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

Executive Summary

In Madagascar, the industrial tuna fishery is carried out by longliners under 24 metres in length (between 14 and 17 metres) operating off the east coast. The techniques and methods have remained unchanged since 2010. Vessels generally deploy between 800 and 1,300 hooks per set and make relatively short trips of 4 to 7 days, so that the catch stays fresh on arrival at the landing port of Toamasina. The logbook collection and port sampling programme, implemented since 2014, provides data on the size distribution of the species caught.

Annual catches by longliners from 2020 to 2025 varied widely, from 66 to 244 tonnes, except in 2022, when the catch was nil because these industrial vessels were not active in the area. A sharp decline was observed in 2025, with a total catch of 133.304 tonnes, almost half that of 2024 (244 tonnes). This is probably due to predation, for which tunas are the main prey. This worrying situation deserves analysis, on the one hand by vessel owners, because of the loss in production, and on the other by the Malagasy State, because it is an indicator of ecosystem disturbance that could seriously affect our resources. The 2025 catch consisted of 62% tunas, 14% billfish, 17% sharks and 7% other species. The tuna catch was mainly composed of bigeye tuna, albacore and yellowfin tuna. Overall, we recorded an average annual catch of 133 tonnes.

The gears used by the coastal fishery are mainly gillnets, lines, spearguns (harpoons) and longlines, numbering 656, 794, 350 and 693 respectively, for a total of 2,493.
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