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## STATISTICS OF THE FRENCH PURSE SEINE FISHING FLEET TARGETING TROPICAL TUNA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (1981-2019)

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### SUMMARY

*This document presents an up-to-date summary of the French purse seine fleet targeting tropical tunas in the Indian Ocean. The statistics cover the period 1981-2019 and specifically focus on the activity of the last year of the fishery. In 2019, a total of 15 French vessels operated in the eastern Indian Ocean including 12 purse seiners and 3 supplies. The total capacity weighted by the months of activity for each vessel is 10724t. The total nominal effort in 2019 was of 2501 fishing days and 2561 sets with 1918 sets on floating objects and 643 on free schools. The total catch of the French component of the EU purse seine fleet of the Indian Ocean was 70622t, being composed of 38.5%, 55.7%, 5.5% and 0.3% of yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna, bigeye tuna and other species respectively. The most noticeable change in 2019 was the decrease of the percentage of the number of sets on floating object with 75% in comparison with 90% in 2018. This change in the fishing strategy led to a reporting of the catches on free school despite a global decrease (-17%). Remarkably, skipjack proportion in free school became important (37%) since 2018.*

**KEYWORDS :** *Tropical tuna fisheries, French purse seining, free swimming school, fish aggregating devices, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, *Thunnus albacares*, *Thunnus obesus**

### 1 Introduction

French tuna purse seiners have been fishing yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), and bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) in the Indian Ocean since the early 1980s. Tuna schools are harvested through two major fishing modes that result in different species and size composition of the catch, i.e. tunas in free-swimming schools (FSC) and tunas associated with drifting Floating Objects (FOB) now dominated by artificial Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD). The French purse seine fishery activities and catches are monitored by the 'Institut de Recherche pour le Développement' (IRD) since the early 1980s in collaboration with the 'Seychelles Fishing Authority' (SFA). Here, we report a synthesis of the fishing activities of the French purse seiners during the period 1981-2019 based on the collection of logbooks and landing reports and sampling operations conducted at ports during unloading for target species (i.e skipjack, yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna) which are analysed with the T3 process.

## **Material and methods**

### *1.1 Fishing data from vessels reports*

Logbooks and sale reports were collected in collaboration with fishing companies and covered 100% of the fishing trips that occurred during 1981-2019. For each trip, at unloading, shipment was sort by species (and by commercial categories) and weight at the cannery. For each set, the purse seine skippers reported in the logbook all information on vessel's activities including:

- Catch in weight (visually assessed)
- Raw species composition of the sets (visually assessed)
- Date of the sets
- Geographic location of the sets.
- Activity and details on floating objects (mainly FAD), since 2013

### *1.2 Sampling*

In 2019, 469 well samples were collected at unloading of French purse seiners in the ports of Victoria. These samples were used to estimate the size and species composition of the catch following a sampling and processing protocol that is common through purse seiners flying the flag of Spain and other flags associated with the French purse seine fleet (Pallarès and Petit, 1998). A total of about 99 000 tunas measured were used in the T3 (Traitement des Thons Tropicaux) processing of the French purse seine fishery data for 2019 (Duparc et al., 2018).

### *1.3 Fishing effort*

Nominal fishing effort was derived from logbooks and expressed in days-at-sea and fishing days considering that fishing operations for purse seiners occur only during daylight. Searching time (days), which accounts for the expected time required for setting the purse seine, was also used to describe the nominal purse seine effort. In the Indian Ocean, the maximum duration of a fishing day for purse seiners targeting tropical tunas is 13 hours.

## 2 Results and interpretations

### 2.1 Fleet capacity

In 2019, 12 French purse seiners (**Figure 1**) operated in the Indian Ocean and conducted a total of 131 fishing trips lasting 22 days on average. The fleet was composed of 11 vessels of carrying capacity (CC) 800-1200 t, and 1 vessels of CC >1,200 t (**Table 1**). Total carrying capacity in 2019 decreased of 8% compared to 2018. The total capacity weighted by the months of activity for each vessel is 10724t.

In 2019, 3 support vessels has been operating in the Indian Ocean in support of French purse seiners. Support vessel's activities mainly consist in searching for tuna schools and both deploying and managing the stock of FADs and associated buoys through deployment of FADs, visits and retrieval of some buoys or FADs that drift outside the purse seine fishing grounds. The French support vessel spent a total of 418 days at sea in 2019, contributing to 13% of the cumulated days at sea of the French fishing fleet (purse seiners and support vessels).

### 2.2 Fishing effort

The total nominal effort in 2019 for fishing and searching was 2501 and 2389 days respectively (**Figure 2** and **Table 2**) which is 13% lesser than 2018. Since the peak in 2007, the fishing effort has decreased by 51% due to the departure of 7 vessels.

The total annual number of fishing sets in 2019 decreased of 6% compare to 2018 and reached 2561 (2186 positive sets and 375 null sets). However the number of set on free swimming schools increased by 147% (N = 643) from last year (**Table 3**).

In 2018, the percentage of FOB sets was the highest value estimated since the beginning of the fishery with 90% (**Figure 3**). In 2019, the percentage came back to a value close to 2017 (75%) that corresponds to a decrease of 17% compare to 2018. The success rate of catches is 94% on FOBs and 60% on FSC.

### 2.3 Deployment of Fishing Aggregating Devices (FADs) and buoys

In 2014, the increase in the number of seiners was linked to the integration of vessels under the Mayotte flag (**Table 4**). In 2016, a support vessel joined the French fleet followed by 2 more vessels in 2018 and 2019.

In 2019, 3363 FADs were deployed by the 12 purse seiners and the 3 support vessels, i.e. an average of 280 per vessel. It's a the first decreasing since the start of deployments, (-17% in 2019 compared to 2018). The contribution of support vessels is 28% in 2019. Same pattern was observed regarding the deployments of beacons with a decreasing of 16% (6181) compare to 2018.

### 2.4 Fisheries production, specific composition and size distribution

In 2019, landings of the main marketable tuna species (SKJ, YFT, BET) for the French purse seine fleet operating in the Indian Ocean reached a total of 70622t corresponding to a decrease of 17% compared to 2018 (**Figure 6**). Those landings are composed of 38%, 56% and 6% of yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye tunas respectively (**Table 5**). However, this global decrease was balanced by the strong increase of catch in FSC which almost doubled to reach the level of 2016.

Surprisingly, the species composition remained closed to 2018 despite the change in the catch pattern. The species composition was dominated by SKJ as usual (61%, **Table 6**) but this last represented 38% of the catch in FSC sets (against only 6% in 2016, **Table 7**).

Spatial extent used by vessels increased in 2018 following the trend since 2015 (Figure 8, Table 9). Figure 9, 10a, 10b and 10c respectively represent maps of the fishing effort and catches on all schools, floating object associated schools and free swimming school.

The size frequency distributions for the three species collected in 2019 for FOB-associated fishing sets are quite similar with the average frequency distributions observed for the period 2014-2018 (**Figures 11**

& 12). Considering the FSC sets, more larger individuals of BET and YFT were caught. But SKJ was clearly more present in catches on FSC and so represented more biomass than usual (2014-2018 mean).

### 3 Conclusion

Fisheries activities of the French fleet in Indian Ocean in 2019 was not in the continuity with the previous year for effort and catches.

The most noticeable change in 2019 was the decrease of the percentage of the number of sets on floating object with 75% in comparison with 90% in 2018. This change in the fishing strategy led to a reporting of the catches on free school despite a global decrease (-17%). Remarkably, skipjack proportion in free school become for 2 years with about 37%.

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5 Figures

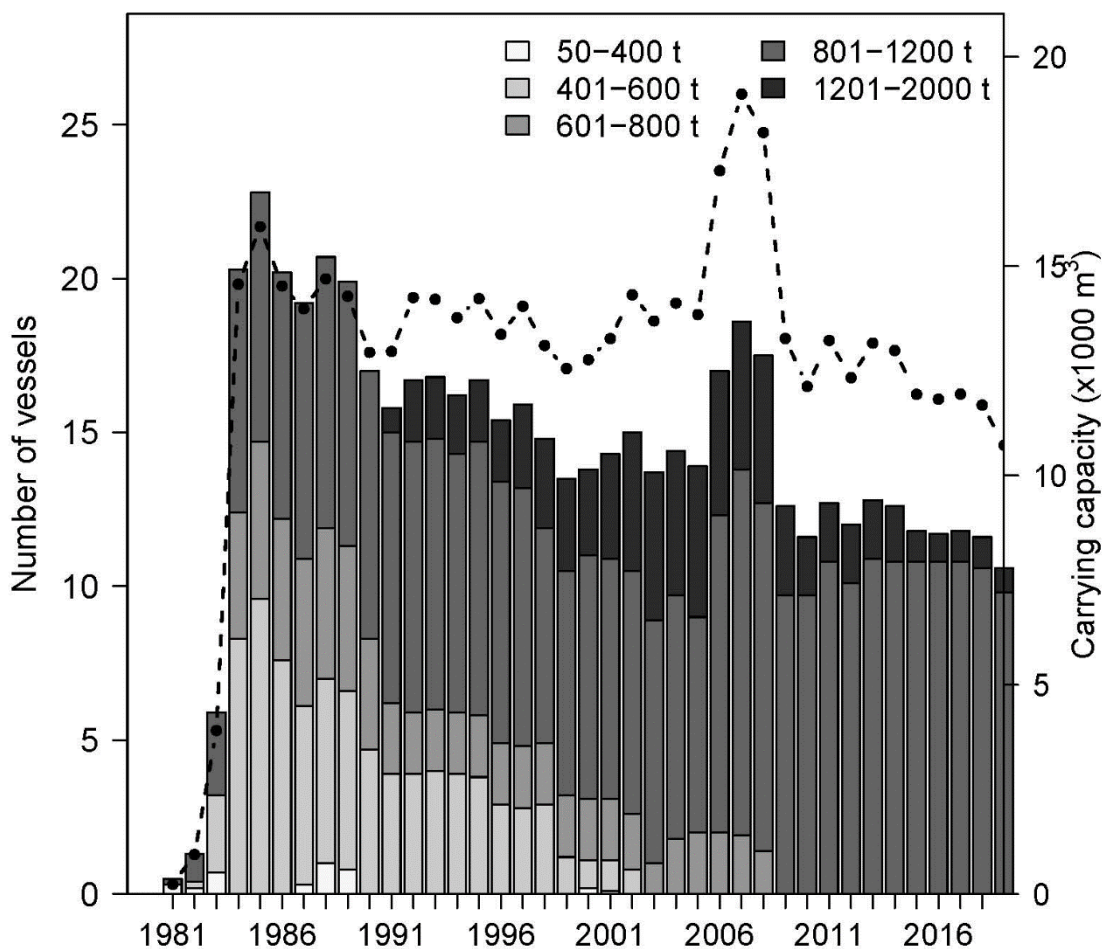


Figure 1 Fishing capacity of the French purse seine fishing fleet in the Indian Ocean. Annual changes in the number of purse seiners by tonnage category (barplots) and total carrying capacity (dashed line with circles) during 1981-2019.

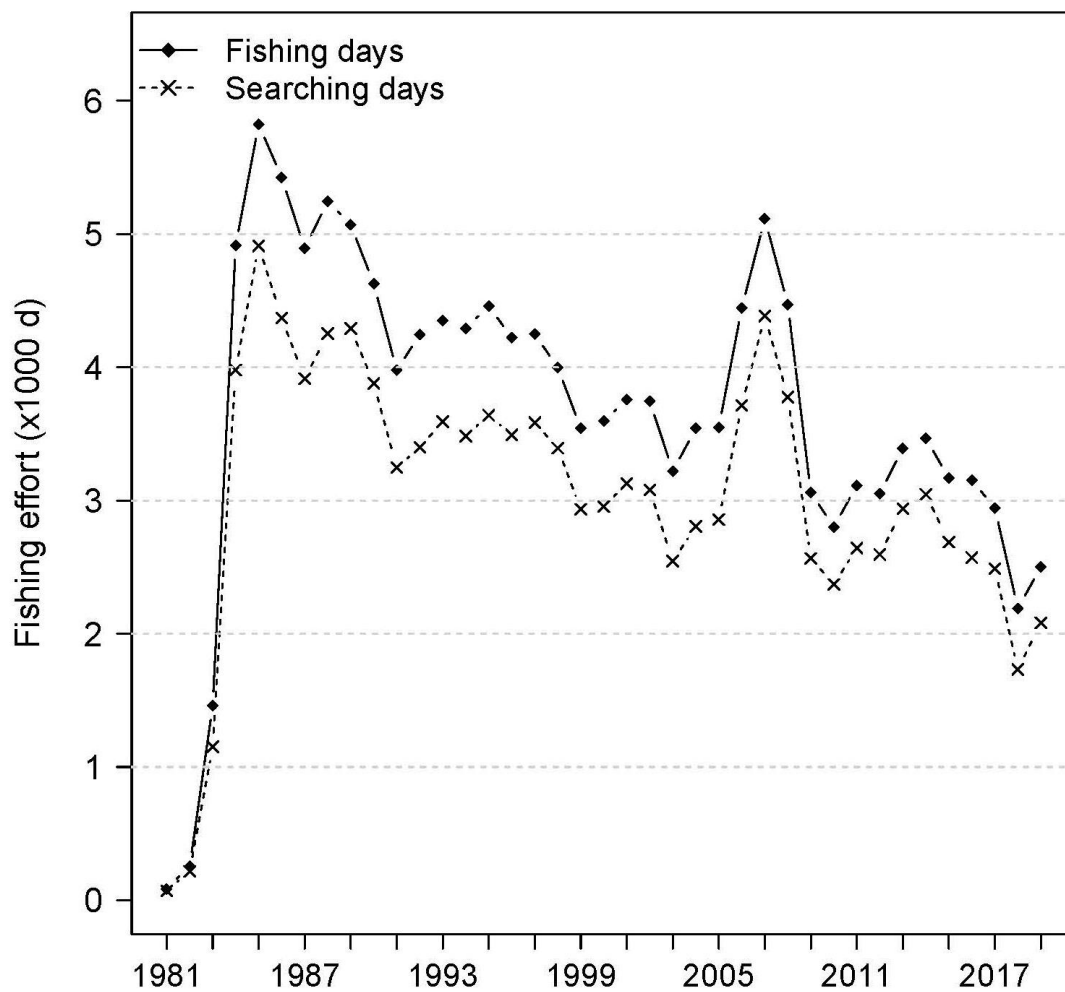


Figure 2 Changes in nominal effort over time. Annual total number of fishing and searching days for the French purse seine fishing fleet in the Indian Ocean during 1981-2019

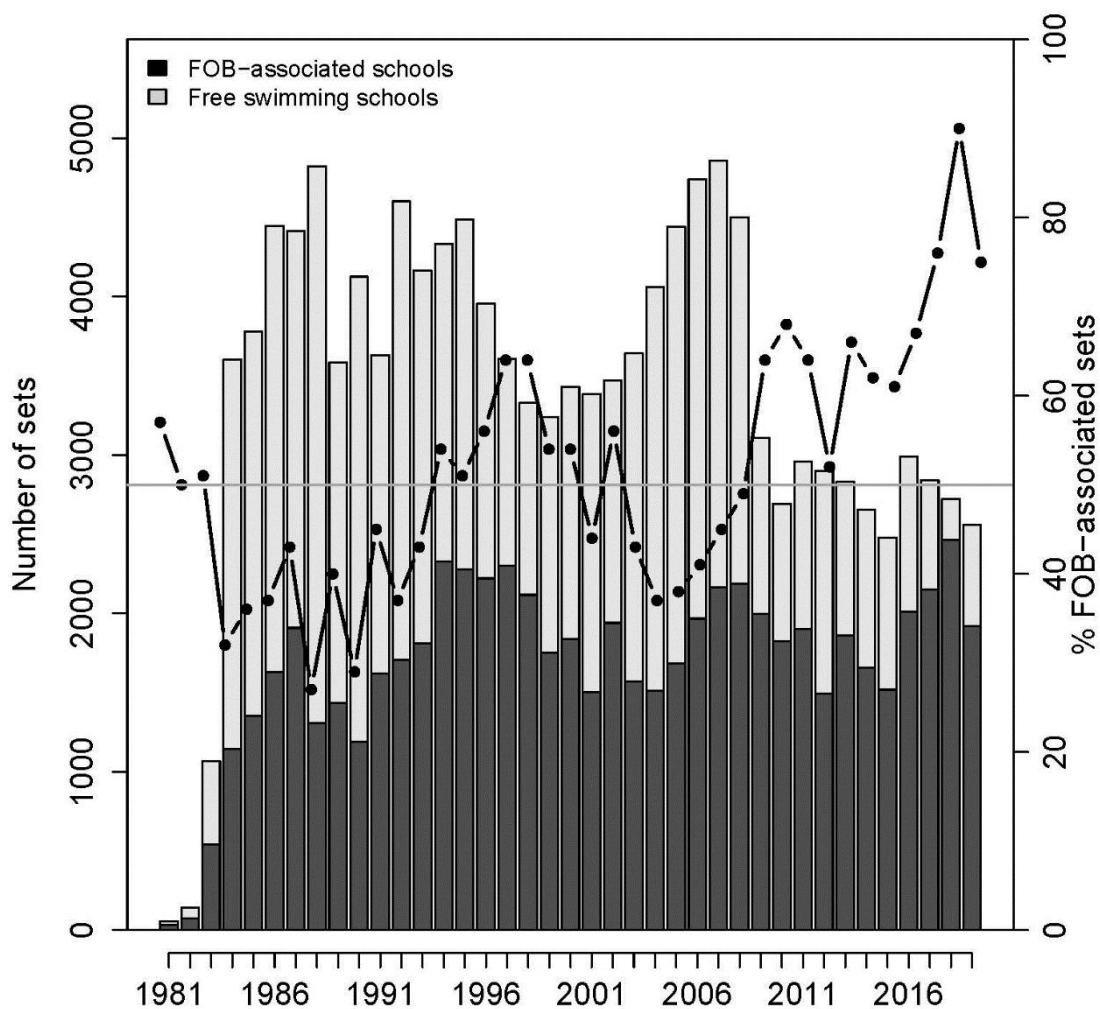


Figure 3 Fishing operations. Annual number of fishing sets in the French purse seine fishery on FOB-associated and free-swimming schools during 1981-2019. Line with solid circles indicates the percentage of sets on FOB-associated schools. Grey solid line indicates the 50% value.



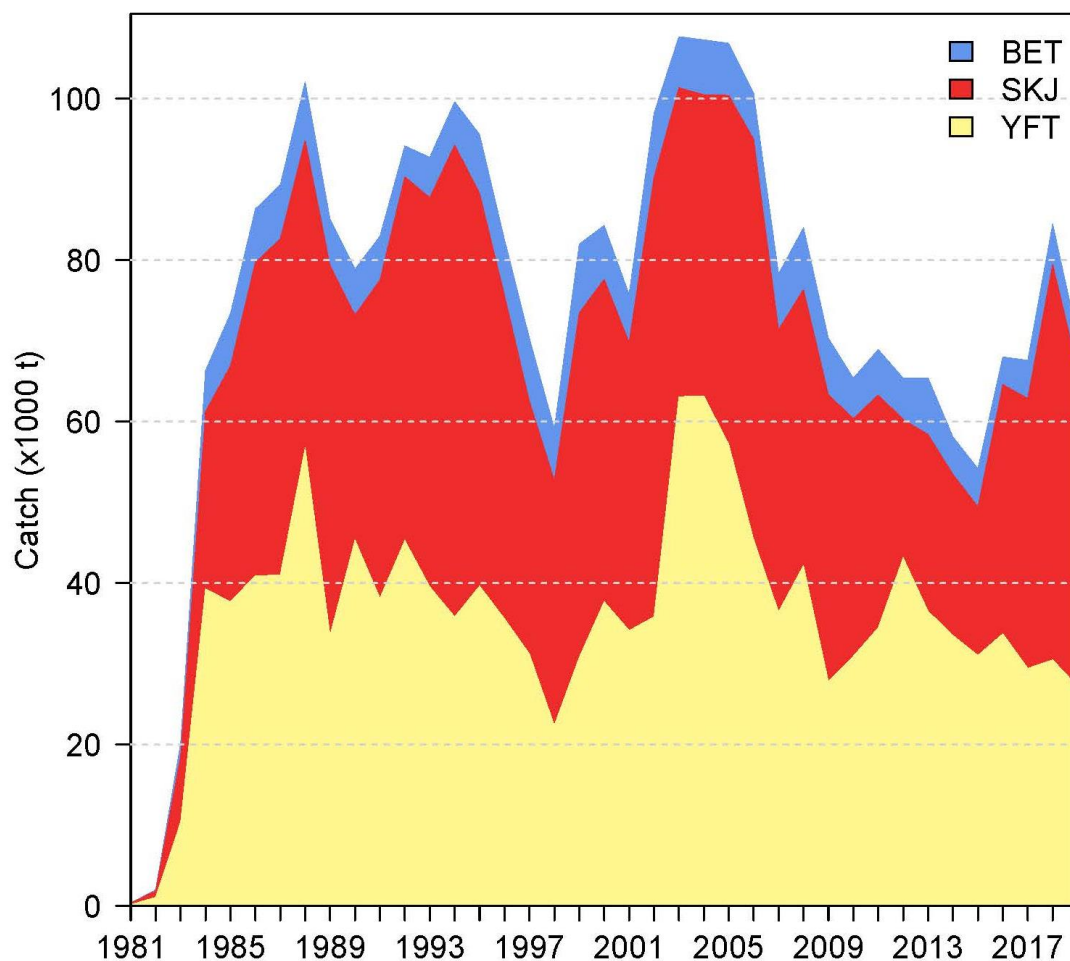


Figure 6 Total fishery production. Catch by species of the French purse seine fishing fleet during 1981-2019

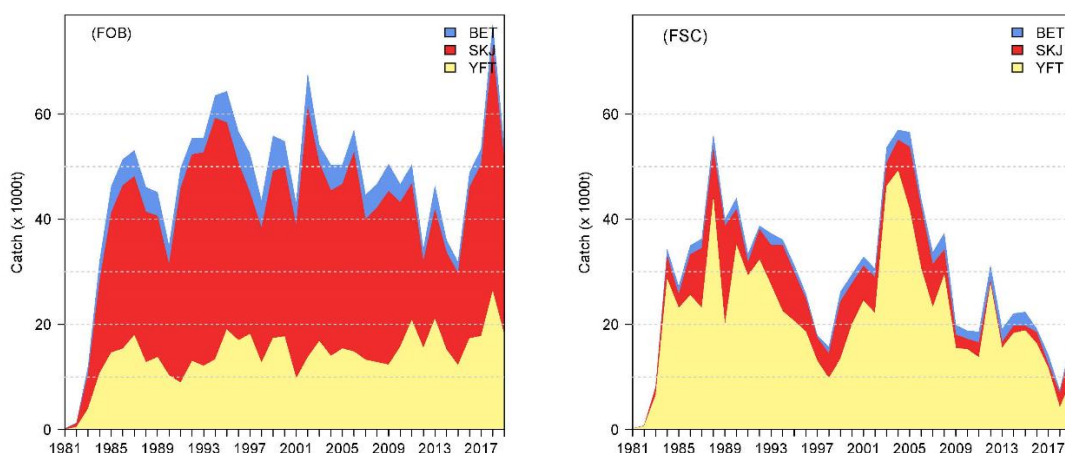


Figure 7 Fishery production by major fishing mode. Catch by species of the French purse seine fishing

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fleet on FOB-associated and free-swimming schools during 1981-2019

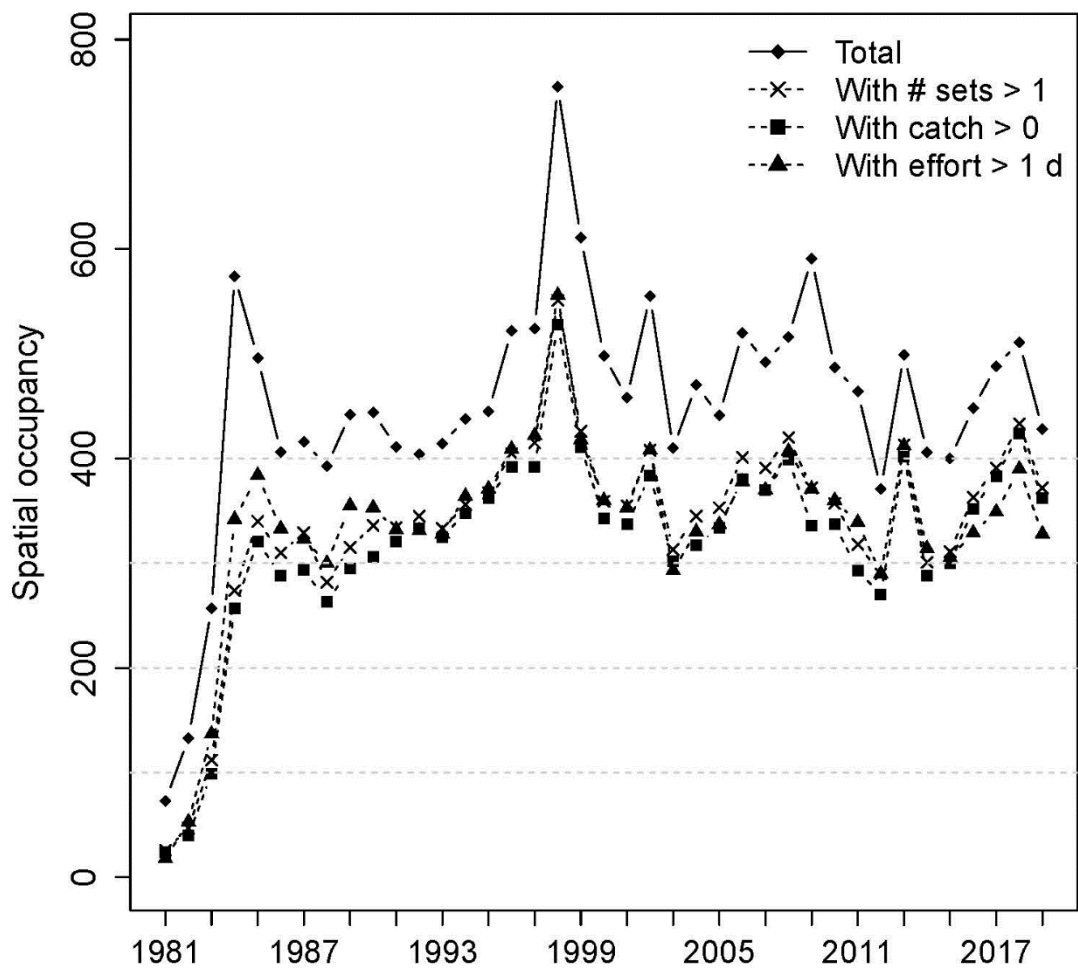


Figure 8 Changes in spatial extent of the purse seine fishery over time. Mean annual number of 1-degree squares explored by each vessel of the French purse seine fleet during 1981-2019.

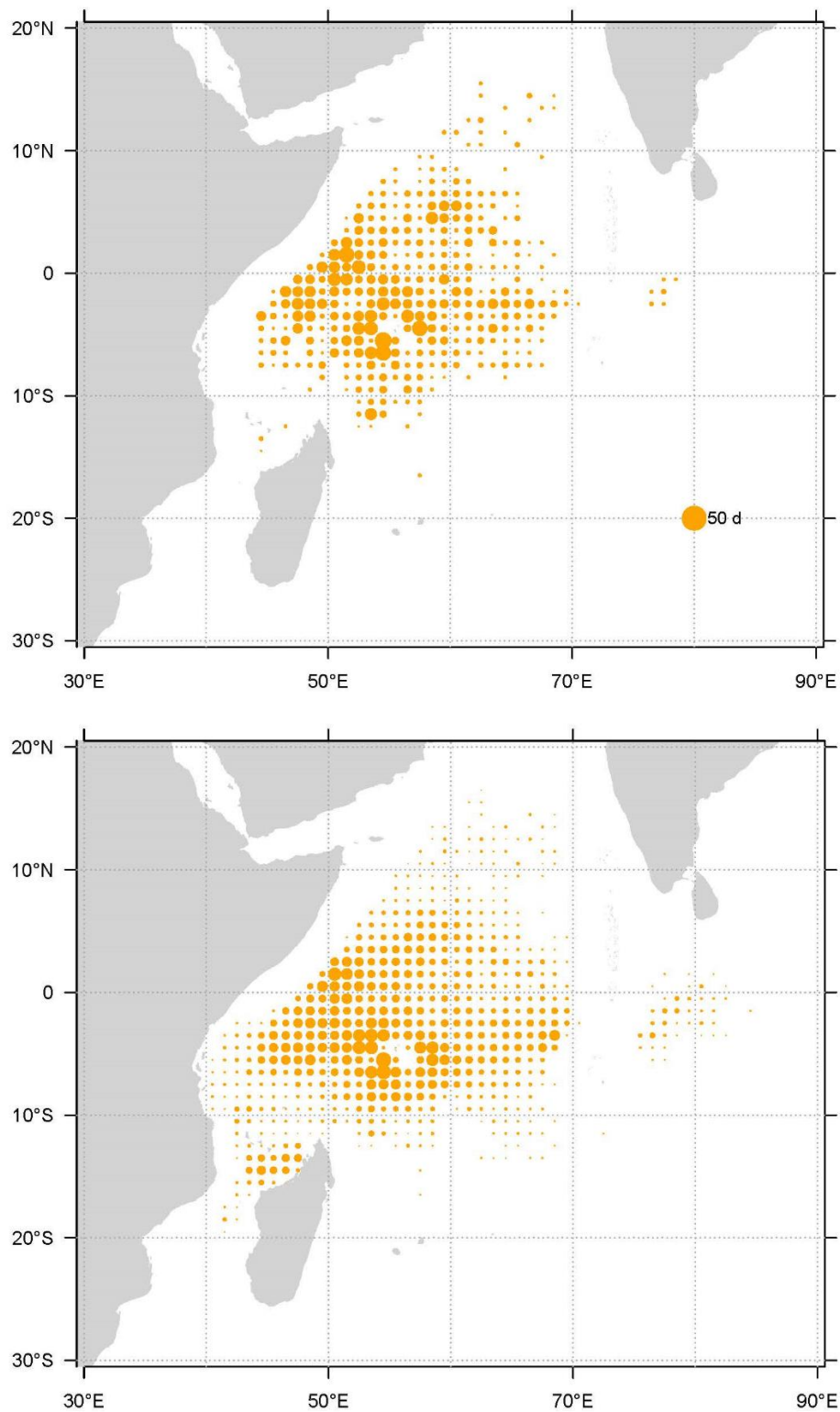


Figure 9 Fishing grounds. Spatial distribution of fishing effort (in searching days) of the French purse seine fishing fleet in 2019 (up panel) and with an average from 2014 to 2018 (down panel).

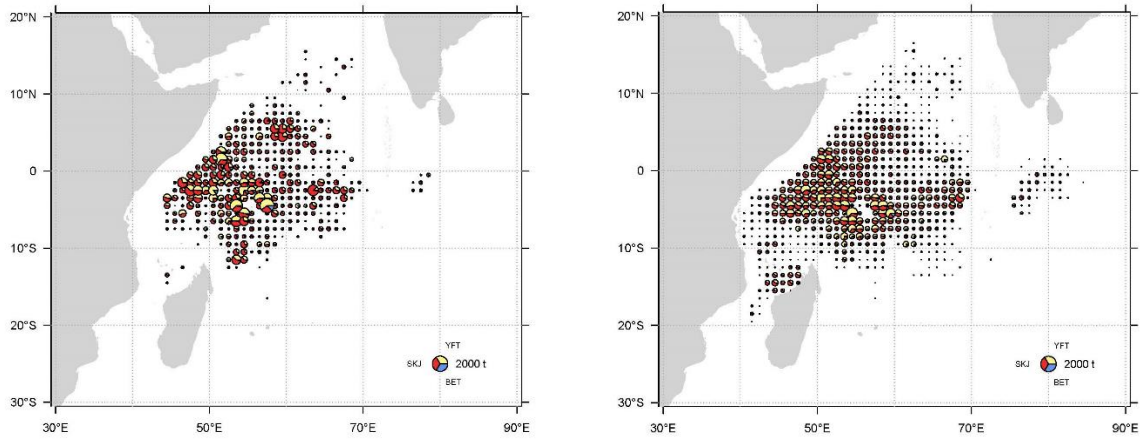


Figure 10a Spatial distribution of tuna catches of the French purse seine fishing fleet made on all schools type in 2019 left panel, 2014-2018 right panel

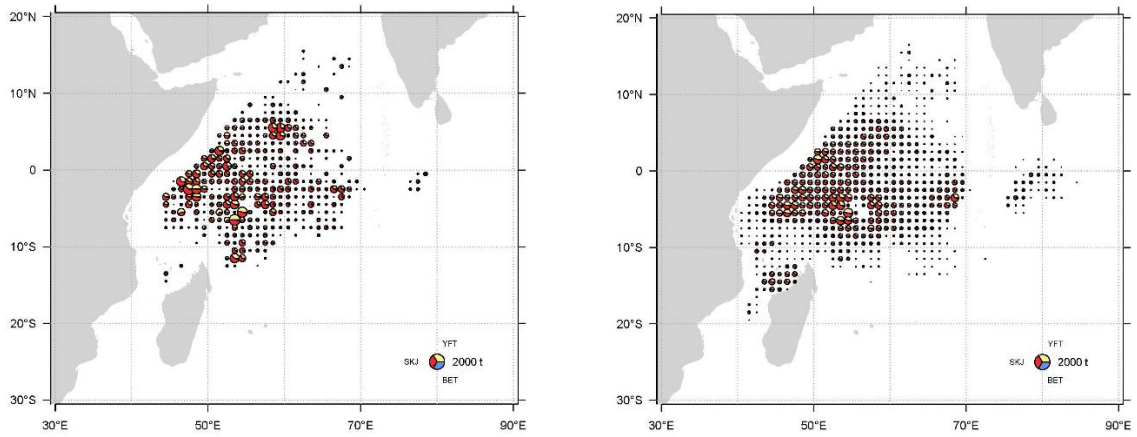


Figure 10b Spatial distribution of tuna catches of the French purse seine fishing fleet made on FOB-associated schools in 2019 left panel, 2014-2018 right panel

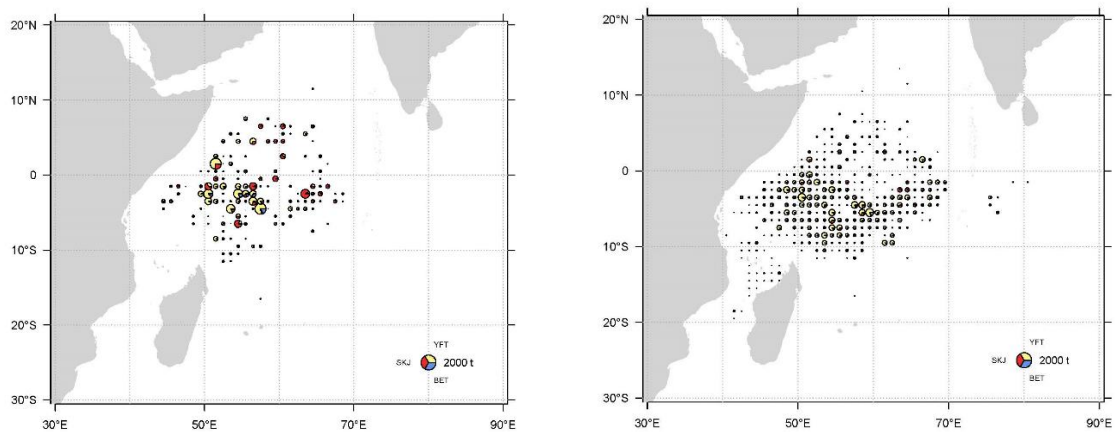


Figure 10c Spatial distribution of tuna catches of the French purse seine fishing fleet made on free

swimming schools in 2019, left panel, 2014-2018 right panel

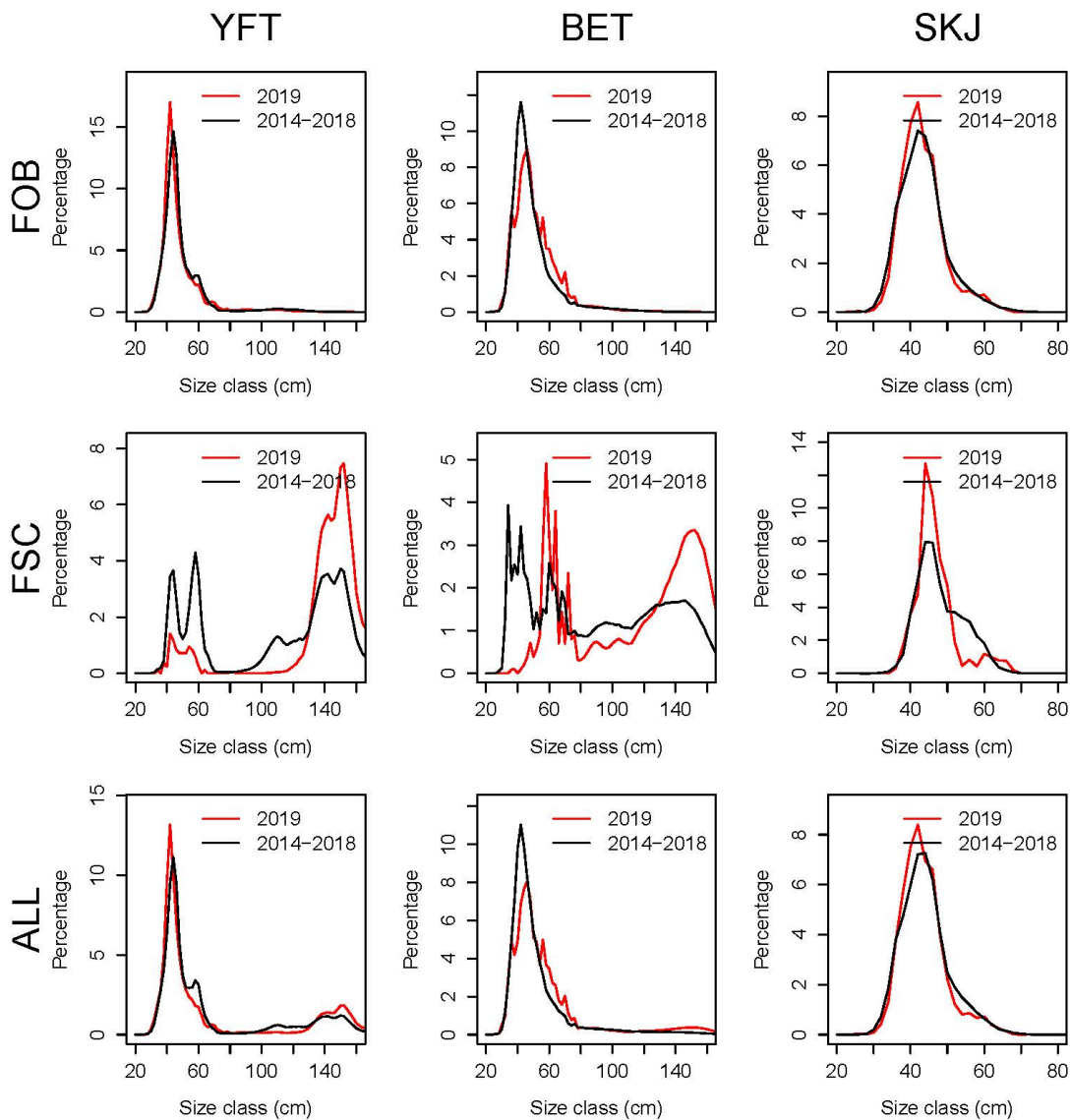


Figure 11 Distribution by size class of the catch (in percentage of the total number of fishes) for the French purse seine fleet in 2019 (red line) and for an average year representing the period 2014-2018 (black line)

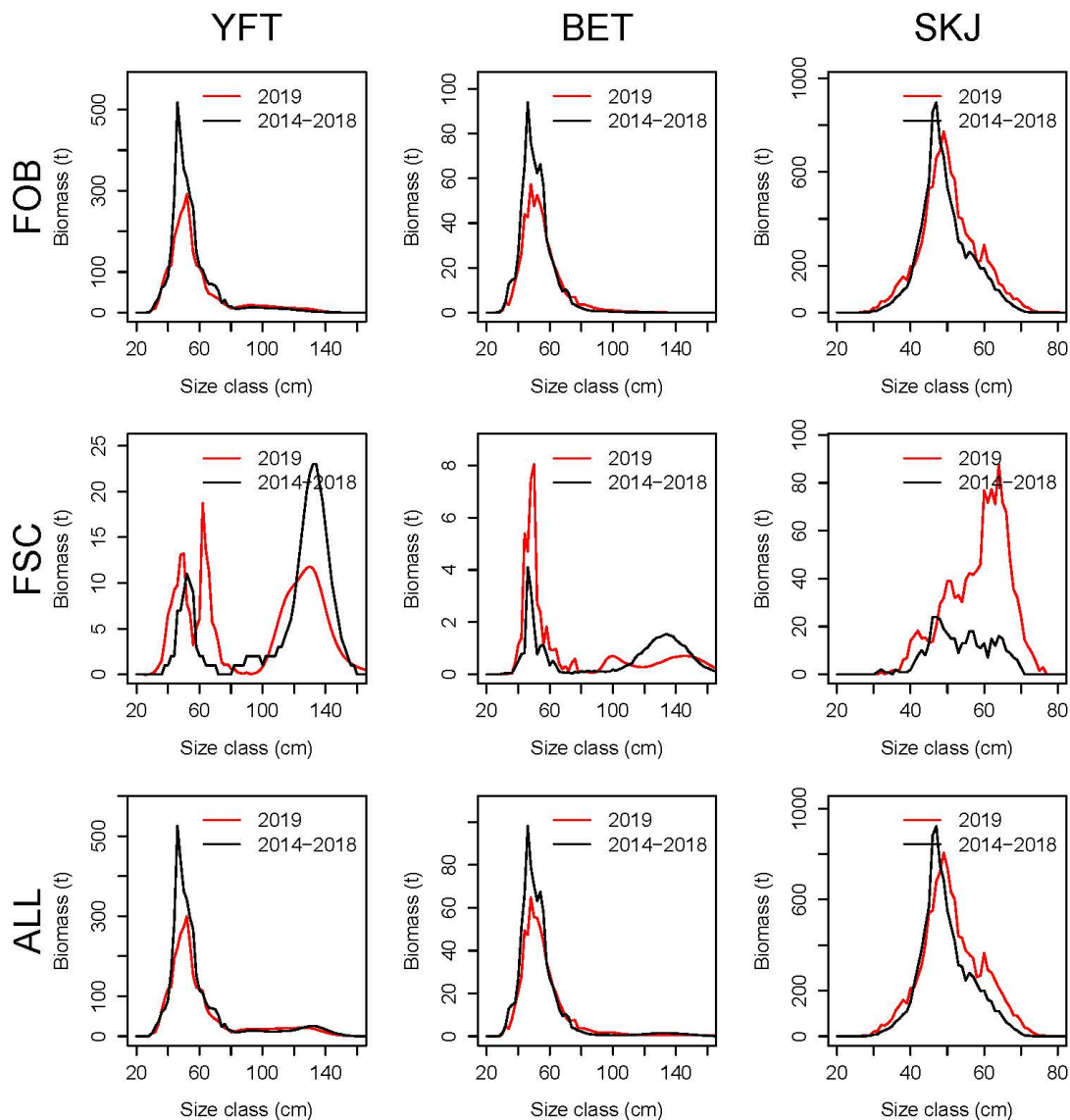


Figure 12 Size distributions in biomass of individuals by species and by fishing mode for the French purse seine fleet in 2019 (red line) and for an average year representing the period 2014-2018 (black line)

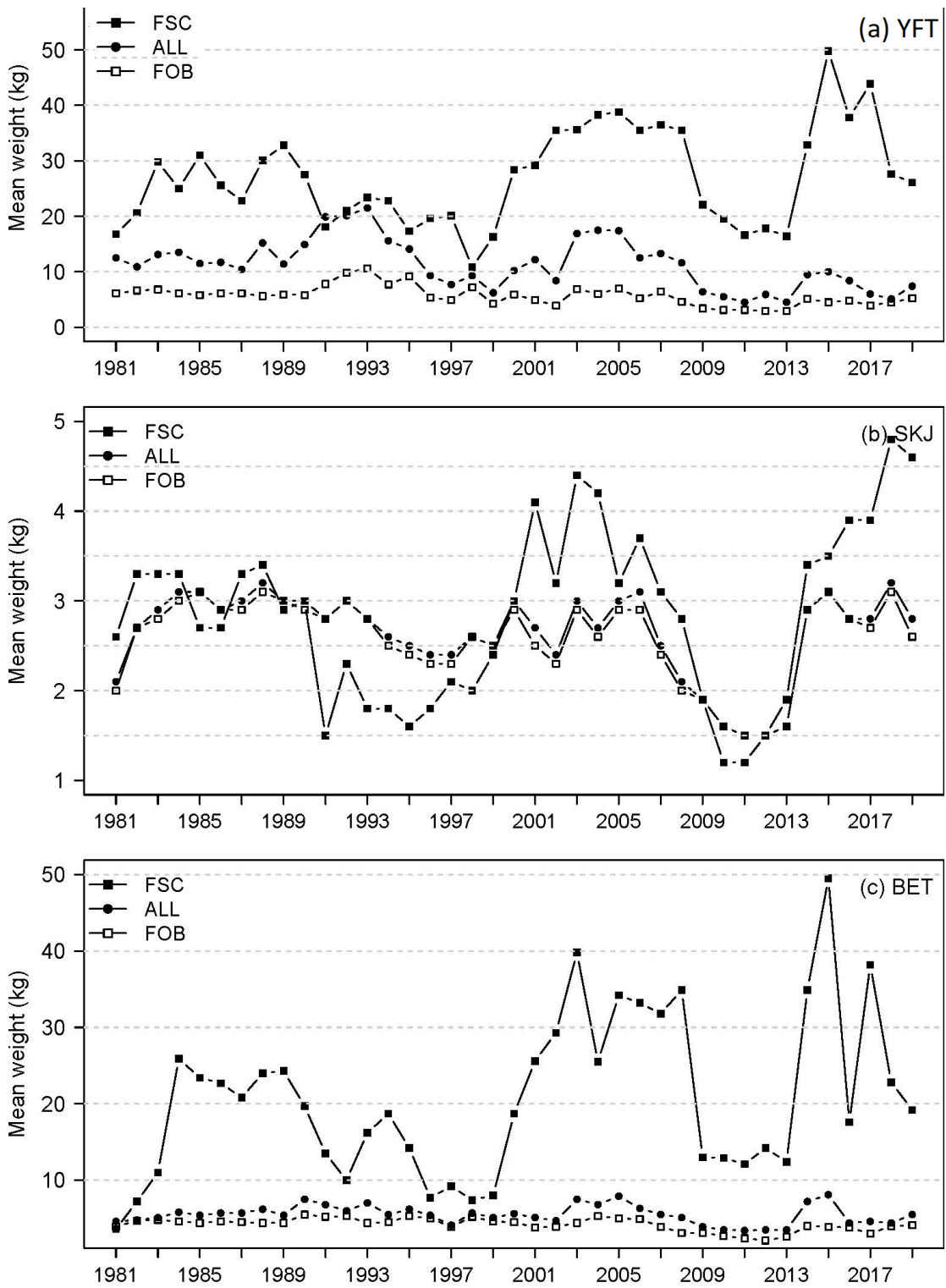


Figure 13 Annual time series of mean weight (kg) for (a) yellowfin, (b) skipjack, and (c) bigeye tuna by fishing mode during 1981-2019



## 6 Tables

Table 1 Annual number of purse seiners by size category and total carrying capacity of the European tropical tuna purse seine fishing fleet of the Indian Ocean during 1981-2019. Total carrying capacity (CC) was weighted by the proportion of the year at sea (in months)

Year	50-400	401-600	601-800	801-1200	1201-2000	>2000	Nb vessels	Nb vessels weighted	CC
1981	0.3	0	0	0.2	0	0	2	0.42	233
1982	0.2	0.2	0	0.9	0	0	4	1.25	945
1983	0.7	2.5	0	2.7	0	0	12	5.83	3907
1984	0	8.3	4.1	7.9	0	0	26	20.25	14566
1985	0	9.6	5.1	8.1	0	0	26	22.75	15945
1986	0	7.6	4.6	8	0	0	22	20.17	14526
1987	0.3	5.8	4.8	8.3	0	0	21	19.17	13983
1988	1	6	4.9	8.8	0	0	21	20.67	14699
1989	0.8	5.8	4.7	8.6	0	0	21	19.92	14285
1990	0	4.7	3.6	8.7	0	0	21	16.92	12939
1991	0	3.9	2.3	8.8	0.8	0	18	15.92	12943
1992	0	3.9	2	8.8	2	0	17	16.75	14220
1993	0	4	2	8.8	2	0	17	16.75	14180
1994	0	3.9	2	8.4	1.9	0	17	16.25	13743
1995	0	3.8	2	8.9	2	0	17	16.67	14199
1996	0	2.9	2	8.5	2	0	17	15.42	13341
1997	0	2.8	2	8.4	2.7	0	19	15.83	14013
1998	0	2.9	2	7	2.9	0	16	14.83	13074
1999	0	1.2	2	7.3	3	0	15	13.5	12523
2000	0.2	0.9	2	7.9	2.8	0	15	13.83	12736
2001	0.1	1	2	7.8	3.4	0	19	14.33	13241
2002	0	0.8	1.8	7.9	4.5	0	16	15	14291
2003	0	0	1	7.9	4.8	0	14	13.75	13676
2004	0	0	1.8	7.9	4.7	0	15	14.42	14090
2005	0	0	2	7	4.9	0	16	13.92	13818
2006	0	0	2	10.3	4.7	0	18	16.92	17250
2007	0	0	1.9	11.9	4.8	0	19	18.58	19087
2008	0	0	1.4	11.3	4.8	0	19	17.5	18173
2009	0	0	0	9.7	2.9	0	18	12.58	13269
2010	0	0	0	9.7	1.9	0	13	11.58	12128
2011	0	0	0	10.8	1.9	0	13	12.67	13228
2012	0	0	0	10.1	1.9	0	15	12	12341
2013	0	0	0	10.9	1.9	0	13	12.83	13162
2014	0	0	0	10.8	1.8	0	13	12.67	12984
2015	0	0	0	10.8	1	0	12	11.83	11940
2016	0	0	0	10.8	0.9	0	12	11.75	11823
2017	0	0	0	10.8	1	0	12	11.83	11944
2018	0	0	0	10.6	1	0	12	11.58	11686
2019	0	0	0	9.8	0.8	0	12	10.67	10724



Table 2 Annual nominal fishing effort of the French purse seine fishing fleet expressed in fishing and searching days during 1981-2019. Searching days was derived from the total time spent at sea corrected for periods of damage, route towards port, and purse seine operation. The duration per day for fishing activities is 13 hours

<b>Year</b>	<b>Fishing days</b>	<b>Set duration in days</b>	<b>Searching days</b>
1981	84	14	69
1982	255	39	217
1983	1460	309	1151
1984	4914	935	3979
1985	5823	912	4910
1986	5424	1056	4368
1987	4892	979	3914
1988	5245	993	4252
1989	5069	778	4291
1990	4627	748	3879
1991	3977	731	3246
1992	4245	846	3399
1993	4349	757	3591
1994	4291	807	3484
1995	4460	821	3639
1996	4222	730	3493
1997	4249	664	3585
1998	3997	604	3393
1999	3543	610	2934
2000	3596	642	2954
2001	3757	631	3126
2002	3745	667	3078
2003	3220	676	2544
2004	3541	735	2805
2005	3549	692	2857
2006	4445	730	3714
2007	5115	732	4384
2008	4471	694	3777
2009	3060	494	2565
2010	2801	431	2370
2011	3113	471	2643
2012	3052	459	2594
2013	3391	450	2939
2014	3467	421	3046
2015	3167	479	2688
2016	3152	582	2571
2017	2928	458	2470
2018	2190	457	1732
2019	2501	418	2082

Table 3 Number of positive and null sets by fishing mode made by the French purse seine fishing fleet in the Indian ocean during 1981-2019. FOB = Floating Object; FSC = Free-Swimming School

Year	A-Total	A-Positive	A-Null	L-Total	L-Positive	L-Null	F-Total	F-Positive	F-Null	% Fob
1981	56	37	19	32	24	8	24	13	11	57
1982	143	105	38	72	63	9	71	42	29	50
1983	1068	738	330	540	449	91	528	289	239	51
1984	3601	2077	1524	1143	888	255	2458	1189	1269	32
1985	3780	2108	1672	1353	1118	235	2427	990	1437	36
1986	4446	2257	2189	1628	1282	346	2818	975	1843	37
1987	4414	2592	1822	1908	1520	388	2506	1072	1434	43
1988	4824	2648	2176	1309	1104	205	3515	1544	1971	27
1989	3583	2083	1500	1436	1213	223	2147	870	1277	40
1990	4126	2322	1804	1189	991	198	2937	1331	1606	29
1991	3630	2448	1182	1622	1538	84	2008	910	1098	45
1992	4602	2980	1622	1708	1569	139	2894	1411	1483	37
1993	4164	2764	1400	1811	1612	199	2353	1152	1201	43
1994	4332	3099	1233	2326	2068	258	2006	1031	975	54
1995	4486	3066	1420	2276	2052	224	2210	1014	1196	51
1996	3956	2883	1073	2221	1956	265	1735	927	808	56
1997	3607	2714	893	2301	2035	266	1306	679	627	64
1998	3328	2454	874	2117	1828	289	1211	626	585	64
1999	3240	2371	869	1750	1553	197	1490	818	672	54
2000	3429	2526	903	1838	1568	270	1591	958	633	54
2001	3385	2370	1015	1501	1321	180	1884	1049	835	44
2002	3469	2539	930	1940	1745	195	1529	794	735	56
2003	3641	2344	1297	1570	1357	213	2071	987	1084	43
2004	4062	2382	1680	1511	1275	236	2551	1107	1444	37
2005	4442	2862	1580	1683	1473	210	2759	1389	1370	38
2006	4741	3000	1741	1967	1696	271	2774	1304	1470	41
2007	4857	2909	1948	2163	1698	465	2694	1211	1483	45
2008	4502	2954	1548	2186	1850	336	2316	1104	1212	49
2009	3108	2339	769	1998	1714	284	1110	625	485	64
2010	2691	2019	672	1825	1590	235	866	429	437	68
2011	2959	2144	815	1900	1631	269	1059	513	546	64
2012	2899	2107	792	1493	1276	217	1406	831	575	52
2013	2830	2125	705	1860	1629	231	970	496	474	66
2014	2655	2114	541	1657	1503	154	998	611	387	62
2015	2478	1921	557	1518	1399	119	960	522	438	61
2016	2991	2415	576	2009	1884	125	982	531	451	67
2017	2839	2410	429	2150	2007	143	689	403	286	76

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2018	2723	2478	245	2463	2317	146	260	161	99	90
2019	2561	2186	375	1919	1802	117	642	384	258	75

Table 4 Number of deployment of Fads and buoys 2013-2018

Year	Number of vessels		FADs		Buoys	
	PS	SV	PS	SV	PS	SV
2013	8		104	0	406	0
2014	13		905	0	2978	0
2015	12		1642	0	4201	0
2016	12	1	2181	272	5620	329
2017	12	1	2945	797	5743	996
2018	12	2	3293	1167	5738	1653
2019	12	3	2430	933	4749	1432

FADs : Fishing Aggregating Device

PS : Purse Seiner

SV : Supply Vessel

Table 5 Catch by species of the French purse seine fishing fleet of the Indian Ocean during 1981-2019

<b>Year</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>ALB</b>	<b>OTH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1981	188	158	23	0	56	425
1982	1081	792	145	0	0	2018
1983	10400	8153	1536	0	136	20225
1984	39268	21979	5081	224	102	66655
1985	37706	29183	6477	445	183	73994
1986	40911	38786	6636	200	177	86711
1987	41012	41620	6701	217	26	89576
1988	56766	38094	7251	177	19	102307
1989	33548	45750	5764	6	0	85068
1990	45351	27873	5663	36	31	78954
1991	38134	39388	5441	875	0	83837
1992	45282	45048	3822	1403	0	95555
1993	39539	48192	5015	310	0	93057
1994	35819	58430	5367	292	0	99908
1995	39636	48652	7280	350	0	95918
1996	35578	40056	6908	391	0	82933
1997	31227	31276	7824	539	0	70866
1998	22382	30340	6389	460	0	59571
1999	30799	42665	8518	154	0	82136
2000	37694	39935	6673	350	0	84652
2001	34127	35673	5956	659	15	76429
2002	35815	54405	7962	264	45	98492
2003	63101	38258	6334	608	31	108333
2004	63174	37323	6798	77	39	107411
2005	57198	43220	6453	86	0	106957
2006	45383	49573	5714	850	41	101560
2007	36455	34918	6928	335	0	78636
2008	42185	34186	7652	981	10	85013
2009	27807	35532	6991	295	0	70625
2010	30946	29432	5003	63	11	65455
2011	34468	28826	5635	575	0	69504
2012	43151	17120	5115	771	0	66156
2013	36511	21882	7015	331	0	65739
2014	33513	19944	4640	242	0	58339
2015	31046	18397	4730	216	0	54390
2016	33757	30698	3566	228	0	68249
2017	29442	33422	4742	149	13	67768
2018	30500	49001	4998	71	158	84729
2019	27208	39357	3890	56	111	70622

Table 6 Catch by species made on FOB-associated schools for the French purse seine fishing fleet of the Indian Ocean during 1981-2019

<b>Year</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>ALB</b>	<b>OTH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1981	37	128	20	0	56	240
1982	442	709	131	0	0	1282
1983	3959	6637	1381	0	136	12114
1984	10692	17600	3762	0	77	32130
1985	14623	26582	4993	14	167	46378
1986	15353	31040	4953	0	177	51522
1987	17926	30205	4937	0	3	53072
1988	12763	28633	4675	0	19	46090
1989	13769	26850	4499	0	0	45118
1990	10312	21046	3513	0	31	34902
1991	8886	36896	3858	0	0	49639
1992	13014	39286	3112	9	0	55421
1993	12111	40582	2769	5	0	55467
1994	13340	45866	4313	23	0	63543
1995	19002	39380	5933	17	0	64332
1996	16944	33741	5975	70	0	56730
1997	18173	26882	7389	67	0	52511
1998	12680	25599	5173	13	0	43464
1999	17389	31759	6692	103	0	55943
2000	17699	32142	4960	43	0	54845
2001	9678	29045	4206	108	15	43052
2002	13704	47527	6385	0	45	67661
2003	16810	33837	3429	0	31	54106
2004	13959	31473	4882	0	39	50352
2005	15399	31270	3667	0	0	50336
2006	14818	37920	4172	0	41	56951
2007	13254	26695	4662	3	0	44613
2008	12784	29427	4486	2	10	46710
2009	12320	33004	5125	10	0	50459
2010	15704	27461	3474	32	11	46682
2011	20755	26017	3555	45	0	50372
2012	15484	16442	2287	30	0	34243
2013	21008	20814	4506	32	0	46360
2014	15180	18540	2334	36	0	36090
2015	12216	17500	2105	44	0	31865
2016	17368	28420	3097	61	0	48948
2017	18282	31403	2910	54	13	52661
2018	26312	46275	4446	66	158	77257
2019	17949	33007	2698	41	110	53805





Table 7 Catch by species made on free-swimming schools for the French purse seine fishing fleet of the Indian Ocean during 1981-2019

<b>Year</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>ALB</b>	<b>OTH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1981	151	31	4	0	0	185
1982	638	83	14	0	0	736
1983	6441	1516	155	0	0	8111
1984	28576	4380	1319	224	25	34525
1985	23083	2601	1484	432	16	27615
1986	25558	7747	1683	200	0	35189
1987	23086	11415	1764	217	23	36505
1988	44003	9461	2575	177	0	56217
1989	19779	18900	1265	6	0	39951
1990	35039	6827	2150	36	0	44052
1991	29248	2492	1583	875	0	34198
1992	32268	5762	710	1394	0	40134
1993	27428	7611	2246	305	0	37590
1994	22479	12564	1054	269	0	36365
1995	20634	9272	1348	333	0	31587
1996	18633	6315	933	321	0	26203
1997	13054	4394	434	472	0	18355
1998	9702	4742	1215	448	0	16107
1999	13410	10907	1826	51	0	26193
2000	19995	7793	1713	307	0	29808
2001	24450	6627	1750	551	0	33377
2002	22111	6878	1578	264	0	30831
2003	46291	4422	2906	608	0	54226
2004	49215	5850	1916	77	0	57058
2005	41799	11950	2786	86	0	56620
2006	30564	11653	1542	850	0	44609
2007	23201	8224	2265	332	0	34023
2008	29401	4758	3166	979	0	38303
2009	15487	2527	1866	285	0	20166
2010	15242	1971	1529	31	0	18774
2011	13713	2809	2080	530	0	19132
2012	27668	678	2828	740	0	31913
2013	15503	1068	2509	299	0	19380
2014	18333	1404	2306	206	0	22249
2015	18830	897	2625	173	0	22525
2016	16388	2278	468	166	0	19301
2017	11680	828	1680	95	0	14284
2018	4188	2726	553	5	0	7472
2019	9259	6350	1192	15	1	16817



Table 8 Number of sets per searching day on FOB-associated (FOB) and free-swimming schools (FSC) for the French purse seine fishing fleet of the Indian Ocean during 1981-2019

<b>Year</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>FOB</b>	<b>FSC</b>
1981	0.75	0.43	0.32
1982	0.61	0.31	0.3
1983	0.86	0.43	0.42
1984	0.84	0.27	0.57
1985	0.71	0.25	0.46
1986	0.94	0.34	0.6
1987	1.04	0.45	0.59
1988	1.05	0.28	0.76
1989	0.77	0.31	0.46
1990	0.98	0.28	0.7
1991	1.03	0.46	0.57
1992	1.25	0.46	0.79
1993	1.07	0.47	0.6
1994	1.15	0.62	0.53
1995	1.14	0.58	0.56
1996	1.05	0.59	0.46
1997	0.93	0.59	0.34
1998	0.91	0.58	0.33
1999	1.02	0.55	0.47
2000	1.07	0.57	0.5
2001	1	0.44	0.56
2002	1.04	0.58	0.46
2003	1.32	0.57	0.75
2004	1.34	0.5	0.84
2005	1.43	0.54	0.89
2006	1.18	0.49	0.69
2007	1.02	0.46	0.57
2008	1.1	0.53	0.57
2009	1.12	0.72	0.4
2010	1.05	0.71	0.34
2011	1.03	0.66	0.37
2012	1.03	0.53	0.5
2013	0.89	0.58	0.3
2014	0.8	0.5	0.3
2015	0.85	0.52	0.33
2016	1	0.67	0.33
2017	0.97	0.74	0.24
2018	0.8	0.73	0.08
2019	0.85	0.64	0.21



Table 9 Annual number of 1-degree squares explored by the French purse seine fishing fleet during 1981-2019. #sets indicates squares where at least 1 fishing positive set was made.

<b>Year</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>#sets</b>	<b>Catch &gt;0</b>	<b>Effort &gt; 1 d</b>	<b>Effort &gt; 5 d</b>
1981	73	26	24	18	0
1982	133	47	40	53	10
1983	257	112	99	137	60
1984	574	274	257	342	182
1985	496	340	321	384	267
1986	406	310	288	333	223
1987	416	329	294	323	206
1988	393	282	263	300	210
1989	442	315	295	355	229
1990	444	336	306	353	215
1991	411	334	321	332	203
1992	404	345	333	331	198
1993	414	333	325	328	218
1994	438	356	348	364	231
1995	445	367	362	371	232
1996	522	405	392	409	245
1997	524	415	392	422	258
1998	755	551	528	556	245
1999	611	426	411	418	196
2000	498	359	343	360	201
2001	458	355	337	353	219
2002	555	408	384	408	237
2003	410	313	302	293	186
2004	470	345	317	330	171
2005	441	353	334	337	198
2006	520	401	380	378	220
2007	492	391	370	370	242
2008	516	420	399	407	245
2009	591	372	336	371	189
2010	487	357	337	360	186
2011	464	318	293	339	162
2012	371	290	270	290	184
2013	499	413	402	412	221
2014	406	301	288	314	190
2015	400	311	300	305	182
2016	448	363	352	328	183
2017	488	391	383	349	203
2019	428	372	362	328	168