



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

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INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

<p>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 2024, final data for the 2023 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2024)</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>30/06/2024</p>
<p>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 2024, preliminary data for the 2023 calendar year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2024).</p> <p>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 2024, final data for the 2023 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2024).</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>30/06/2024</p>
<p>If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:</p>	

Executive Summary

As a developing coastal state, Tanzania is actively advancing the sustainable utilisation and management of its marine fisheries resources. Industrial tuna fisheries operate within the Tanzanian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), whereas semi-industrial and artisanal fisheries operate within territorial waters. Industrial fishers employ mostly longlines and purse seines. In 2023, two Tanzania-flagged longlines and one purse seiner operated within the EEZ and on the high seas. These vessels reported a combined catch of Yellowfin tuna (2643.29 tons), Bigeye tuna (964.21 tons), Skipjack tuna (8913.1 tons), Swordfish (22.66 tons), Blue marlin (7.27 tons), Albacore (59.8 tons), Black marlin (1.14 tons), Sailfish (3.38 tons), Frigate tuna (238.1 tons) and Striped marlin (0.68 tons). Longline fishing accounted for 267.23 tons, while purse seine yielded 12,743 tons.

Artisanal fisheries used ring nets, gill nets, handlines, and small coastal longlines contributed largely to the tuna catch in 2023. Over 7,528.72 tons of IOTC species were landed comprising Kanadi kingfish (490.28 tons), Bigeye tuna (774.37 tons), Swordfish (702.91 tons), Yellowfin tuna (775.91 tons), Kawakawa (1176.03 tons), Bullet tuna (3.09 tons), Longtail tuna (2277.09 tons), Frigate tuna (401.26 tons), Wahoo (46.59 tons), Narrow barred Spanish mackerel (507.67 tons), and Shark nei (23.68 tons).

Tanzania has been bolstering its fisheries data collection and reporting systems through capacity-building initiatives, including FAO and the IOTC Secretariat technical support. For instance, training conducted in 2020, 2022, and 2023 enhanced the skills of fisheries officers in data collection and handling and facilitated the upgrade of the Fisheries Information System (FIS) to capture data from industrial and artisanal fisheries better. Efforts to improve species identification, biometric data collection, and data integration across fisheries management authorities are ongoing, reflecting the complexity of managing marine fisheries in the country.



Contents

Executive Summary	2
1. Background/General fishery information	3
Fisheries of Tanzania: Summary of the Sector in 2023	3
2. Fleet structure	4
Tanzania National Vessel Fleet Structure by Gear Type (2023)	4
Artisanal Fleet	5
Industrial Fleet	5
3. Catch and effort (by species and fishery)	6
4. Recreational fishery	12
5. Ecosystem and bycatch issues	12
6. National data collection and processing systems	14
7. National research programs	18
8. Implementation of Scientific Committee Recommendations and Resolutions of the IOTC relevant to the SC	21
9. Literature cited	33

1. Background/General fishery information

Fisheries of Tanzania: Summary of the Sector in 2023

Tanzania has a coastline stretching approximately 1,424 kilometres from Kenya in the north to Mozambique in the south, a territorial sea of about 64,000 km², and an expansive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 223,000 km² boasting vast and rich marine resources. The fisheries sector is vital to Tanzania's economy and food security, providing about 30% of the animal protein. The industry directly employs around 200,000 people and indirectly supports the livelihoods of an additional four million people, making it one of the key cornerstones of Tanzania's socio-economic development. The fisheries sector contributes about 1.7% to the GDP of Mainland Tanzania and 5.8% to the GDP of Tanzania Zanzibar.

Both artisanal and industrial fisheries are undertaken in the country. However, artisanal fisheries dominate and are primarily conducted within the territorial waters using traditional fishing vessels and techniques. The commonly employed vessels include dugout canoes, dhows, planked canoes, wooden and fibreglass boats, and catamarans, either powered by motors or relying on paddles and sailcloths. These vessels deploy fishing gear, including shark nets, gill nets, purse seines, long lines, hand lines, cast nets, lift nets, scoop nets, traps, baskets, and ring nets. The gears target a diverse range of fish species, including reef fishes, small to medium aquatic species, and, occasionally, large pelagic species. Industrial fishing operations in Tanzania are primarily conducted in the country's EEZ and the high seas. These operations are capital-intensive, often involving large vessels equipped with advanced technologies. The main target species for industrial fisheries are high-value pelagic fish, such as tuna and billfish.

The fisheries' resources in the country are governed by policies, laws, and regulations at different levels. The legal frameworks are formulated to ensure that fishery resources and their environment are sustainably managed and utilised. There are three fisheries-related policies: The National Fisheries Policy of 2015, the Zanzibar Fisheries Policy of 2022; and The Zanzibar Blue Economy Policy of 2022. In addition, there are four fisheries and fisheries-related Acts, namely Fisheries Act, No. 22 of 2003, which governs fisheries in Mainland Tanzania, Fisheries Act, No. 7 of 2010, which governs fisheries in the territorial waters of Zanzibar, the Marine Parks and Reserves Act of No. 29 of 1994, and the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act No. 5 of 2020 for fisheries and fisheries-related activities within Tanzania's EEZ. There are also regulations and guidelines that ensure the smooth implementation of these acts.

2. Fleet structure

Tanzania National Vessel Fleet Structure by Gear Type (2023)

Tanzania's national fishing fleet comprises artisanal and industrial vessels, each employing a variety of fishing gears to target diverse marine species.

Artisanal Fleet

According to the Marine Fisheries Frame Survey conducted in 2018 for Mainland Tanzania and the 2020 Frame Survey for Zanzibar, the small-scale fishing sector in Tanzania consists of approximately 9,242 vessels on the mainland and 7,919 vessels in Zanzibar, making it the backbone of Tanzania's fisheries. These artisanal vessels have an average length of 4 to 11 meters and are typically operated by one to 45 fishers. They rely on various fishing gear, including hand and longlines, troll lines, bottom-set and drift gill nets, and ring and purse seines. These gears support a multispecies fishery, targeting various species, including tuna and tuna-like species, rays, sardines, anchovies, mackerel and sharks. The fishing operations for these small-scale vessels usually span a few hours to a couple of days, depending on the fishing grounds and the target species.

Table 1a: Number of artisanal fishing vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence by gear type and size

<i>Year</i>	<i>Size (<24)</i>	<i>Size (>24)</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Gear</i>
2018	9571	-	9571	<i>Others</i>
2019	9571	-	9571	<i>Others</i>
2020	9571	-	9571	<i>Others</i>
2021	9571	-	9571	<i>Others</i>
2022	17161*	-	17161*	<i>Others</i>
2023	17161*	-	17161*	<i>Others</i>

**This figure is a summation of fish crafts recorded in the Fisheries Frame Survey of Mainland Tanzania in 2018 and the Frame Survey in Tanzania Zanzibar in 2020 (refer to section 2, fleet structure)*

Industrial Fleet

Tanzania’s industrial fleet plays a critical role in the EEZ, targeting high-value species like tuna and billfish. As of 2023, Tanzania had three industrial vessels under its national flag: Two longliners with a length overall (LOA) of 24.5 meters. These vessels have been registered and operational since September 2022. One purse seiner with a 92.11-meter LOA, registered in January 2022 and operational since March 2022.

Table 1b: Number of authorised fishing vessels (AFV) operating in the IOTC area of competence by gear type and size

<i>Year</i>	<i>Size (<24)</i>	<i>Size (>24)</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Gear</i>
2018	-	-	-	-
2019	-	1	1	Longline
2020	1	1	2	Longline
2021	1	-	2	Longline
2022	-	2	2	Longline
2022		1	1	Purse seine
2023	-	2	2	Longline
2023		1	1	Purse seine

3. Catch and effort (by species and fishery)

The artisanal fleet consisted of over 17,000 vessels that used various gear types, including hand lines, longlines, troll lines, and gill nets. These vessels target a diverse array of species, including yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), kingfish (*Scomberomorus spp.*), sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*), billfish, reef fish, sharks, rays, and small pelagics such as sardines, anchovies, and mackerel. Artisanal fisheries occur nearshore, often linked to habitats like coral reefs and seagrass beds, targeting multispecies.

On the other hand, the industrial fleet targets high-value pelagic species, particularly tuna and billfish. In 2023, the national fleet included two longliners and one purse seiner, focusing on tuna species in offshore waters. No changes in fishing patterns were observed for the year 2023. Industrial fleet efforts

continued to concentrate in the EEZ and areas beyond national jurisdiction, whereas artisanal fisheries dominated nearshore.

To enhance data collection and ensure sustainability, Tanzania has begun to undertake a process to affect the use of electronic monitoring systems and also strengthen observer programs. These improvements have allowed or are expected to allow for more accurate reporting of catch and effort, enabling better fisheries management in alignment with national and regional conservation goals. Through this dual approach, Tanzania ensures the sustainability of its offshore, high-seas fisheries while maintaining the artisanal sector's significant contribution to local livelihoods and food security.

Table 2a. Annual catches (ton) from industrial longline reported between 2018 and 2023

Year	BET	ALB	BLM	BUM	BSH	OCS	NEI	SFA	MLS	SWO	YFT	Total
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	1,412	0	167	0	0	308	0	0	1,045	685	1,043	4,660
2020	2,191	0	85	633	325	125	0	0	2,610	1,858	1,120	8,947
2021	845	3	8	19		0	22	8	5	84	599	1,593
2022	7.1	0.03	0.9	0.2	0	0	0	2	0.07	6.2	92.2	107.8
2023	23.94	59.6	1.14	7.82	50.6	0	0	4.09	0.67	22.66	146.99	265.9

Table 2b. Annual catches (ton) from industrial purse seine reported between 2018 and 2022

Year	BET	ALB	FRI	BUM	BSH	OCS	NEI	SFA	MLS	SKJ	YFT	Total
2022	1,123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,343	2,816	12,282
2023	940.70	1.0	374.0							8913.00	2496.3	12743.00

Table 2c. Annual catch (ton) of primary species reported from coastal fisheries between 2019 and 2023

Fish group	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bigeye	2248	1180	1729	351.22	775.37
Billfish	2420	858	538.9	39.82	467.9
Kawakawa	970	3983	1931.5	39.91	1176.03
Kanadi Kingfish	2053	2320	-	2.03	490.28
Skipjack	-	568	331.1	342.51	446.19
Sharks and rays	2155	-	-	331.17	23.21
Swordfish	680	3212	564.3	150.82	702.91
Yellowfin	2254	2321	2075.9	559.62	775.91
Longtail tuna	-	-	1116.1	430.1	2277.09
Kingfish (COM)					507.64

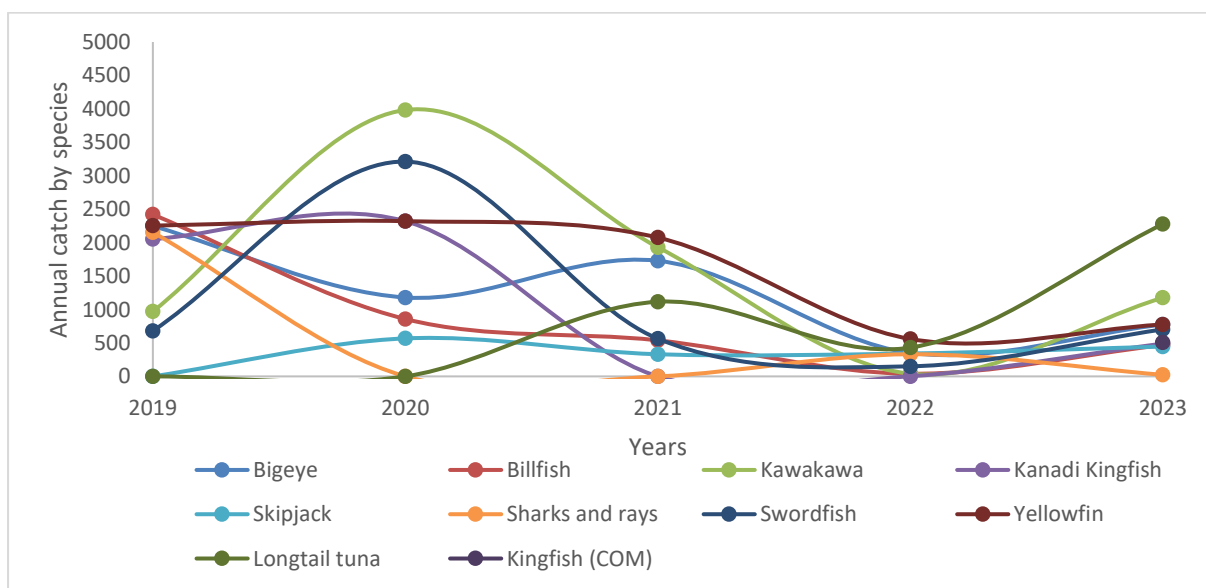


Figure 1. Historical annual catch for the artisanal fisheries by primary species, for the IOTC area of competence for the entire history of the fisheries.

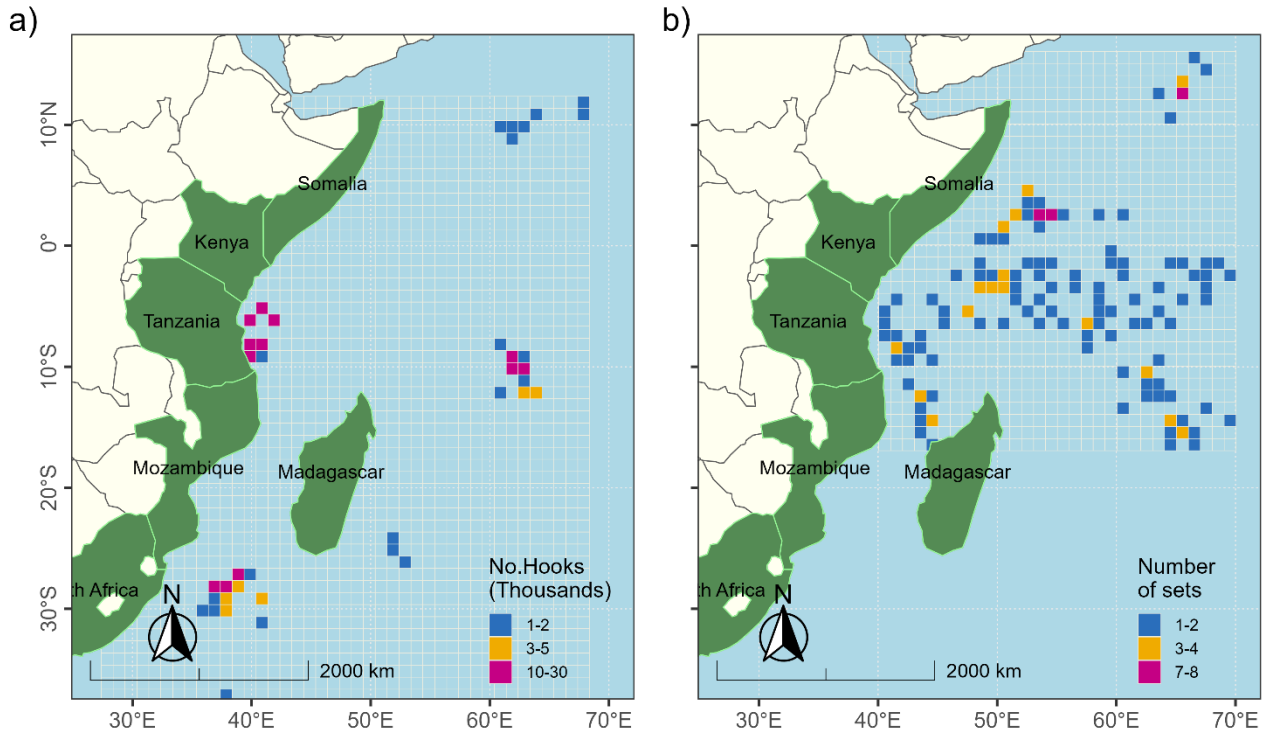


Figure 2a. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by national fishery in the IOTC area of competence for 2023 (a) longline and (b) purse seine

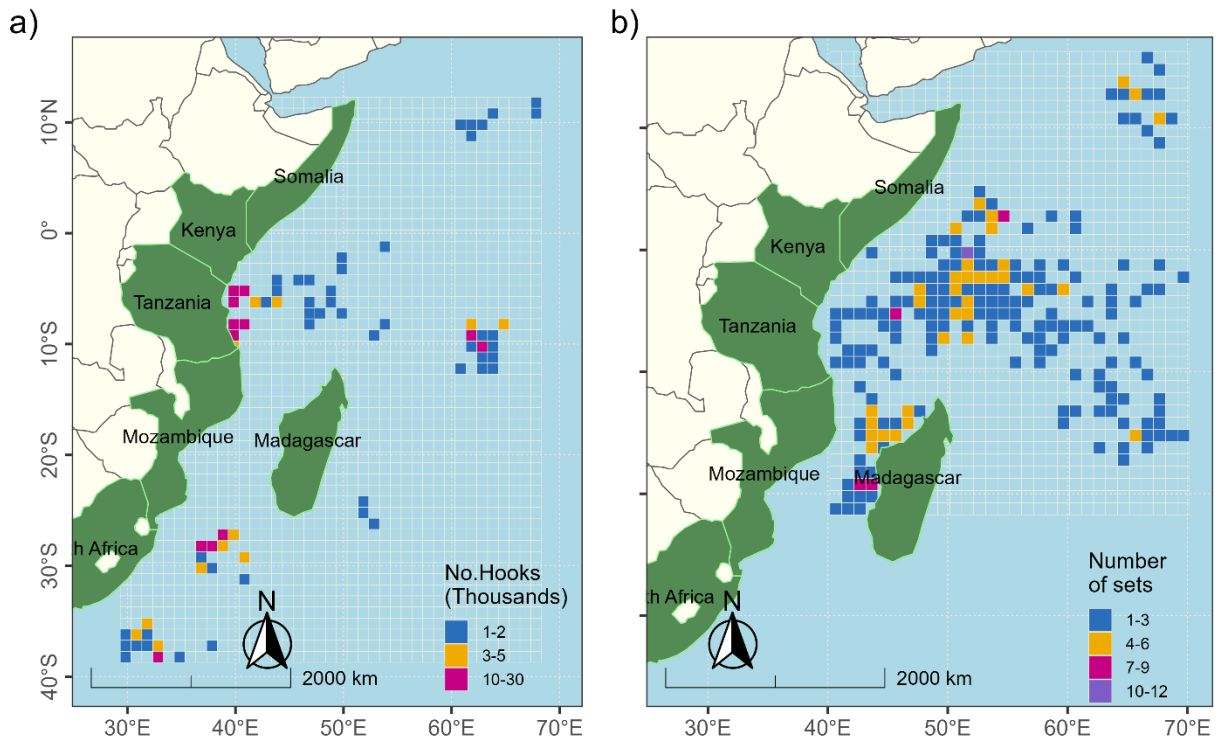


Figure 2b. Map of the distribution of fishing effort by the national fishery in the IOTC area of competence (average of the 5 previous years 2019–2023 for (a) longline 2022–2023 and (b) purse seine

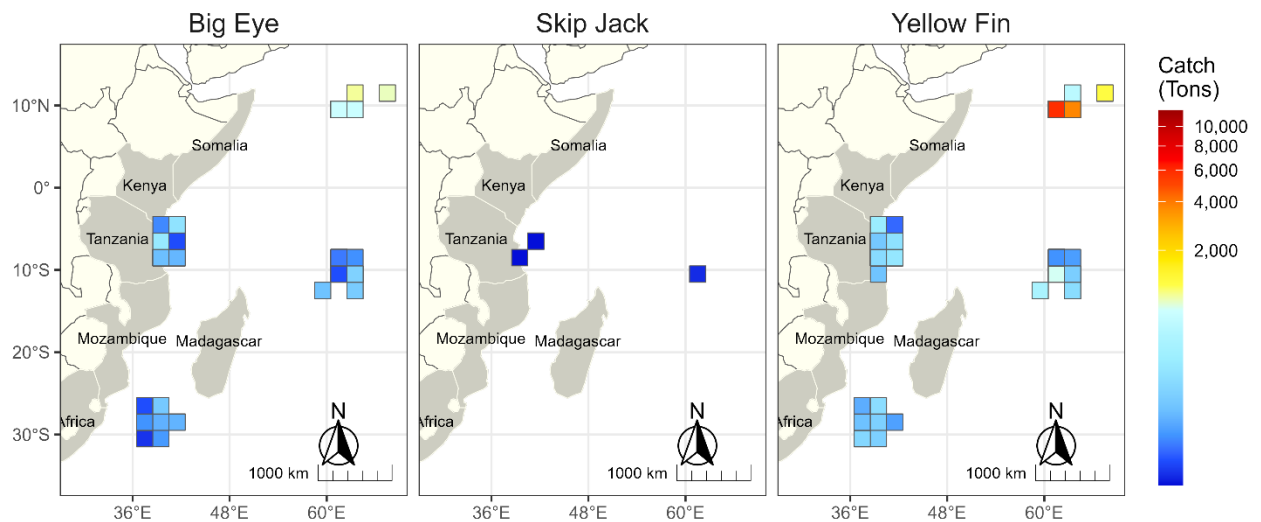


Figure 3a. Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fisheries, in the IOTC area of competence for longline in 2023

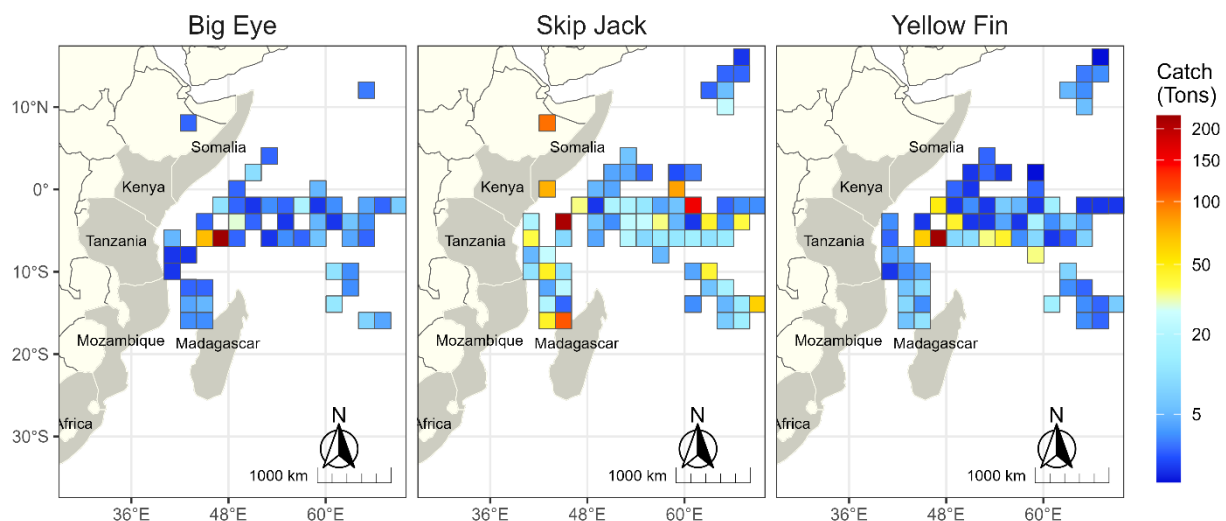


Figure 3b. Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fisheries, in the IOTC area of competence for purse seine in 2023

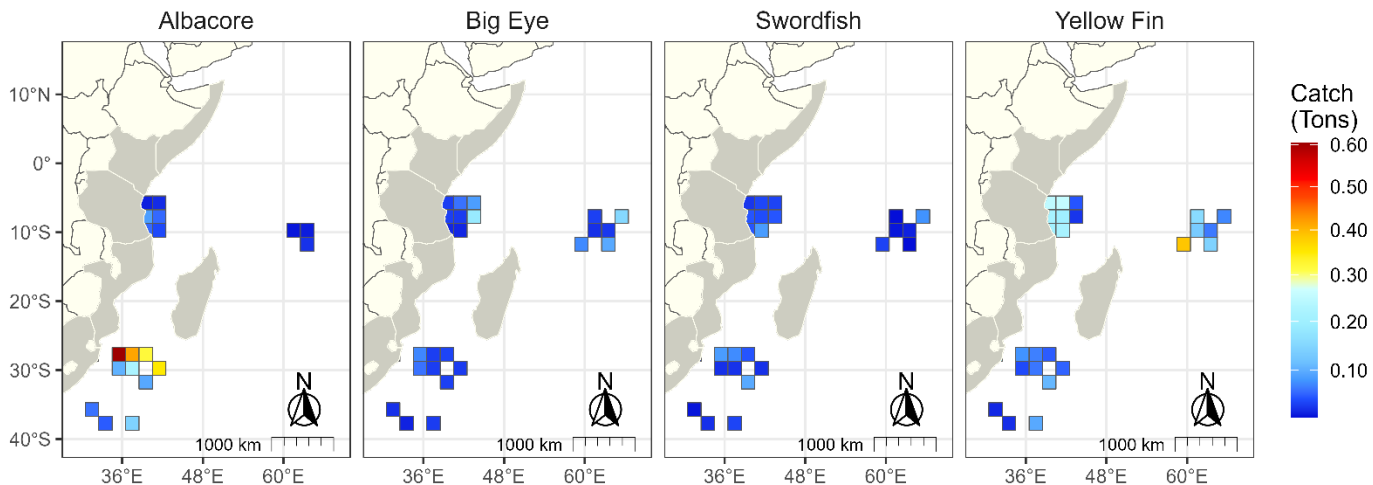


Figure 3c. Map of distribution of fishing catch by species for the national fisheries in the IOTC area of competence (average of the 5 previous years, e.g., 2019–2023 for longline)

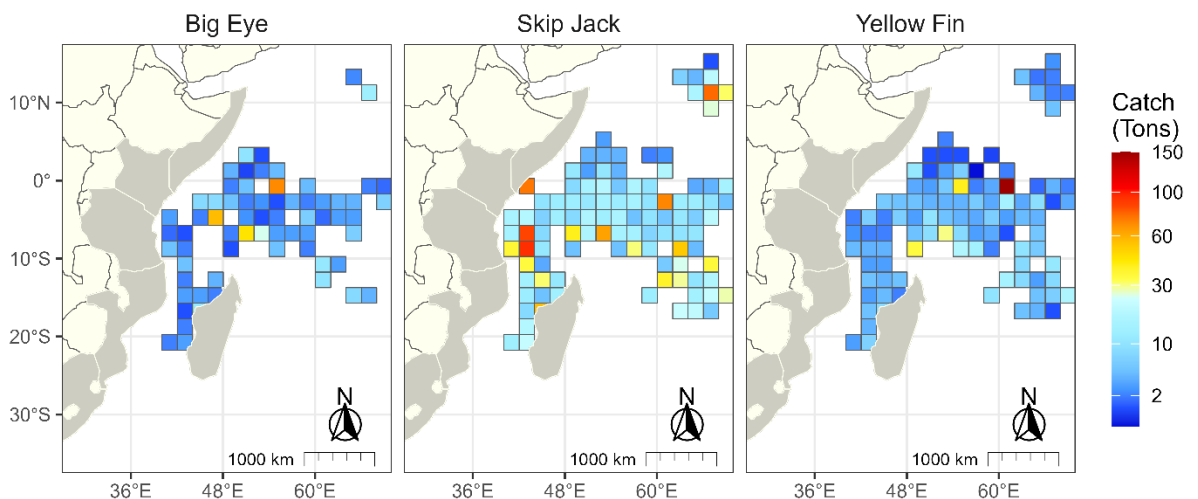


Figure 3d. Map of distribution of fishing catch by species for the national fisheries in the IOTC area of competence (average of the 2 previous years 2022–2023 for purse seine).

4. Recreational fishery

Recreational fishing in Tanzania is a unique “catch and release” activity conducted primarily in designated coastal and marine areas like Zanzibar, Mafia, and Pemba islands. Anglers are drawn to these waters to catch impressive species like marlin, sailfish, and tuna, challenging local records and enhancing the thrill of the sport. While this activity contributes significantly to tourism and offers an exciting experience year-round, catch data remain unavailable, making assessing its broader environmental impact difficult.

5. Ecosystem and bycatch issues

Tanzania has embraced a comprehensive approach to sustainable fisheries management, integrating the 40 Minimum Terms and Conditions (MTC) recommended by the SWIOFC into its national framework to address environmental concerns. This commitment is reflected in the country's legal framework, notably through the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, Cap 388, 2020, and its regulations of 2021, which advocate for sustainable management and conservation of marine resources within the EEZ and areas beyond national jurisdiction.

In addition, Tanzania employs a logbook system that requires daily reporting of fishing operations, including catch and bycatch. The country has also started preparations for a pilot project on an electronic monitoring (EM) system to enhance the monitoring of fishing activities. Ecosystem management, including bycatch reduction, remains a priority. Tanzania is promoting the use of turtle-excluding devices (JTEDs) to minimise the capture of undersized fish and sea turtles.

5.1 *Sharks*

Regulations 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Regulations of 2021 establish comprehensive measures for the conservation of various species of sharks. In addition, the fisheries legislation of Tanzania and Zanzibar prohibits fishing, dealing with, and possessing sharks and rays listed in the IUCN red list and those under CITES. These regulations also emphasise reporting of incidental catches to fisheries authorities. The provisions serve as a critical framework for ensuring sustainable and responsible use of shark resources while playing a key role in maintaining the health and balance of marine ecosystems.

5.1.1. *NPOA sharks*

The National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks is in the final formulation stages. The NPOA Sharks is expected to be endorsed by February 2025. In addition, a specialised data collection system for sharks and rays in artisanal fisheries has been developed in collaboration between the government and stakeholders. These arrangements highlight the country's commitment to sustainably managing and utilising sharks and marine ecosystems.

5.1.2. *Blue shark*

Tanzania's fisheries legislation, enforced by the Fisheries Departments, local governments, and the Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA), strictly prohibits shark finning, possession, and trade. In 2023,

there were no recorded instances of shark finning. In addition, Tanzania updated its fishing logbook in 2022 for its fleet. The revised logbook includes specific provisions to document any interaction with blue sharks accurately. This initiative enhances the monitoring of blue shark populations, contributing to the broader conservation efforts in the region.

5.2 *Seabirds*

The two Tanzania longlines in the south below 25 degrees south reported three interactions between seabirds and fishing gear. To minimise interactions, fishing vessels use bird-scaring lines and line weights. Tanzania has adopted and is implementing IOTC resolution 10/06 on reducing incidental catches of seabirds in legislation. In addition, the preparation of NPA-Seabird is in the process and will be finalised in 2025.

5.3 *Marine Turtles*

Five out of the seven world’s marine turtles inhabit Tanzania’s marine waters, namely Green (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) turtles. All five species are classified as endangered or critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). They are listed in *Appendix I* of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In 2005, it was reported that marine turtle populations in Tanzania were declining due to various threats, including harvesting for their meat, eggs, and shells, accidental capture in fishing gear, increasing coastal development, climate change, and the degradation of nesting and foraging habitats (WWF 2005). Tanzania established its first National Action Plan for Conservation of Marine Turtles 2024 – 2029 to address conservation challenges facing marine turtles.

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

Tanzania’s fisheries laws advocate conserving and managing ecologically important species, including cetaceans, mobulid rays, and whale sharks. These species can be seen in the Tanzania waters. However, no bycatch of these species was recorded in 2023.

6. National data collection and processing systems

6.1. *Logsheet data collection and verification (including date commenced and status of implementation)*

Licensed fishing vessels in Tanzania’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and on the high seas report daily catches to the Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA). Vessel captains log daily catch data on standardised log sheets and submit them electronically to the DSFA. These logs meet Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) requirements and detail catch composition, fishing effort, and other key data. The DSFA integrates this data into the Fisheries Information System or Catch Assessment System for storage and analysis. Since 2004, Tanzania has used logbooks to record data on catch, bycatch, transshipment activities, and vessel movements in its EEZ. These logbooks are periodically updated to meet evolving data needs and ensure accurate fisheries information.

Artisanal catch data is collected at designated landing sites in 16 coastal districts by trained Beach Management Units (BMUs). Sites are chosen based on vessel density and accessibility to ensure a representative sample. In mainland Tanzania, sampling takes place over ten designated days per month, while Zanzibar conducts sampling over sixteen days. Trained beach recorders gather data from 32 landing sites in mainland Tanzania and 30 in Zanzibar. District Fisheries Officers review this data before incorporating it into national databases. Fisheries officers and scientists cross-verify the data for accuracy, supporting annual reports, decision-making, scientific research, and public awareness efforts. Tanzania plans to expand data collection by 2025 with funding from the TASFAM project to cover more landing sites. Although over 250 landing sites exist in mainland Tanzania, only a few participate in formal data collection. Expanding coverage will enhance artisanal fisheries data quality, ensuring better monitoring and management of marine resources

6.2. Observer scheme

Tanzania continues actively participating in the Regional Observer Scheme (ROS), utilising a team of 22 trained fisheries observers to monitor and report fishing activities. In collaboration with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA) facilitated the training of 10 scientific fisheries observers to enhance Tanzania’s effective management capacity. In 2023, five of these observers were deployed on Tanzanian-flagged vessels, Longline—2 observers and Purse seine—3 observers each for 30-day trips, to collect critical data on fishing operations.

Additionally, when writing this report, an observer training workshop is underway, targeting to strengthen observers in Tanzania. This ongoing training initiative underscores Tanzania’s commitment to strengthening its observer program and improving fisheries’ oversight across its jurisdiction.

Table 3. Annual observer coverage by operation, e.g., longline hooks, purse seine sets (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g., 2019–2023 or to the extent available).

Year	Gear	Coverage %
2019	LL	100
2020	LL	100
2021	LL	100
2022	LL	100
2022	PS	20
2023	PS	50
2023	LL	5

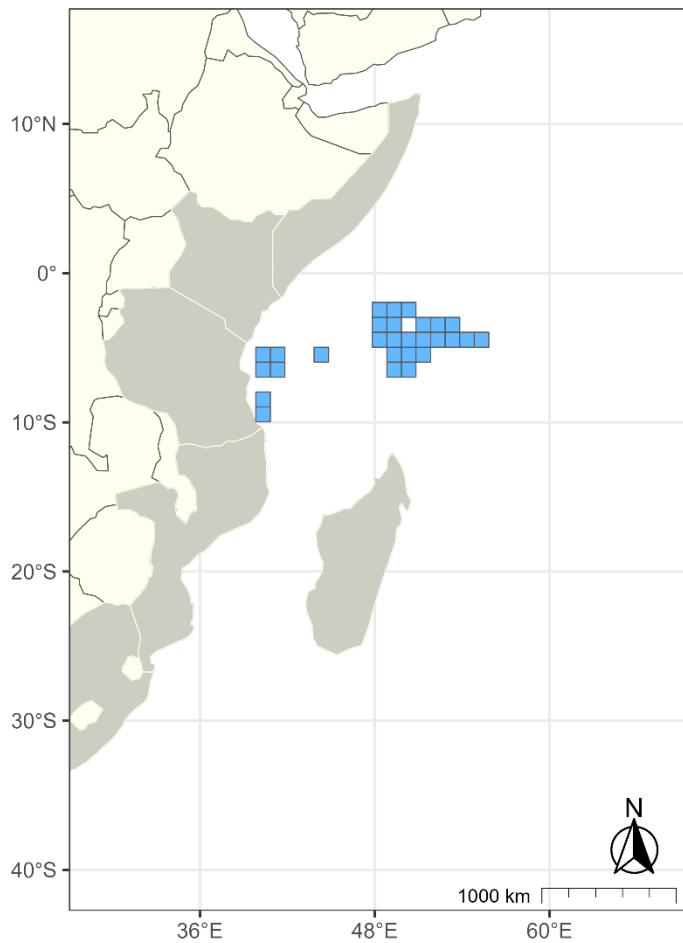


Figure 4. Map showing the spatial distribution of observer coverage.

6.3. Port sampling programme

No port sampling was done in 2023. Trained landing site observers collect size data on seven coast landing sites.

Table 4. Number of vessel trips or vessels actively monitored by species and fishery

Year	Gear			
	LL	PS	GN	Others (coastal fisheries)
Trip 2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	120 days/selected landing sites
Trip 2019	1	N/A	N/A	120 days/selected landing sites
Trip 2020	1	N/A	N/A	90 days/selected landing sites
Trip 2021	1	N/A	N/A	90 days/selected landing sites
Trip 2022	2	1	N/A	90 days/selected landing sites
Trip 2023	2	1	N/A	90 days/selected landing sites

Table 5. Number of fish measured by species and fishery

Year	LL					PS					
	SKJ	YFT	BET	ALB	BLM	SKJ	YFT	BET	ALB	BLM	SWO
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019	01	44	54	8	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	02	65	122	6	23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	03	74	133	8	37	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	05	61	103	7	25	70	40	20	23	N/A	N/A
2023	N/A	43	3	11	11	36	18	2	6	9	5

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

The United Republic of Tanzania (URT) remains fully committed to rigorous oversight in catch monitoring and the sustainable management of key billfish species, including Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, and Indo-Pacific Sailfish. This dedication is firmly anchored in applying the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), incorporated into Tanzania’s legislative and regulatory frameworks.

The URT enforces these measures through a multi-pronged approach, combining onboard monitoring systems, detailed inspections, and strict adherence to the terms and conditions outlined in fishing licenses. This includes the deployment of fisheries observers on vessels, data collection on catch composition and effort, and regular inspections at landing sites. Additionally, the legal framework ensures that IOTC regulations are seamlessly integrated into national policies, further enhancing compliance with international conservation efforts.

6.5. *Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring*

Artisanal vessels in Tanzanian waters use only small gillnets, which are monitored as part of the broader artisanal sector. No dedicated observers are assigned to small gillnets. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) encourages Contracting Parties (CPCs) to increase observer coverage or adopt alternative data collection methods for gillnet operations. Large-scale gillnet vessels do not operate in Tanzanian waters, reducing the need for specific monitoring.

6.6. *Sampling plans for mobulid rays*

No sampling plan was made in 2023.

7. National research programs

Over the last four years, Tanzania has successfully conducted 12 research programs within its marine waters (Table 6). The country is set to launch additional research initiatives in 2025 as part of the Tanzania Scaling Up Sustainable Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture Management (TASFAM) Project. These forthcoming programs aim to advance sustainable fisheries practices further and enhance the management of marine resources.

7.1. National research programs on blue shark

There are no specific national research programs on blue sharks.

7.2. National research programs on Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-Pacific Sailfish

No national research programs on Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-Pacific Sailfish

7.3. National research programs on sharks

The Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA), in collaboration with the World Conservation Society (WCS) and Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), collects data on shark catches, size frequency, and genetics. The initiative trains data collectors, builds databases, and uses DNA analysis for accurate species identification, aiming to understand shark abundance and distribution in Tanzanian waters. The preliminary findings of the work reveal five Critically Endangered shark species in Tanzanian waters: oceanic white-tip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), ragged tooth (*Carcharias taurus*), short-tail nurse (*Pseudoginglymostoma brevicaudatum*), scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), and great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*). In addition, artisanal catches near Unguja and Pemba suggest potential nursery and birthing areas for juvenile *C. longimanus* and *S. lewini*, but these have yet to be confirmed. The short-tail nurse shark, endemic to the Western Indian Ocean and found in Tanzanian fisheries, is a priority for future research and conservation efforts.

7.4. National research programs on oceanic white-tip sharks

No national research programs are specifically dedicated to oceanic white-tip sharks. However, through the EEZ research agenda of 2020-2030, plans will be put in place to implement this requirement.

7.5. National research programs on marine turtles

There are no national research programs specifically dedicated to marine turtles. However, it is worth noting that Sea Sense is actively involved in turtle monitoring and conservation efforts.

7.6. National research programs on thresher sharks

At present, no national research program which is dedicated to thresher sharks.

Table 6. Summary table of national research programs, including dates.

Project title	Period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives	Short description
Strengthening Data Collection at Small-Scale Fisheries Landing Sites	2023-2024		50,000	Government	Enhance the accuracy and comprehensiveness of fisheries data collection at designated landing sites to support informed decision-making and sustainable fisheries management.	This work aims to improve data collection at small-scale fisheries landing sites to address data gaps, ensure accurate reporting, and provide a solid foundation for sustainable management of marine resources. Enhanced data collection will help inform policy, support conservation efforts, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of fisheries in Tanzania.

8. Implementation of Scientific Committee Recommendations and Resolutions of the IOTC relevant to the SC

Table 9. Scientific requirements are contained in the Resolutions of the Commission adopted between 2012 and 2023.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
12/04	On the Conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	<p>Tanzania has strengthened its conservation efforts for marine turtles through key legislative measures outlined in the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, Cap 388 of 2020. Section 21 specifically addresses Conservation and Management Measures, while Section 25 ensures the marking and protection of fishing gear, reducing harmful interactions with marine wildlife.</p> <p>A significant milestone in these efforts is the development of the “National Action Plan for Conservation of Marine Turtles 2024–2029.” This plan focuses on overcoming challenges related to marine turtle conservation, such as habitat degradation, and promoting coordinated strategies across sectors. It also emphasises the protection of nesting and foraging habitats, enhanced law enforcement, and community engagement to safeguard marine turtle populations, which include green, hawksbill, loggerhead, leatherback, and olive ridley turtles found in Tanzania’s waters. These initiatives demonstrate Tanzania’s proactive approach to securing a sustainable future for these endangered species.</p>
12/09	On the Conservation of thresher sharks (family Alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	<p>Tanzania has strengthened its conservation measures for thresher sharks (family Alopiidae) and oceanic white-tip sharks, as outlined in the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, Cap 388 of 2020. The law prohibits fishing for, retaining, transshipping,</p>

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			<p>landing, or storing these species in the Tanzanian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or any area under the jurisdiction of a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO).</p> <p>Operators of Tanzanian fishing vessels must promptly release any thresher or oceanic white-tip sharks unharmed when brought alongside the vessel, keeping accurate records of all catches, incidental catches, and live releases in their fishing logbooks. In cases where these sharks are found dead upon retrieval, operators must assist onboard observers in collecting biological samples, provided such activities are part of RFMO-sanctioned research projects. These regulations are crucial to ensuring the Conservation and sustainable management of thresher and oceanic white-tip sharks within and beyond Tanzania’s waters.</p>
13/04	On the Conservation of Cetaceans	Paragraphs 7–9	<p>Tanzania has made significant progress in conserving cetaceans by implementing strict regulations under the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, Cap 388 of 2020. Under Section 9 on Conservation of cetacean and whale sharks <i>rhincodon typus</i> and In cases where cetaceans or whale sharks are unintentionally encircled, operators are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure their safe release, following best practice guidelines developed by the scientific committees of relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Detailed reports must be submitted to the Director General, covering species identification, number of individuals, location, and steps taken for release, along with an assessment of the animal’s life status post-release.</p>

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			<p>Operators using other fishing gear for tuna and tuna-like species are also mandated to report any interactions with cetaceans or whale sharks, ensuring comprehensive monitoring and protection. These measures represent a crucial step toward the sustainable management and Conservation of cetaceans in Tanzania's Exclusive Economic Zone and beyond.</p>
13/05	On the Conservation of Whale Sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>)	Paragraphs 7–9	<p>Tanzania has made significant progress in the Conservation of whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>) by implementing strict regulations under the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, Cap 388 of 2020. Under Section 9 on Conservation of cetacean and whale sharks <i>rhincodon typus</i> and in cases where cetaceans or whale sharks are unintentionally encircled, operators are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure their safe release, following best practice guidelines developed by the scientific committees of relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Detailed reports must be submitted to the Director General, covering species identification, number of individuals, location, and steps taken for release, along with an assessment of the animal's life status post-release.</p> <p>Operators using other fishing gear for tuna and tuna-like species are also mandated to report any interactions with cetaceans or whale sharks, ensuring comprehensive monitoring and protection. These measures represent a crucial step toward the sustainable management and Conservation of cetaceans and whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>) in Tanzania's Exclusive Economic Zone and beyond.</p>
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on	Paragraphs 5–6	<p>Tanzania has implemented stringent measures for the Conservation of sharks caught in association with</p>



Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
	<p>the Conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries</p>		<p>IOTC-managed fisheries under the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, Cap 388 of 2020, ensuring compliance with national legislation and the conservation requirements of relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). These measures regulate shark handling, focusing on sustainable practices across fishing operations.</p> <p>Operators of vessels within Tanzania’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), or Tanzanian vessels operating beyond national jurisdiction, are required to:</p> <p>Prohibit the landing, retention, transshipment, or carriage of shark fins unless they remain naturally attached to the carcass until the first landing point (for fresh sharks).</p> <p>Ensure that shark fins onboard do not exceed 5% of the total shark weight until the first landing point, where sharks are frozen, which aligns with international standards.</p> <p>Support compliance verification measures as directed by the Director General may involve monitoring through certification, observer programs, or other enforcement mechanisms.</p> <p>Prohibit the retention, transshipment, or landing of shark fins harvested in violation of these regulations to ensure accountability throughout fishing operations.</p> <p>Release live sharks, especially juveniles and pregnant individuals, whenever feasible to minimise bycatch mortality and enhance conservation efforts.</p> <p>These regulatory efforts represent Tanzania’s commitment to the sustainable management of sharks, aligning with international best practices. The continued focus on the live release of non-target species and compliance monitoring underscores the country’s</p>

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			proactive approach to safeguarding shark populations and promoting responsible fisheries management.
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	<p>Following the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, Cap 388 of 2020, Section 36, and in line with international obligations under the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), all fishing vessels operating within Tanzania’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and beyond national jurisdiction are required to record catch and fishing effort data accurately. This obligation applies to Tanzanian-flagged vessels and foreign vessels licensed to operate in Tanzania’s EEZ or within the broader IOTC area of competence.</p> <p>Maintaining detailed records is critical for sustainable fisheries management and to ensure compliance with international conservation and management measures (ICMMs).</p> <p>As a licensing condition, vessel operators must maintain bound logbooks on board, documenting all fishing activities and related operations. These logbooks capture essential information, including species composition, quantities landed, fishing locations by latitude and longitude, and the weight of fish caught by species. This data must be updated daily and submitted to the Director General of the Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA) via facsimile, Mobile Transceiver Units (MTU), or electronic mail in English. These timely submissions ensure Tanzania’s ability to monitor fishing efforts and maintain compliance with the reporting requirements of the IOTC.</p> <p>Reports are also mandatory when vessels enter or exit the EEZ. Operators must notify authorities of the last port of call in previous fishing areas and provide precise</p>



Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			<p>information about the vessel’s position, date, and movement time. This facilitates real-time monitoring of fishing operations and helps prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing within Tanzania’s waters and the broader Indian Ocean region.</p> <p>Additionally, vessels must release juvenile or pregnant sharks and report any interactions with protected species, such as thresher sharks or oceanic white-tip sharks, ensuring that the conservation requirements of relevant IOTC resolutions are met. Fishing operators must also comply with strict measures prohibiting the retention or transshipment of shark fins unless naturally attached to the carcass, ensuring alignment with IOTC shark conservation measures.</p> <p>Failure to maintain accurate records or submit reports as required is a punishable offence under Section 36(2) of the Act. Operators who breach these obligations are subject to fines, reinforcing Tanzania’s commitment to sustainable fisheries governance. These monitoring and reporting efforts contribute to Tanzania’s national fisheries management objectives while aligning with the broader goals of the IOTC to conserve tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.</p>
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	Catch, effort, and size data for 2022 are to be submitted daily to the Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA) to ensure timely reporting and to facilitate effective monitoring and management of fishing activities as per Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, Cap 388 of 2020 Section 36.
17/05	On the Conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	Following the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, Cap 388 of 2020, Section 7. Tanzania enforces strict conservation measures for sharks caught in association with fisheries, which align

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			<p>with national laws and the requirements of relevant RFMOs. Operators of fishing vessels within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or Tanzanian vessels operating beyond national jurisdiction or within the competence of an RFMO must ensure that shark fins remain naturally attached to the carcass until the first point of landing when sharks are landed fresh.</p> <p>For frozen landings, the fins must not exceed 5% of the total weight of sharks on board. Compliance with this regulation is monitored through certification, observer oversight, or other verification measures prescribed by the Director General.</p> <p>Furthermore, operators are prohibited from retaining, transshipping, or landing fins harvested in violation of these rules. Any live sharks, especially juveniles and pregnant females caught incidentally, must be released unharmed whenever possible if they are not intended for food or subsistence. These regulations aim to prevent overfishing, promote sustainable practices, and protect vulnerable shark populations in Tanzanian waters and beyond.</p>
18/02	On management measures for the Conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	Same as above
18/05	On management measures for the Conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 – 11	Tanzania actively monitors billfish catches from semi-industrial longline vessels and artisanal fisheries to ensure they remain within the limits set by 2014 and 2015 catch levels, per IOTC Resolution 18/05.
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of	Paragraphs 1, 4	Tanzania remains committed to fulfilling its reporting obligations to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
	reporting obligations in the IOTC		(IOTC). Significant progress has been made in improving the accuracy and timeliness of reporting, demonstrating the country's dedication to compliance with regional fisheries management requirements. Ongoing support and capacity-building initiatives from the IOTC are expected to enhance Tanzania's reporting capabilities further, enabling more comprehensive data submission and fostering greater alignment with international standards. This continuous improvement will strengthen Tanzania's role within the IOTC and contribute to more effective and sustainable fisheries management in the region.
19/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence <i>(If not provided under Res 21/01 below)</i>	Paragraph 22	Tanzania implements the Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock.
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	Regarding the Conservation of mobulid rays in the IOTC area of competence, Tanzania has been collecting catch data for these species. This effort aligns with regional conservation objectives, supporting the sustainable management of mobulid ray populations and contributing to informed decision-making within the IOTC framework.
21/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence <i>(If not provided under Res 19/01 above)</i>	Paragraph 23	As provided under resolution 19/01 above



Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
22/04	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 12	Tanzania has established a program for training and deploying observers on commercial fishing vessels to enhance fisheries monitoring and compliance. In October 2024, an observer training program is underway, further strengthening this initiative. In addition to onboard monitoring, sampling at landing sites and regular frame surveys are conducted to collect essential fisheries data, ensuring comprehensive oversight and sustainable resource management.
23/07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	Under the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, Cap 388 of 2020, Section 11. Tanzania has implemented robust measures to monitor and report incidental bycatch of seabirds by fishing vessels operating in its Exclusive Economic Zone and those beyond national jurisdiction or within the area of competence of relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Operators of these vessels are required to report any incidental bycatch of seabirds as specified by the Director General. Moreover, when Tanzanian fishing vessels operate south of 25 degrees south latitude, they must utilise specific mitigation measures and comply with technical standards to reduce seabird bycatch. These efforts reflect Tanzania's commitment to sustainable fishing practices and the Conservation of marine biodiversity.

9. Literature cited

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