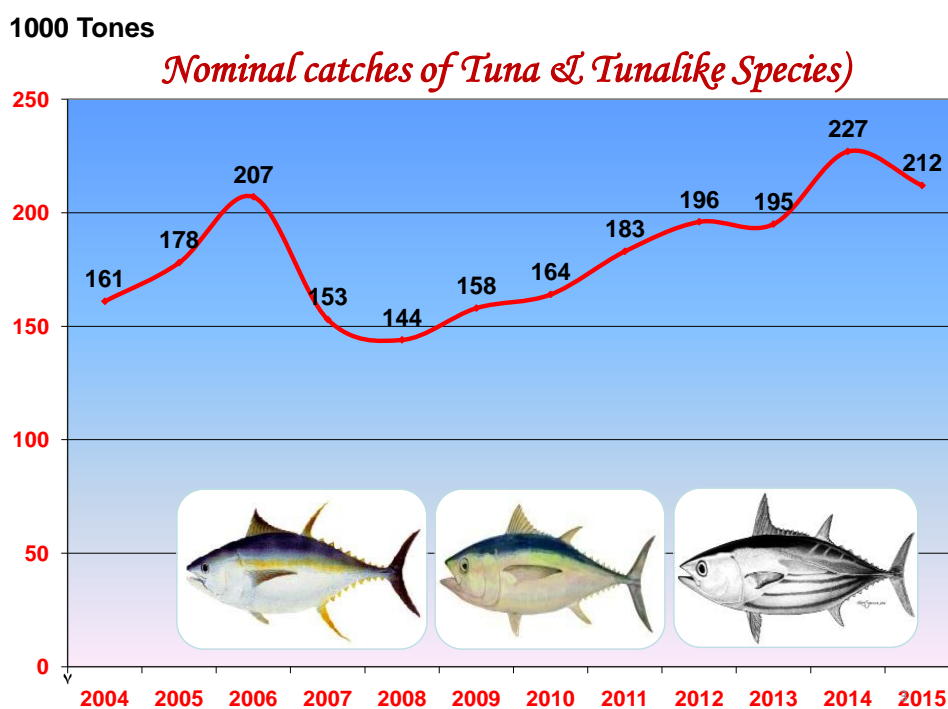


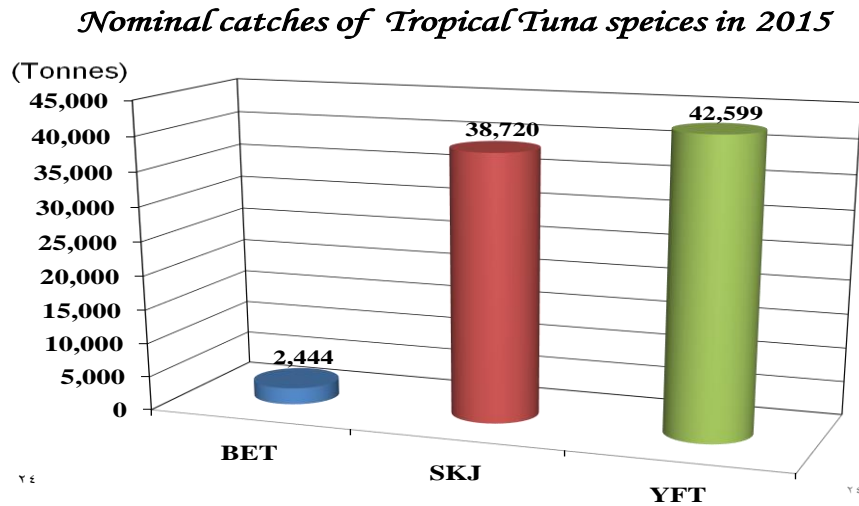
Figure5. Nominal catches of Tuna & Tunalike Species

Tropical tuna catch in 2015 was around 84 thousand tons which shows 5% decline compared to the same period last year. Of 84 thousand tons, around 39 thousand tones (46%) attributed to SKJ, 43 thousand tons (51%) YFT and 2 thousand tons (3%) was the BET. (Figure 6)

Tropical tuna catch account for 40% of tuna and tuna-like species, 14% of total country catch and 9% of total aquatic production.

In 2015, around 5.3% of tropical tuna catch in Iran carried out by using purses seine fishing gear and 94.7% by gillnet fishery.

Catches of two species of tropical tunas has decline in compare to the previous year, (YFT 7.8% and SKJ 2.5%) and for BET shows 2.5% increase compared to the same period last year.



*Figure6. Nominal catches of Tropical Tuna speices in 2015*

Catches of Tropical tuna have decreased by 20%, from 105 thousand tonnes in 2004 to around 84 thousand tonnes in 2015. Although the peak amount of catch in 2006 was equivalent to 144 thousand tons. The Tropical tuna catch for 2015 shows 42% decline compared to 2006. (Figure 7)

In 2015, Tropical tuna catches were about 84,000 tons and ten-year average of it was about 80, 0000 tons. The ten-year average catches of tropical tuna shows that about 58% of catch belongs to skipjack, 41% yellow fin, and 1% big eye tuna. (Figure 8)

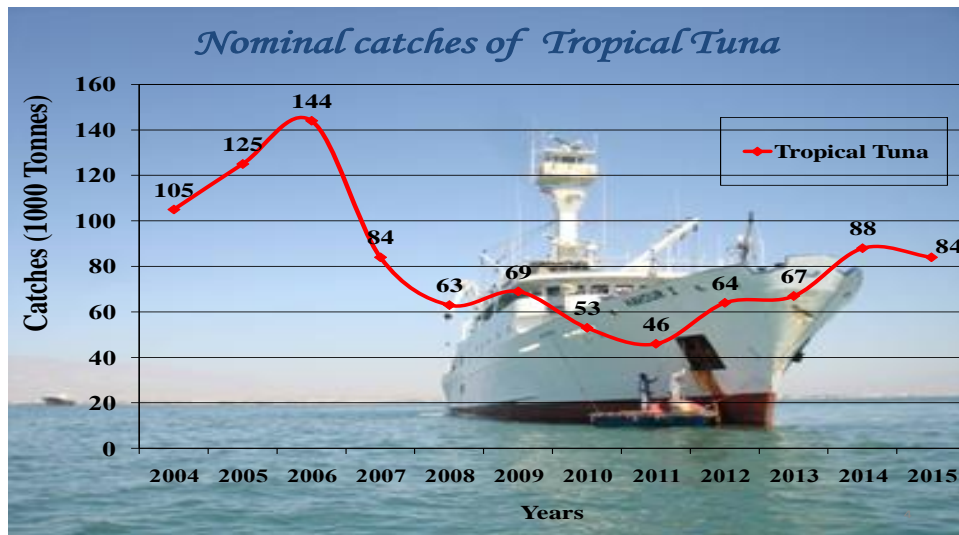


Figure7. Nominal catches of Tropical Tuna in IRAN

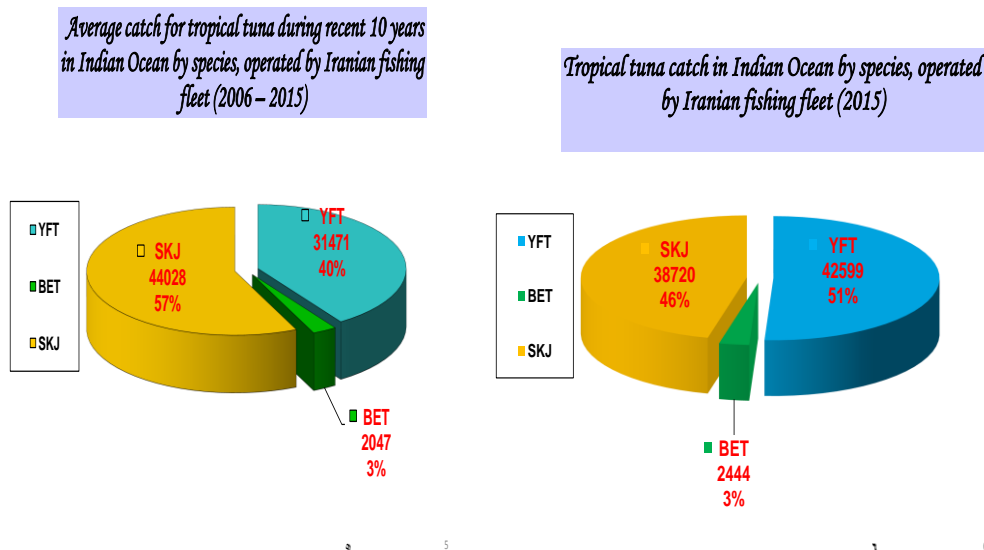


Figure8. Average catch for tropical tuna during recent 10 years in Indian Ocean by species, operated by Iranian fishing fleet (2006 – 2015)

According to IOTC evaluation referring to member Countries compliance to IOTC rules, regulations and resolutions, the average level of member countries compliance in 2010 was 25%, for Iran it is reported about 11% and in 2015 the average indicator for member countries was 58%. During recent years Iran has carried out many efforts to enhance its compliance from 58% to 75%. Although there are still problems in some areas, but a lot of actions are in progress to remove those problems and build

necessary infrastructures to fulfill all requirements, to sum-up Iran has a reasonably good condition. (Figure 9)

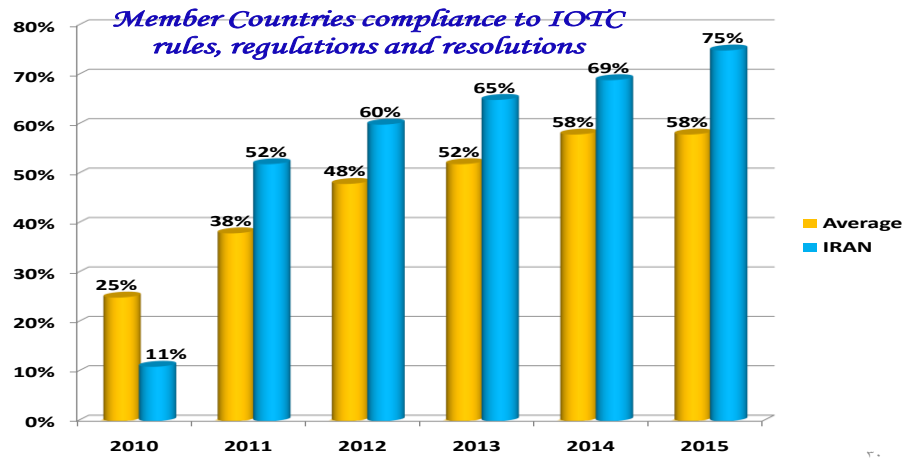


Figure9. Member Countries compliance to IOTC rules, regulations and resolutions