



Comoros National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2023

Executive Summary

Fishing in the Union of the Comoros is exclusively small-scale, carried out on open boats made of wood and fibreglass, both motorised and non-motorised, ranging in length from 2 m to 9 m. It mainly exploits pelagic species (*Thunnus albacares*, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, *Thunnus alalunga*, *Istiophorus platypterus*, *Thunnus obesus*, *Euthynnus affinis*) and also benthic species. Not only does it contribute to the country's socio-economy (55% of total employment in the agricultural sector, i.e. around 7,000 fishermen), and is a source of food and nutritional security, it is also an important source of livelihood, well-being and cultural diversity for those directly or indirectly involved in this activity. The fishing techniques used are essentially troll, longline, light handline and few nets for small pelagics. Tides last from one day to 7 days. The commercial circuit for catches is generally very simple (fishermen-seller-consumer) and fishing products are intended solely for the national market (local consumers and own consumption). Since February 2011, the Comoros have set up a system for collecting data at landing sites in collaboration with the IOTC. Following an in-depth FAO analysis of the data collected (2011-2014), the sampling plan was reoriented and implemented in 2015. And, since 2017, data collection has been carried out entirely on smartphones. Annual production from the 2022 survey is estimated at 20,305 tonnes from a total of 4,825 boats.