



Comoros: National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2022

Executive Summary

Fishing in the Union of the Comoros is exclusively artisanal, carried out on open boats made of wood and fiberglass, motorized and non-motorized, with a length of 3 to 9 meters. It exploits mainly pelagic species (*Thunnus albacares*, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, *Thunnus alalunga*, *Istiophorus platypterus*, *Thunnus obesus*, *Euthynnus affinis*) and also benthic species. It contributes not only to the socio-economy of the country (55% of total employment in the agricultural sector, i.e. about 7,000 fishermen), and is a source of food and nutritional security, but also constitutes an important source of livelihood, well-being and cultural diversity for the people directly or indirectly engaged in this activity. The fishing techniques used are mainly troll, longline, light handline and few nets for small pelagics. The duration of the fishing trip is from one day to 7 days. The commercial circuit of the catches in general is very simple (Fishermen-Seller-Consumer) and the fishing products are only intended for the national market (local consumers and self-consumption). Since February 2011, Comoros has implemented a data collection system on the landing sites in collaboration with IOTC. Following an in-depth analysis carried out by the FAO on the data collected (2011-2014), a reorientation of the sampling plan was carried out and applied in 2015. And since 2017, the data collection is carried out entirely on smartphone. The annual production from the 2021 survey is estimated at 18,585 t of tunas on a total of 4,803 vessels.