



Madagascar National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2024

Executive Summary

In Madagascar, industrial tuna fishing is carried out by longliners of less than 24 meters (between 14 and 17 meters) which operate on the east coast. No national longliners obtained a fishing license during the year 2022, and they only obtained it in the last quarter of the year 2023. Since 2010, the techniques and methods remain the same. In general, the vessels deploy between 800 to 1300 hooks per set and they carry out a relatively short trip lasting 4 to 7 days in order to keep the catches fresh upon arriving at the disembarkation port of Toamasina. The fishing log collection and sampling program at the landing port, implemented since 2014, allows us to have data on the size distribution of the species caught. The annual catches of longliners from 2019 to 2023 vary between 66 tonnes and 193 tonnes, except those of 2022 which are zero. This variation is slightly proportional to that of the fishing effort (expressed in number of hooks deployed). Following the reduction in the number of vessels in operation since 2018, the average annual catch of longliners is 140 tonnes. It is made up of 60.98% tuna, 17.35% billfish, 12.13% sharks and 9.54% other species. The tuna catch is mainly made up of bigeye tuna, albacore and yellowfin tuna. The gear used in coastal fishing is mainly gillnet, line and longline.