



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



IOTC FISHERIES IDENTIFICATION

DATA TECHNICAL WORKSHOP TO IMPROVE THE REPORT OF FISHERY
STATISTICS TO THE IOTC

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 26 TO 30 MAY 2025

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BACKGROUND

Considering the overcoming issues encountered by several CPCs when attempting to categorize their fisheries for IOTC reporting purposes, on the 18th Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS18) the Secretariat presented a new approach to the definition and codification of fisheries catching tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean



NEW APPROACH TO DEFINE IOTC FISHERIES

IOTC Fisheries definition combines concepts from the fishing effort domain (fishing gear, fishing ground, and fishing mode) with concepts from the catches' domain (target species) and that by doing so it can accurately describe fishing practices for groups of vessels and be used to characterize sub-units within a fishery.



Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien



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Fisheries identification wizard - v1.2 [↗](#)

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the full list of **1743** fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species currently identified for the Indian Ocean

Fishery

IOTDB

ISSCFG

Code:

N/A

Gears:

N/A

Group:

N/A

[↗](#) N/A

Category:

N/A

Forms:

N/A

Gear:

N/A

[↗](#) N/A



Narrow-down the selection criteria to identify one of the available fisheries

? What is the *main purpose* of the fishery?



Recreational



Subsistence



Commercial



Scientific



(i) purpose of the fishery:

- recreational, i.e., the fish is caught for recreational purposes only
- subsistence, i.e., the fish is exclusively consumed by the fishermen and their households
- commercial, i.e., the fish is sold at the landing site or at a market, exported, or sold to processing / canning factories
- scientific, i.e., the fishery only operates to collect scientific information or support the training of scientists and fishermen

? What is the *main purpose* of the fishery?

 Recreational

 Subsistence

 Commercial

 Scientific



(ii) area of operation of the vessels engaged in the fishery:

- NJA, i.e., vessels operate exclusively within areas under national jurisdiction of their flag state (territorial sea, contiguous zone as well as EEZ waters)
- NJA and ABNJ, i.e., vessels operate in areas under national jurisdiction as well as in areas beyond national jurisdiction of their flag state (i.e., high seas or areas under national jurisdiction of other coastal states)
- ABNJ, i.e., vessels operate exclusively in areas beyond national jurisdiction of their flag state (i.e., high seas or areas under national jurisdiction of other coastal states)

In which *fishing grounds* does the fishery operate?

NJA

NJA + ABNJ

ABNJ



(iii) category of length overall (LoA) of the vessels engaged in the fishery:

- $\text{LoA} < 15 \text{ m}$
- $15 \text{ m} \leq \text{LoA} < 24 \text{ m}$
- $\text{LoA} \geq 24 \text{ m}$



What is the *length overall* (LoA) of the vessels?

< 15m

15m - 24m

$\geq 24\text{m}$



(iv) gear category; mapped by gear groups according to the ISSCFG categorization:

- Purse seines, includes purse seines and ringnets, i.e., surrounding nets without purse seines
- Gillnets, includes set gillnets, drift gillnets and encircling gillnets
- Hooks and lines, includes manual and mechanized handlines, vertical lines and trolling lines
- Longlines, includes set longlines, drifting longlines and longlines (nei)
- Pole-and-lines, includes manual and mechanized pole-and-lines
- Other, a subset of seine nets, trawls, lift nets, falling gear, traps, and miscellaneous gear

 What is the *gear group* that better describes the fishery?

Longlines

Purse seines

Gillnets

Hooks and lines

Pole-and-lines

Other gears



(v) gear used to catch the fish

Mapped on the latest ISSCFG gear codes, and more specifically on those belonging to the selected gear category GC

 Which *specific gear* do vessels use?

Drifting longline

Set longline

 Which *specific gear* do vessels use?

Drifting gillnet

Drifting gillnet and longline

 Which *specific gear* do vessels use?

Pole-and-line

Pole-and-line and purse seine



(vi) specific configuration of the gear used to catch the fish (optional)

Chosen from an ad hoc classification whose possible values are determined by the specific gear G selected among those available for the gear category GC

✂ What is the *gear configuration*, if any, used to catch fish?

N/A

Up to 1800 hooks per line

Over 1800 hooks per line

N/A [not available or not specified]

✂ What is the *gear configuration*, if any, used to catch fish?

N/A

At-surface setting

Sub-surface setting

N/A [not available or not specified]

Applies to longline and gillnet



(vii) fishing mode (optional)

Chosen from an ad hoc classification whose possible values are determined by the specific gear G selected among those available for the gear category GC

Which *fishing mode* is exploited by the fishery, if any?

N/A

Fishing on free schools

Fishing on schools associated to drifting floating objects

Fishing on schools associated with anchored floating objects

Fishing on dolphin-associated schools

Fishing on seamount-associated schools

N/A [not available or not specified]

Applies to purse seiner, hooks and lines and pole and lines



(viii) target species (optional)

the species that most accurately represent(s) the target of the fishery; chosen from an ad hoc classification

Which *species or group of species* most accurately represents the target of the fishery, if any?

N/A	Tropical tunas	Temperate tunas	Temperate and tropical tunas	Marlins and sailfish	
Sharks	Southern bluefin tuna	Swordfish	Albacore	Swordfish and albacore	Yellowfin tuna and albacore

N/A [not available or not specified]



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Thank you for your attention!

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