



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

Executive Summary

In Madagascar, industrial tuna fishing is carried out by longliners of less than 24 metres (between 14 and 17 metres) operating on the east coast. No national longliners were granted fishing licences in 2022. Since 2010, the techniques and methods have remained the same. In general, the vessels deploy between 800 and 1,300 hooks per line and make a relatively short trip lasting between 4 and 7 days in order to keep the catches fresh when they arrive at the ports of landing, which is Toamasina. The programme of collecting fishing logs and sampling at the port of landing, implemented since 2014, gives us data on the size distribution of the species caught.

Longline catches from 2017 to 2021 vary between 127 tonnes and 197 tonnes, and those for 2022 are zero. This variation is slightly proportional to the variation in fishing effort (expressed as the number of hooks deployed). Influenced by the reduction in the number of vessels in operation since 2018, the average annual catch of longliners is 164 tonnes. This is made up of 57% tuna, 19% swordfish, 12% shark and 13% other species. Most of the tuna caught are bigeye, albacore and yellowfin.

The fishing gear used is mainly gillnets, lines and longlines.