Comoros National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2026

Executive Summary

Fishing in the Union of the Comoros is exclusively artisanal. It is carried out from undecked wooden and fibreglass boats, both motorised and non-motorised, 2 m to 9 m in length. The fishery mainly targets pelagic species (*Thunnus albacares*, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, *Thunnus alalunga*, *Istiophorus platypterus*, *Thunnus obesus*, *Euthynnus affinis*) as well as benthic species. It contributes not only to the country's socio-economy (55% of total employment in the agricultural sector, or about 7,000 fishers) and serves as a source of food and nutrition security, but it is also an important source of livelihoods, well-being and cultural diversity for the people engaged in this activity, directly or indirectly. The fishing techniques used are mainly trolling lines, small-scale vertical handlines (*palangrotte*), light handlines, and a few nets for small pelagics. Trips last from one day to seven days. The marketing chain for catches is generally very simple (fisher–vendor–consumer), and fishery products are intended solely for the domestic market (local consumers and subsistence consumption). Since February 2011, the Comoros has had a landing-site data collection system in place in collaboration with the IOTC. Following an in-depth analysis of the data collected (2011–2014) carried out by the FAO, the sampling plan was reoriented and applied from 2015. Since 2017, data collection has been carried out entirely by smartphone. Annual production from the 2025 survey is estimated at 21,313 tonnes from a total of 5,116 boats..