Iran (Islamic Republic of) National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2023

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Ministry of Agriculture-Jahad
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INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02 (and other data related CMMs as noted below), final scientific data for the previous year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year, **for all fleets other than longline** [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2023, final data for the 2022 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2023)	YES 11/10/2023
In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional **longline data** 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 2023, preliminary data for the 2022 calendar year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2023). **REMINDER:** Final longline data for the previous year are due to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2023, final data for the 2022 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2023).	N/A
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: There is only one industrial longline vessel which has not been active in recent years. But numbers of artisanal longline were encouraged extensionally to move to longline seasonal and temporal during a year.	

Executive Summary

Iran (Islamic Republic of) has fishing grounds in the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, located in the northern and southern waters of the country. The southern waters of Iran are the most important resources for large pelagic species.

There are four coastal provinces (Khuzestan, Bushehr, Hormozgan and Sistan & Baluchestan Provinces) in those areas, with vast resources in terms of 5800 km of coastline along the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea. They are located between the longitudes from 48° 30' north to 61° 25' east. Iran, with an interest in fisheries, has concluded a number of bilateral agreements that regulate fishing in the area (through RECOFI and bilateral agreements, e.g. Iraq, Oman, Kuwait and etc.) For Iranian fishermen, the Arabian Sea is the gateway to the northwest Indian Ocean and the opportunity to harvest tuna and other highly migratory large pelagic species. It has been a tradition for Iranian fishers to fish offshore and in the last few decades, gillnet and purse seine fisheries have become the established fishing methods for Iranian fishers in the international waters of the northwest of the Indian Ocean. Therefore, Iran joined the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) in 2002 and it has been one of the active countries in the commission.

In a brief overview, the total aquatic production including catch and aquaculture was 1,353,000 Mt in 2022, of which 601,000 Mt from aquaculture and around 719,000 Mt came from catch which comprised (96%) from southern waters, and 33,000 tonnes (4%) from northern waters. The catch quantity of large pelagic species (including by-catch) in Iran was 316,252 Mt in 2022 reported to the IOTC Secretariat and around 282,377 Mt belongs to tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Indian Ocean areas. Those catch consist are mainly comprised of tropical tuna with 37.6% (118,435 Mt), neritic tuna 40.8% (129,132 Mt) and billfish species with 11% (34,809 Mt), 0.9% (3,031 Mt) different species of shark and around 9.7% (30,844Mt) Other non-targeted species.

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1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION

Aquatic production in Iran consists of two parts: aquaculture activities and marine fisheries activities. Each part of the activities appropriate to their specific requirements has social and technical considerations of its own. The fishing community includes a large percentage of the population in the coastal areas of the northern water (Caspian Sea) and the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, which have always been the focus and concern of the fisheries management plan.

The total aquatic production including catch and aquaculture was 1,353,000 Mt in 2022, of which 601,000 Mt from aquaculture and around 719,000 Mt came from catch which comprised (96%) from southern waters, and 33,000 tonnes (4%) from northern waters. More than 130 thousand fishermen with 10,493 different types of vessels, including fishing boats, dhows and ships, are active in gillnet, purse seine, trolling, trawl and wire-trap fishing. They operate according to time schedules during different fishing seasons in the coastal and offshore waters and land their fish in 139 fishing harbors and landing sites. There are four fishing gear types that target large pelagic species in the IOTC area of competence, including gillnet, purse seine, long line (by traditional boats) and also some small trolling boats in coastal fisheries.

The catch quantity of large pelagic species (including by-catch) in Iran was 316,252 Mt in 2022, reported to the IOTC Secretariat, and around 282,377 Mt belonged to tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean areas. Those catches consisted mainly of tropical tuna with 37.6% (118,435 Mt), neritic tuna 40.8% (129,132 Mt) and billfish species with 11% (34,809 Mt), 0.9% (3,031 Mt) different species of shark and around 9.7% (30,844 Mt) other non-targeted species. Also, around 91% of large pelagic species catch came from gillnet gear, while around 6% of catch belonged to trolling vessels and 3% came from small artisanal gillnetters as a seasonal and temporal long-liner that fish in coastal waters.

2. *FLEET STRUCTURE*

The fishing methods targeting large pelagic species in Iran include gillnet, purse seine, longline (traditional boats), as well as trolling by small boats in coastal fisheries. The gillnet fleet, in particular, consists primarily of locally made wooden and fiberglass vessels. The total number of fishing vessels in Iran southern fisheries is nearly 10,797, of which around 6,499 fishing crafts were engaged in catching large pelagic species in the IOTC area of competence, of which 3663 were gillnet boats (less than 3 GT), 303 gillnet Dhows of less than 50 GT, 477 gillnet Dhows of 51-100 GT, 248 gillnet Dhows of more than 100 GT, 1808 trolling boats of less than 3 GT, 492 traditional longline boats of less than 3 GT, 84 traditional longline Dhows of 51-100 GT, and this years no have active purse seine. Table 2.1 shows the fishing fleet is disaggregated into the following (GT) categories during 2018- 2022.

GEAR GROUP	Capacity GT	No. of active fishing fleet by year				
		2018	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Purse seine	500 to 1000 t	2	2	2	2	0
	>1000 t	5	5	5	5	0
Coastal artisanal longline *	< 3	324	400	250	280	492
	51 to 100	165	184	70	70	85
	100 to 200	14	20	0	0	0
	>1000	1	1	1	1	0
Gillnet	< 3 t	3168	3097	3752	2694	3416
	3 to 20 t	226	207	230	437	247
	21 to 50 t	271	248	216	254	303
	51 to 100 t	297	249	246	506	477
	>100 t	377	448	487	246	248
Trolling	< 3 t	1645	1748	1901	1771	1808

Table 2.1: Number of active vessels which are operating in the IOTC area of competence, by gear type and size (2018-2022)

*It is noted that around 577 gillnet fishing boats operated as longlines in 2022. These vessels were not counted in the total number of fishing vessels, because they were seasonal and temporary, only operating during certain fishing seasons.

3. *CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND FISHERY)*

Large pelagic fisheries by Iran fleet, are done in coastal area and high seas by different type of vessels that the result of catch reflected in table 3.1 and figure3.1 shows the total yearly catch by gear type and species reported for the all fleet. The catch quantity of large pelagic species (including by-catch) in Iran was 316,252 Mt in 2022 reported to the IOTC Secretariat and around 282,377 Mt belongs to tuna and tuna-like species in the coastal and high seas. Those catch consist of yellowfin tuna 38,821 Mt, Skipjack tuna 78,598 Mt, Bigeye tuna 1,016 Mt, Longtail tuna 48,388 Mt, Kawakawa 35,985 Mt, Frigate tuna 9,579 Mt, billfish 34,809 Mt, Indo-pacific king mackerel 9,896 Mt, Narrow- barred Spanish mackerel 25,284 Mt, Sharks 3,031Mt, and other species 19,809 Mt. Figure 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 showing the amount of catch for different fishing methods by species during 2018 to 2022. Total catch for purse seine, gillnet, long line by coastal artisanal boats and trolling in 2022 was estimated 0 Mt, 287,564 Mt, 9,434 Mt and 19,254 Mt respectively. Gillnet with 91% of Catch is the dominant fishing gear followed by long line with 3% and around 6% comes from trolling vessels.

GEAR GROUP	SPECIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Purse Seine	KAW	0	0	0	0	0
	LOT	998	467	416	220	0
	SKJ	356	190	0	59	0
	YFT	3898	3361	610	247	0
	BET	0	0	0	0	0
	COM	0	0	0	0	0
	SFA	0	0	0	0	0
	BLM	0	0	0	0	0
	Sharks	0	0	0	0	0
	Others	40	28	0	6	0
Coasta artisanal longline **	YFT	11974	8441	8839	5600	9304
	DOL	0	0	0	60	130
Gillnet	FRI	9135	8860	12218	6777	8971
	KAW	35551	32706	34341	38677	34930
	LOT	59436	46435	51482	47606	44353
	SKJ	49608	39782	44516	68049	78598
	YFT	42071	40459	33757	34306	26492
	BET	3700	1949	1526	620	1016
	COM	23675	20949	21210	22205	20827
	GUT	9581	10035	10237	9588	8785
	SFA	10601	7502	11025	15661	11319
	BLM	5859	6109	4499	4637	15460
	Other Billfish	4012	3568	2846	3716	4691
	1-FAL	311	487	154	239	427
	2-SPN	12	22	6	9	19
	3-MAK	19	27	10	15	24
	6-CCW	239	268	325	375	204
	8-RHA	1428	1602	1948	2251	1430
	Other sharks	763	876	999	1162	675
	Other Species	33283	26836	22576	27459	29343
Trolling	FRI	45	98	8	250	608
	KAW	1105	554	2215	914	1055
	LOT	667	2119	4655	3841	4035
	YFT	707	5787	5109	4128	3025
	COM	1519	2822	5078	4608	4457
	GUT	448	312	419	568	1111
	SFA	3	499	2142	905	3339
	Sharks	195	151	190	111	252
	Others	0	340	115	376	1371
Total all Gear Catch		**334,485**	**273,641**	**283,472**	**305,244**	**316,252**

Table.3.1 Annual catch by gear type and species (Mt)

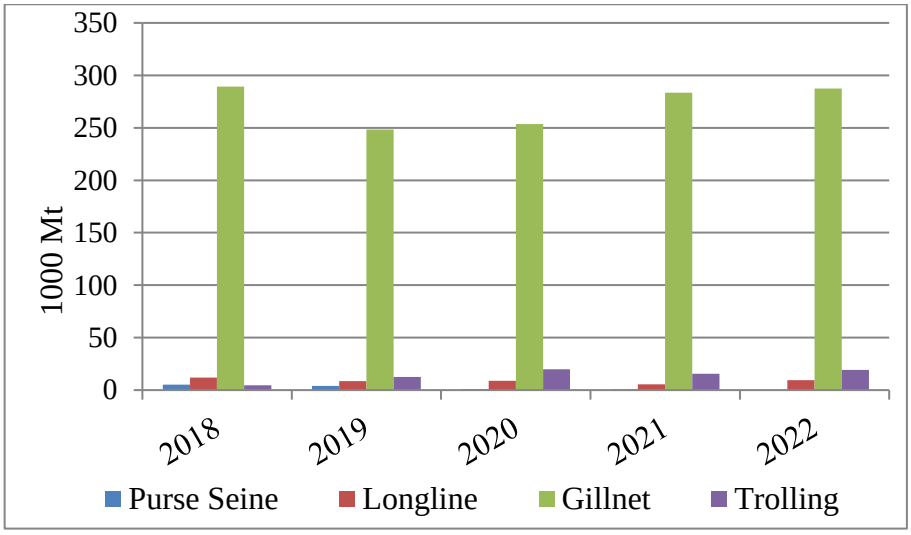

Figure 3.1- Annual Catch by Gear Type

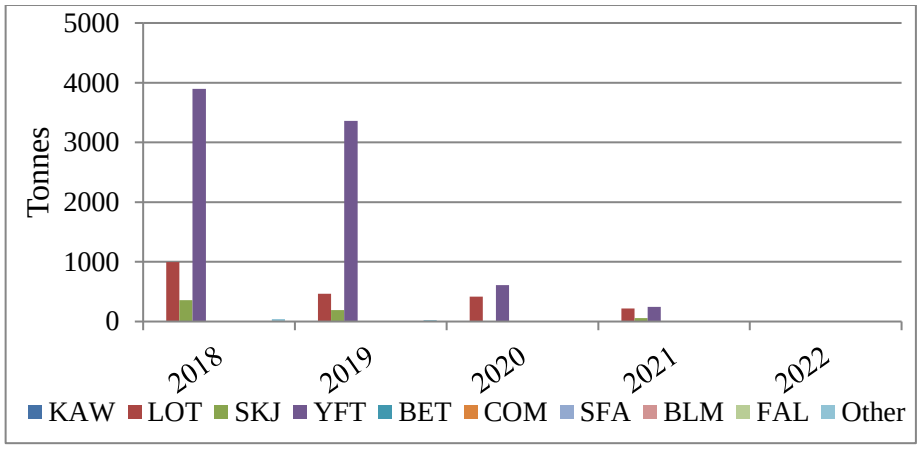

Figure3.2 Annual Catch of Purse Seiners by Species

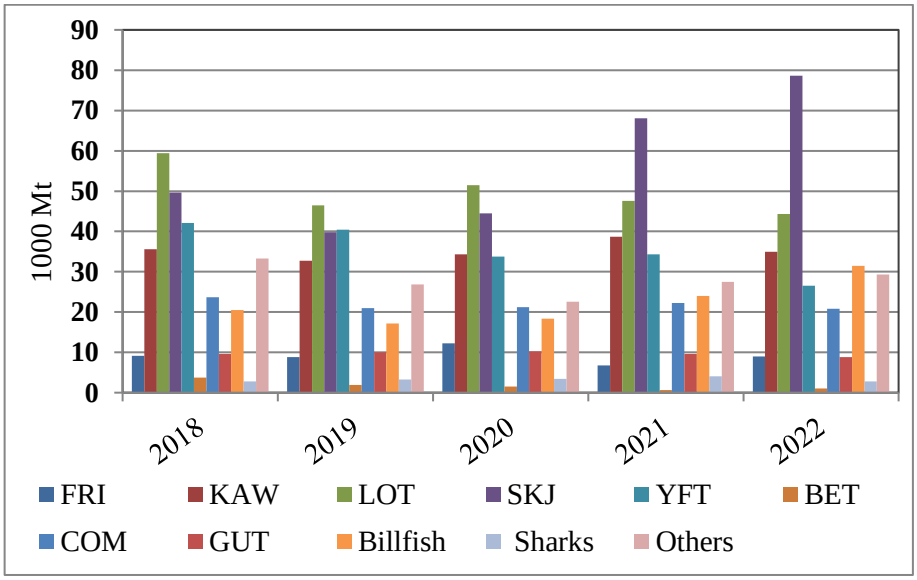

Figure3.3 Annual Catch of Gillnets by Species

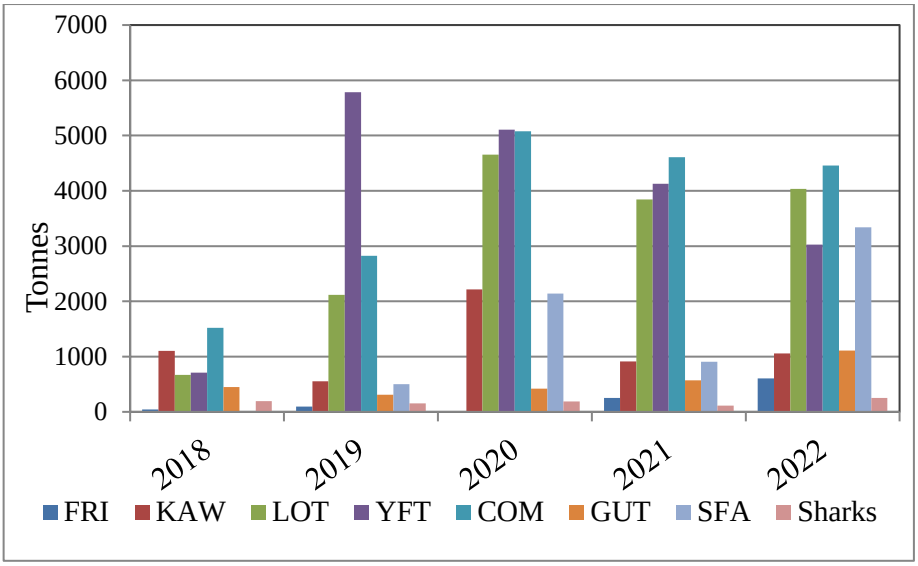

Figure3.4 Annual Catch of Trolling Method by Species

In 2022, fishing effort for large pelagic species around one million days was carried out by all fishing fleet consist of purse seine, gillnet, long line by artisanal boats and trolling, of which 831 thousand days was operated by gillnet, 79 thousand days by seasonal and temporal longline and about 136 thousand days done by trolling fisheries. Figure3.5 show that the highest gillnet fishing pressure occurs within the Islamic Republic of Iran's coastal water.

GEAR GROUP	Capacity GT	Annual fishing effort by different vessel categories (days)				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Purse seine	500 to 1000 t	0	0	0	0	0
	>1000 t	715	811	401	376	0
Coasta artisanal longline*	< 3	24,300	20,000	34,000	45,000	49,200
	51 to 100	14,025	11,040	9,520	16,800	29,520
	100 to 200	1,190	1,200	0	0	0
	>1000	0	0	0	0	0
Gillnet	< 3 t	516,149	496,736	764,432	541,066	568,892
	3 to 20 t	44,779	37,392	43,369	77,334	46,606
	21 to 50 t	51,045	47,178	44,594	60,629	63,268
	51 to 100 t	52,410	40,029	36,904	93,199	100,245
	>100 t	69,535	75,343	72,941	46,197	52,129
Trolling	< 3 t	224,708	258,713	133,500	127,260	135,740
Total all gear fishing effort		998,856	988,441	1,139,662	1,007,861	1,045,600

Table 3.2. Fishing effort by different vessel categories (days)

*We don't have any specific active industrial longline vessel

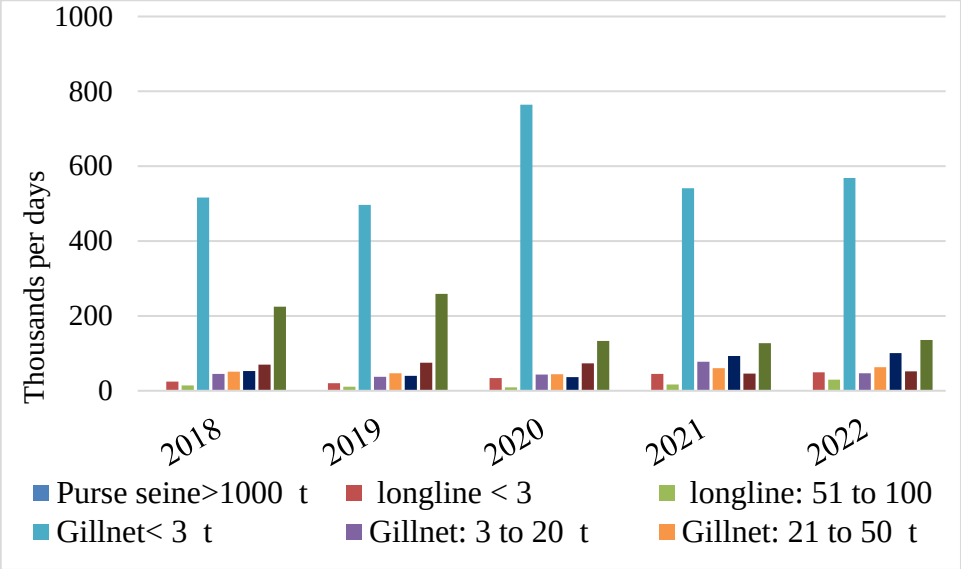

Figure3.5 Tuna and tuna like fishing effort by all fleet in (fishing day)

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY

According to the current regulations set by the Iran Fisheries Organization, there is currently no provision for recreational tuna fisheries. This means that there is no interest or demand for recreational fishing of tuna, and as a result, no licenses are being issued for this specific type of fishing activity.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES

Based on the current procedures implemented by the Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO), the monitoring and control of fishing vessels and their catch are carried out in fishing harbors and landing sites through a port-based monitoring system. This approach allows our experts to meticulously oversee the catch gears, devices, and related standards employed by the vessel crews both before they set sail and at the conclusion of each fishing trip. The focus of this monitoring is on assessing the catch results, including its composition and any associated by-catch. To enhance the knowledge and compliance of fishermen engaged in large pelagic species fishing, the IFO regularly organizes training workshops during the vessel landing periods at fishing harbors. These workshops aim to familiarize fishermen with the regulations and resolutions established by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), particularly those pertaining to ecosystem and by-catch issues.

5.1 Sharks

According to the national fishery regulations, shark species are not allowed to be caught intentionally and they are only allowed as by-catch. In collaboration with the Environment organization, Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) has recently communicated the following issues to all southern coastal provinces for further actions:

• All fishermen are required to release any live shark in the catch composition. For dead sharks, if there are about five or less dead sharks in the catch composition, they should also be released to the sea. However, if the number of dead sharks in the catch composition is high, they should be brought to the fishing port. The port authorities will then send the dead sharks to fish powder processing plants. It is important to note that the whole body of sharks should be delivered.

• Any trade, transportation or storage of shark and ray species in cold stores for processing or exporting is subject to heavy penalties. Therefore, cold stores, processing and packaging factories should be inspected periodically.

Taking serious and preventive measures to stop the capture of these species by vessels and illegal fishermen and referring those who infringed the law should be introduced to the related court for any probable penalties.

Implementing various conservation and management training courses regarding endangered species and also to train the fishermen the instruction of releasing those species to sea.

Recognizing the importance of landing sharks in whole body, all resolutions are translated and their contents related to shark conservation are communicated during different levels of meetings. Also, we have tried to convey these concepts to fishermen during training workshops. In this way, there is close cooperation among Iran Fisheries Organization, Fisheries Unions, Environment Organization and NGOs.

Therefore, we have not received any reports about the total number of released/discarded sharks, by species, from the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence, due to the lack of on board observers. But IFO monitors and controls all the species during landing times in fishing harbors. However, although there are weaknesses in accessing historical data of different species, especially sharks, shark information has been recorded by species since 2012. According to the collected information, the amount of shark species in 2022 is shown in table 5.1 and Figure5.1

GEAR GROUP	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1-FAL	311	487	154	239	427
2-SPN	12	22	6	9	19
3-MAK	19	27	10	15	24
4-OCS	23	37	12	18	32
5-THR	0	0	0	0	0
6-CCW	239	268	325	379	204
7-CCO	478	535	650	757	407
8-RHA	1428	1602	1948	2271	1430
Other sharks	457	455	527	452	488
Total	**2967**	**3432**	**3632**	**4140**	**3031**

Table 5.1. Total number and weight of sharks, by species during 2018-2022

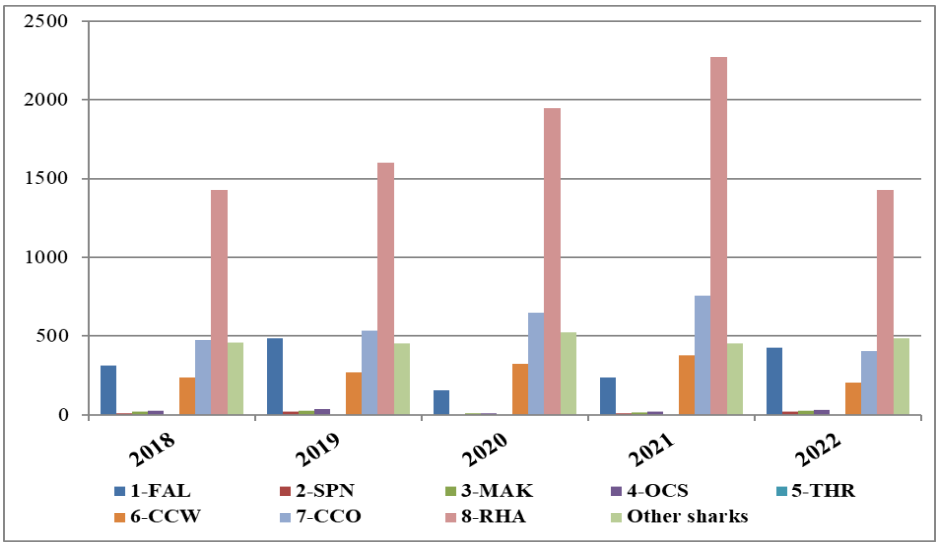

Figure5.1 Annual Shark Catch by species

5.1.2. NPOA sharks

Iran Fisheries Organization is collecting some information from different sources, especially the printed guideline by FAO, to prepare the National action plan for Sharks. This is despite the fact that the current national regulation of countries is sufficient to conserve different shark species and there is no obligation to prepare NPOA-Sharks. We expect to publish Iran's NPOA-Sharks in 2024.

5.1.3. Sharks finning regulation

In accordance with IOTC resolution 17/05, IFO prohibit the removal of shark fins from fresh sharks on board its vessels, as well as the landing, retention on board, transshipment and carrying of shark fins that are not naturally attached to the fresh shark carcass. This has been mentioned in the national regulation for tuna fishing.

5.1.4. Blue shark

Iran's fishing fleet does not target blue sharks and no landing of blue sharks has been recorded, which is monitored by port samplers at landing sites. In fact, the shark catch is zero in our statistical report.

5.2. Seabirds

Based on IOTC resolution 12/06, the reduction of seabird by-catch is only specified for longline fisheries as a target gear and it is not applicable for other fishing gears. Also, based on our current fleet structure, we do not have any industrial longline active vessels, so it is not relevant for Iran. For more assurance, IFO has tried to give more awareness and explanation to fishermen about the importance and necessity of seabird conservation during different training

5.3. Marine Turtles

Regarding the fact that different species of marine turtles are considered protected species in Iran, hunting of these species is forbidden in accordance with the National Regulation of Tuna Fishing- 2016 and the Law of Hunting and Fishing of the Iranian Environmental Protection Organization- 1976 [According to the law on hunting and fishing approved on 1967/06/06 (with amendments approved on 1975/01/20 and 1996/12/15) determining the price of wild animals in terms of claiming damages is from the authorities and powers of the Supreme Council for Environmental Protection. According to article 18 of this law, the Environmental Protection Organization is recognized as a private plaintiff in terms of claiming damages resulting from the crime. Based on this law, the specified penalty for fishing of marine turtles is 150,000,000 IRR]. However, the actions taken by the Iran Fisheries Organization to protect these valuable species are as follows:

- The Iran Fisheries Organization educates the fishing community on how to interact and release these species if they get stuck in fishing nets by holding training courses for fishermen, as well as designing posters and brochures, providing logbooks and training booklets.
- The IFO is recently documenting and collecting documents, including videos, pictures, etc., regarding the release of marine turtles trapped in fishermen's nets, which will be sent to the IOTC Secretariat in future reports.

- The IFO has notified gillnet vessels to require that operators of such vessels record all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks and report such incidents to the Iran Fisheries Organization.
- The Iranian Fisheries Organization has notified longline vessels to require that the operators of all longline vessels carry line cutters and de-hookers in order to facilitate the appropriate handling and prompt release of marine turtles caught or entangled, and that they do so in accordance with the IOTC Guidelines. They must also record all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbook and report them to the Iranian Fisheries Organization.
- The Iran Fisheries Organization has notified purse seine vessels to require that operators of such vessels, while fishing in the IOTC area, do the following:

- Avoid encircling marine turtles to the extent practicable, and if a marine turtle is encircled or entangled, take practicable measures to safely release the turtle in accordance with the handling guidelines in the IOTC Marine Turtle Identification Cards;
- Release all marine turtles observed entangled in fish aggregating devices (FADs) or other fishing gear to the extent practicable;
- If a marine turtle is entangled in the net, stop net roll as soon as the turtle comes out of the water; disentangle the turtle without injuring it before resuming the net roll; and assist the recovery of the turtle before returning it to the water to the extent practicable;

- Also, the Environmental Protection Organization of Iran has allocated places on the shores of the Oman Sea and the Persian Gulf for spawning marine turtles and places for their nesting to protect these valuable species.

5.4. Other ecologically related species (e.g., cetaceans, mobulid rays, whale sharks)

Based on national laws and regulations set by the Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO), the catch of mammals or any other sensitive and endangered species is strictly forbidden. If any fishermen accidentally catch mammals, turtles, sharks, or any other sensitive species, they are required to release them safely and promptly. On the other hand, if inspectors or fishery guards discover any endangered species on board a vessel, the owner and captain of the vessel will be brought to court and punished by the fishery infraction investigation commission. These commissions are established in various cities and provinces and have the authority to suspend fishing activities for up to three months. It is important to note that the IFO has never issued any licenses for the catch of different species of mammals or sharks. Fishermen make efforts to release all entangled mammals or endangered species, and only sharks are considered as by-catch in landing sites.

Also, based on Iran religious beliefs, more than 90% of people do not eat Sharks or any mammals. Therefore, we have not received any reports about the total number of mammals or different species of sharks, by species, that are released/discarded by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence.

As mentioned previously, we have not received detailed reports on the incidental catch of different species of seabirds, marine turtles, and marine mammals due to the lack of on-board observers. The main problem to implementing an observer scheme is the insufficient accommodation space and facilities on board. This limitation makes it impossible to accurately record important events by species, fishing gears, and positions (timeline) for the national fleets. Additionally, we have recently started establishing a network through virtual platforms on mobile phones. This has allowed us to receive some news, pictures, and videos about the safe release of these species, most of which are from Iran territorial waters.

Furthermore, there are several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) actively working with local communities and fishermen. These NGOs primarily focus on training these individuals and raising public awareness about the importance of conservation and responsible fishing practices.

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification

Iran was implemented a logbook program for artisanal gillnets and industrial purse seiners in 2011, and created a new logbook template based on IOTC resolutions. In the recent years, Iran has filled out the logbooks for the industrial purse seiners, and we plan to expand it to other artisanal fleets in the future, which will cover 10% of the vessels in the high seas.

6.2. Vessel Monitoring System

Based on Resolution 15/03, the Islamic Republic of Iran has prepared a plan for the implementation of VMS, which covers all fishing vessels in the high seas. As you are aware, the IFO has started the program more than ten years ago, but unfortunately, the plan has been interrupted for many years due to some problems, mainly in terms of political and sanction issues. The main problem is that all satellites except the Thuraya satellite in Iran are subject to sanction regulations and IFO does not have access to them. Therefore, the conditions for making a decision are quite difficult. However, the Iran Fisheries Organization intends to develop and implement a new VMS plan based on Resolution 15/03 within two years, until 2025. Additionally, all fishing fleet above 24 meters have installed Automatic Identification System (AIS).

6.3. Observer scheme

Due to some problems with the lack of accommodations, Iran fishing fleet has not been able to install observers on board the vessels. Iran has focused on improving the implementation of the observer scheme in ports and port sampling to meet the observer rate required by IOTC. Therefore, data and important biological and socio-economic information are collected by monitoring the fishing landing sites on a regular basis. This activity covers more than 10% of the active vessels.

6.4. Port sampling program

6.4.1. Catch Data sampling

Catch and effort and biological data of the coastal and offshore large pelagic fishery are collected at 43 out of 63 fish landing sites, consisting of 10 landing sites in KHOZESTAN Province, 8 landing sites in BUSHEHR Province, 20 landing sites in HORMOZGAN Province and 5 landing sites in SISTAN-BLUCHESTAN Province, along the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea coastlines. Port samplers stay on landing sites during the landing time of fish and they collect the data and fill out the forms. Also, biometry of fish for collecting length/weight frequency data is done during landing time. Catch and effort data are collected in all the above sites by stratified random sampling by the samplers. In this way, 10% of total fishing crafts for different vessel classes of fishing dhows and boats are randomly selected and their fishing data are registered. Landing surveys are conducted to obtain data on catches in the artisanal fisheries.

Port sampling was carried out for small-scale fisheries. In this way, 10% of fishing vessels are randomly selected and the sample data are raised to all active fishing vessels and total catches are maintained by vessel categories, gear types and species composition, landing site and each month. In each landing site, there is one enumerator who is responsible to collect data. All of the operations are fulfilled by Iran Fisheries Organization fish statistic Software called AMAR Software. In addition, Control of fishing license and Questionnaire carry out by the Head of fishery Statistical Unit in the relevant port. This kind of control will then be carried out in Province centre through computer. Afterwards this will be processed in Data Centre in Tehran. Cross Check by total census in one or two landing site will then be undertaken.

6.4.2. Size data sampling

Here are 13 important commercial species in the southern waters of Iran, for which the size frequency data are compiled. The species are as follows:

1. Narrow-barred spanish mackerel (Scomberomorus Commerson),
2. Tigertooth croaker (Otolithes ruber),
3. Silver pomfret (Pampus argenteus),
4. Black pomfret (Parastromateus niger),
5. Javelin grunter (Pomadasys kaakan),
6. Longtail tuna (Thunnus tonggol),
7. Kawakawa (Euthynnus affinis).
8. Fourfinger threadfin (Eleutheronema tetradactylum),
9. Yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacores),
10. Skipjack tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis),
11. Bigeye tuna (Thunnus obesus),
12. Grouper(serranidae),
13. Emperor(lethrinidae),

Sampling in southern waters carried out in 17 landing sites consist of: Choebdeh and Hendijan in Khozestan Province, Daylam, Dayer, Jofreh & Bandargah in Bushehr Province, Bandar abbass, Jask, Javad'el'aemeh, Salakh ,Bostaneh, Kong & Gogsar in Hormozgan Province, - Ramin, Pozm, Beris & Pasabandar in Sistan & Bluchestan Province.

In 2022, around 157,223 tuna fish were measured. The fork length frequency for seven economically important tuna and tuna like species was obtained. These species include Longtail tuna (Thunnus tonggol), which dominated the other tuna species with 40,197 (25.6%) specimens, followed by Kawakawa (Euthynnus affinis) with 32,295 (20.5%), Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (Scomberomorus commerson) with 29,908 (19.0%), Yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacares) with 35,227 (22.4%), Skipjack tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis) with 18,809 (12.0%), Bigeye tuna (Thunnus obesus) with 615 (0.4%), and Frigate tuna (Auxis thazard) with 172 (0.1%). The majority of the size data were collected from gillnets, accounting for 94.8% of the total. Other fishing gears, such as purse seine and trolling/hook & line, contributed only 0.1% and 5.1% respectively. Neritic tunas are abundant and commonly found in the waters throughout the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, while tropical tunas are mainly found in the Oman Sea and high seas. Neritic tunas contributed to 65% of the total tuna fish measured, while tropical tunas contributed to 35% of the whole size data compiled in 2022.

Size Data recorded in the IOTC Database						
GEAR GROUP	SPECIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Gillnet	FRI	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	172
	KAW	32721	37985	25230	23448	32295
	LOT	30985	46811	33735	26839	40008
	SKJ	24177	18474	19398	5959	18809
	YFT	16684	22970	18063	12470	27994
	BET	1782	1256	502	465	615
	COM	37591	42115	26946	23254	29068
Purse seine	KAW	0	0	0	0	0
	LOT	0	1,097	0	0	189
	SKJ	2,152	278	0	224	0
	YFT	6995	6786	285	659	45
	BET	708	0	0	103	0
Trolling/ Hand & Line	COM	335	2059	2428	0	840
	LOT	0	0	0	0	0
	YFT(by Coastal LL Method)	9813	7371	7712	2084	5503
	YFT(by Hook & Line Method)	3371	0	0	0	1685
Total length frequency		167314	187202	134299	95505	157223

Table.6.1. Number of Tuna and Tuna like species that their length are measured by gear types

GEAR GROUP	SPECIES GROUP	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Gillnet	FRI	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36.9
	KAW	53.0	53.3	55.2	52.5	49.0
	LOT	61.5	68.2	72.0	68.2	69.3
	SKJ	54.7	54.7	60.4	59.5	58.9
	YFT	84.0	82.5	84.0	81.8	81.0
	BET	86.2	82.8	84.3	79.6	84.0
	COM	84.8	85.7	87.9	86.9	88.1
Purse seine	FRI	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	KAW	0.0	78.4	0.0	0.0	76.8
	LOT	53.6	60.9	0.0	54.2	0.0
	SKJ	110.0	116.2	136.4	98.7	83.6
	YFT	79.5	0.0	0.0	87.3	0.0
Trolling/ Hand & Line	COM	119.1	95.0	83.5	0.0	86.2
	LOT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	YFT(by Coastal LL Method)	110.5	103.1	95.7	84.2	86.1
	YFT(by Hook & Line Method)	108.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	82.4

Table.6.2. Mean Length Data recorded in the IOTC Database

6.5. Unloading/Transhipment of flag vessels

Unloading or Transhipment of fish at sea for Iran flagged vessels are not permitted under our rules AND regulations.

6.*6. Actions taken to monitor catches & manage fisheries for Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish*

The landings of Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, and Indo-Pacific Sailfish have been monitored through a sampling program and reflected in Table 3.1 for the years 2018-2022. It is important to note that, according to national regulations for tuna fishing management, the capture of billfish smaller than 60 cm in Lower Jaw Fork Length is prohibited.

6.7. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring

The majority of fishing vessels in Iran are small-scale and have limited space and facilities for observers, who are expected to have the same status as a ship officer according to the related proposals. This makes it difficult to implement the observer program on board these vessels. Therefore, Iran has mainly focused on improving the port based observer scheme and port sampling to achieve the observer rate required by IOTC.

6.8. Sampling plans for mobulid rays

Iran has a national sampling programme for all the fish caught, including mobulid rays caught by the artisanal fishery. To date, IFO did not receive any report of mobulid rays from Iran fishing vessels, based on the logbooks and port state controls.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Project title: Monitoring the harvest status of some commercial fish in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea through biometrics, as part of this project, *carcharhinus dussumieri* (Carcharhinidae) species is also covered. This species is Near-threatened baesd on IUCN.The main goals of the project are: a) To determine length frequency of *c. dussumieri* caught; b) c) To estimate growth parameters and fishing mortalities of this species.

Table 8: Summary table of national research programs

Project title	period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives*	Short description
Monitoring the status of tuna and tuna like species landed in the P.G.& O.S. (landing sites of Sistan-Bluchistan and Hormozgan province)	2021-2024	Iran (Persian Gulf, Oman Sea)	USD20000	Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute		ongoing

Objectives*

- To determine the catch composition of tuna landed by species
- To collect the length frequency data of tuna landed by species
- To estimate the mean fork length of each tuna species landed
- To determine the percentage of mature and immature tuna fish landed by species (using the length at maturity (LM50))
- To estimate the growth parameters and fishing mortalities for each tuna species
- To detect the mean length trends of each tuna species landed, based on time series data, in the medium and long term.

8. *IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC.*

Iran has taken various actions to implement the Scientific Committee recommendations and IOTC Resolutions. Table 9 details the resolutions and how they have been implemented.

Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2012 and 2022.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3,4,6-10	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Related report has sent before to the secretariat
12/06	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	Not Applicable, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (Rhincodon typus)	Paragraphs 7– 9	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Big penalties and sanctions approved for offenders, related report has sent before to the secretariat.
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	Catch and efforts by gears and vessel types are recorded and reported monthly.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	According to the Res. Iran submitted -Total catch data, -Catch by gear and effort data, - Size (Biometry) data, But, Only Iran dose not submitted, - Timelines and position of data,

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	Training fishermen translated current resolutions and distributed among fishermen, there is no interest for their catch because of no market. Related report has sent before to the secretariat. In total in 2021 the amount of sharks that are caught during tuna fisheries is around 1.3% of total catch
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	During Iran fisheries histories our experts never recorded any blue shark landing. In fact, the shark catch is nil in our statistical report. So, it is not applicable for Iran.
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 – 11	Catch by gear and efforts submitted, but size and timeline (position) did not report.
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	Related report has sent before to the secretariat.
19/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (If not provided under Res 21/01 below)	Paragraph 22	Iran is implementing in accordance with Resolution 19/01 Paragraph 22.
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	In 2021 no intentional catch of Mobulid Rays in Iran
21/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (If not provided under Res 19/01 above)	Paragraph 23	According to the national regulation for tuna fishing management and related correspondence with tuna fisheries branches in coastal provinces has been communicated to brief stakeholders to maintain conservation and management measures during the exploitation of yellowfin tuna stocks. They also have an action plan that includes managing the duration of the vessel fishing operation at sea, the fishing gears, and the plan to change the gillnet fishery to other selective fishing hooks to reduce the fishing effort, the catch season periods, etc. The purpose of this plan is to reduce the yellowfin fishing effort and catch amount. As a result, the yellowfin catch amount in 2022 decreased compared to the previous years.
22/04	On a regional o bserver scheme	Paragraph 12	Iran has mainly focused on improving the port based observer scheme and port sampling to achieve the observer rate required by IOTC. This activity covers more than 10% of the active vessels.

9. *LITERATURE CITED*