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

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INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

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 2026, final data for the 2025 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2026)	YES 30/06/2026
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 2026, preliminary data for the 2025 calendar year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2026). **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 2026, final data for the 2025 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2024).	YES 30/06/2026
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

Executive Summary

In 2025, Mozambique's fisheries sector continued to play a significant role in national food security and economic development, with artisanal fisheries accounting for approximately 97% of total national catches. Artisanal marine catches were estimated at around 490,000 tonnes, although tuna and tuna-like species represented less than 3% of this production. Within the artisanal sector, a total fishing effort of 1,190,494 gears was recorded, with catches of IOTC-related species and species groups amounting to 15,405 tonnes, mainly dominated by kawakawa and Spanish mackerel.

Industrial tuna fishing activities resumed in 2025 through foreign fishing vessels operating under public-private partnership agreements, with 12 foreign longliners licensed during the year. Industrial tuna catches reached 2,207 tonnes, compared with 3,549 tonnes in 2024. The national longline fleet remained inactive, primarily due to high operational costs and declining catch rates. Semi-industrial fisheries continued to have limited interactions with IOTC species, while recreational and sport fisheries remained important components of tuna and tuna-like species exploitation.

Mozambique continued strengthening its fisheries management framework through the implementation of national legislation incorporating relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures. The country developed its National Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays (NPOA-Sharks) for 2025–2029, providing a strategic framework for improved conservation, research, monitoring and sustainable management. Draft Non-Detriment Findings were also prepared for scalloped hammerhead and silky sharks.

Fisheries monitoring and data collection continued through national sampling systems, logbooks and the National Observer Programme. In 2025, no marine turtle or cetacean interactions were recorded by observers in the monitored tuna fisheries. Seabird mitigation measures, including bird-scaring lines, night-setting and line weighting, remained mandatory for licensed tuna longliners.

National research programmes continued to support ecosystem-based fisheries management, improved scientific information and compliance with IOTC reporting requirements. Nevertheless, challenges remain in strengthening artisanal fisheries sampling coverage, recreational fisheries reporting and independent monitoring capacity.

1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION

Mozambique is located in the south-eastern Africa, between latitudes 10°27'S to 26°52'S and longitudes 30°12'E and 40°51'E. The country has a coastline of approximately 2,700 km, a total continental shelf area of about 104,300 km^2 and an EEZ area of 999, 000 km^2. The coastal area of Mozambique covers seven different provinces and it is normally divided into three macro-areas, namely, (i) Northern coast (Cabo-Delgado and Nampula Provinces) with a coast line of about 770 km and characterized by rocky and coral-bearing sea bed and a narrow continental shelf; (ii) Central coast (including part of Nampula province, the Zambézia and Sofala provinces) with a cost line of about 980 km facing the Sofala bank; and (iii) Southern coast (Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo Provinces), that is about 950 km long and it has some coral and rock bottom in some areas and sand in others. Fishing activity takes place along the entire coast, although the main and more productive fishing area for the national fishing fleets is the Sofala bank. The fishing sectors operating along the coastal areas of Mozambique are the artisanal, the semi-industrial, the industrial and the recreational and sport sector.

The artisanal fishing sector has particular importance for the country's food security. Artisanal fisheries are spread out along the marine coast of all coastal provinces, where two thirds of the population live, and also in the inland areas, where around 25% of the artisanal fisheries catch comes from. The total catch from artisanal marine sector, is around 490,000 tons in 2025, and represents around 97% of the total catch of the country. The fisheries usually takes place from beaches or near coastal waters (generally within 3 nautical miles) using canoes and small motorized boats less than 10 meters in length. Fishing operations are conducted with a wide range of fishing gears, including beach-seines, hand-lines, gillnets, small purse seines and longlines. The artisanal fleet usually conduct daily fishing trips using one type of gear, but in some cases multiple gears are employed simultaneously. The catches are composed mostly by small pelagic fishes and small demersal

species. Tuna and tuna like species represent a small portion of the catch (less than 3%), with Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel being the main species landed from this group.

The industrial fishing sector is dominated by shallow water shrimp trawling and the deep water crustaceans trawling with almost no impact on tuna and tuna-like species. Interactions with marine turtles are the unique concern of the shallow water shrimp trawling. Since 2022, the national longline fleet has remained inactive due to the suspension of fishing operations. This interruption resulted from the combination of high operational costs, mainly driven by increased fuel prices and maintenance expenses and the decline in catches of tuna and associated species. Consequently, most vessels have ceased operations, and no longline fishing trips have been reported since then. However, with the commitment of Mozambique government in promoting the implementation of the Tuna Fishery Development Plan (PEDPA), a rapid growth of the national tuna oriented industrial sector is expected in the coming years.

The semi-industrial sector is characterised by vessels between 10 to 20 m in size. It is sub-divided in shallow water shrimp trawling and linefishery. In this Sector, the fishery with a potential impact on IOTC primary species is the linefishery which target primarily rocky bottom fish (demersal species), but actually has the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, as the only IOTC captured species.

The practice of Recreational and Sport fisheries is more active in the southern coast (21°S to 26°S). Operations takes place from the shore or are boat based, using tod and reel. Tuna and tuna-like species are captured on boat based operations (fibreglass ski boat; 3-9m length), being particularly target species within fishing tournaments.
On general, species under the IOTC mandate may be more or less impacted by all fisheries sector in Mozambique. However, fisheries that directly target on IOTC primary species are the industrial tuna longline fishery and Sport fishery.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE

Historically, the main fleet fishing tuna and tuna-like species in the Mozambique EEZ was the Foreign Distant Waters Tuna Fishing Nations (DWTFN), mainly using longline gear and most recently a purse seiner vessel operated in the Mozambique EEZ. The National longline vessel operated under charter agreement and joint venture agreement. However, the number of licenses issued to foreigners decreased sharply since 2020 and no foreign vessels have been licensed in 2021 to 2023, duet update of the license fee to harmonise regional.

Table 1: Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence, by gear type and size class

Type of Fishery	Year					
	2020	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
National Longline	11	6	11	4	0	0
Foreign Longline	4	0	0	0	10	12
Purse Seine	0	0	0	1	1	0
Semi-Industrial	377	378	418	405	411	390
Artisanal	29,545	21,361	29,310	31,454	35,827	29,261
Recreational and Sport	2,600	3,481	4,001	4,592	4,621	4,096
Total	**32,537**	**25,226**	**33,740**	**36,457**	**40,871**	**33,759**

The National Longline fishery recorded a fluctuating trend between 2020 and 2025. The number of recorded units decreased from 11 in 2020 to 6 in 2021, before increasing again to 11 in 2022. This was followed by a decline to 4 in 2023, with no recorded activity in 2024 and 2025. In comparison, the Foreign Longline fishery

recorded no activity between 2021 and 2023, but showed an increase in 2024 and 2025, with 10 and 12 recorded units, respectively.

Overall, the data indicate that longline fishing activity has shifted from the national to the foreign fleet in the most recent years, while the National Longline fishery has had no recorded activity since 2024.
The recreational and sport fishing sector also targets primary IOTC species. In 2024, approximately 4,600 licenses were issued to operators in coastal provinces, representing a 1% increase compared to the previous year and an overall growth of 85% between 2020 and 2024. This significant increase in licensing was largely driven by the withdrawal of restrictive measures implemented for the mitigation and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND FISHERY)

In 2025, there was a resumption of operations by foreign fishing vessels under public-private partnership agreements. During the year, 12 foreign vessels were licensed to operate, a development that helps explain the upward trend in catch volumes observed over the past five years. During the last two years, one purse seine vessel has been operating, further contributing to the overall increase in recorded catches.

Table 2: Industrial tuna annual catch by species in the IOTC area of competence.

Species / Year	Yellowfin (ton)	Bigeye (ton)	Albacore (ton)	Skipjack (ton)	Marlin (ton)	Sharks (ton)	Swordfish (ton)	Others (ton)	Total (ton)
2020	101	30	2	0	1	-	128	-	**262**
2021	159	52	6	1	1	-	132	-	**351**
2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0**
2023	844	326	42	1	20	37	10	15	**1295**
2024	2289	964	92	4	48	93	25	34	**3549**
2025	1518	116	132	8	78	9	65	277	**2207**

Artisanal fisheries are characterised by a considerable fishing effort, with a total of 1,190,494 fishing gears recorded across the four fishing gear categories. The highest fishing effort was recorded for Beach Seine, with 353,670 gears, followed by small Purse Seiner (306,772 gears), Handline (305,690 gears) and gillnet (224,362 gears).

In terms of catches, total landings across the six reported species or species groups amounted to 15,405 tonnes. KAW was the most important catch category, accounting for 6,633 tonnes (43.1% of total catches), followed by COM, with 4,850 tonnes (31.5%), and KAK, with 2,618 tonnes (17.0%). FRI contributed 975 tonnes (6.3%), while BET and BIP accounted for 297 tonnes (1.9%) and 32 tonnes (0.2%), respectively.

Regarding the relationship between fishing effort and catches, beach seine recorded the highest fishing effort (353,670 gears) and the highest total catches, amounting to approximately 4,676 tonnes. Small purse seiner followed with 4,060 tonnes, while handline recorded approximately 3,827 tonnes. Gillnet registered the lowest fishing effort (224,362 gears) and the lowest total catches, with approximately 2,837 tonnes.

Overall, the results show that artisanal fishing effort and catches are concentrated in the beach seine and small purse seiner fleets. The catch composition is also strongly dominated by KAW and COM, which together represent approximately 74.6% of total reported catches. This highlights the importance of these fisheries and species groups to artisanal fishing production.

Table 3. Artisanal annual catch and effort by fishery and primary species in the IOTC area of competence in 2025.

Fisheries	Effort[1]	FRI (ton)	KAW (ton)	BET (ton)	BIP (ton)	COM (ton)	KAK (ton)
BS[SS]NS	353670	1923	303	83	10	1558	799
GS[SS]NS	224362	1180	186	59	6	906	506
HL.NM-FS[SS]NS	305690	1736	238	77	8	1110	658
PS-FS[SS]NS	306772	1794	248	78	9	1276	655
Total	**1190494**	**6633**	**975**	**297**	**32**	**4850**	**2618**

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY

Monitoring and assessing the impact of this sector on IOTC species still a challenge. A comprehensive update of the year 2008 recreational fisheries census was planned to be undertaken in 2020 in order to fill the gaps and improve the knowledge on the dynamic of this fishery. However, due the covid-19 pandemic effects and the availability of the funds this activity were not conducted. In 2021, the Recreational and Sport Fishing Regulation was revised and approved in 2021 (Decree 82/2021 from October 15th). The regulation brings some conservation and management measures that affected positively on IOTC species. The total bag limited was reduced from 10 to 5 fish per fisherman per day. The summary of the measures is presented in the below.

Table 4. Recreational and Sport Fishing Regulation CMMs related to IOTC species.

Species	Minimum size	Bag limit	Other restrictions
Sharks	-	-	Prohibited
Marlins and sailfish	60 cm	2	-
Swordfish	-	2	
Yellowing and Bigeye	60 cm	5	Minim 3.5 kg
Skipjack and kawakawa	40 cm	5	
Frigate and bullet tuna	30 cm	5	
Spanish mackerel	65 cm	5	

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES

The new Marine Fisheries Regulation approved in 2020 is already in force (Decree nr. 89/2020 of October 8th). Key IOTC resolutions pertaining conservation and management of sharks, seabirds and sea turtles were incorporated into the regulation with assistance of an external consultant supported by the IOTC. In addition of protecting all marine turtles and marine mammals, all IOTC prohibited sharks and all CITES appendice I sharks were included in the protected species list. Additionally minimum size were introduced for many IOTC species including sharks as presented in the table below (Table 8). Shark finning is prohibited according with this regulation.

[1] Effort unit: Number of fishing gear.

Table 5. Maritime Fishing Regulation CMMs related to IOTC species.

Species	Minimum size	Other restrictions
Great white shark	-	Protected
Thresher sharks	-	Protected
Oceanic whitetip	-	Protected
Whale shark	-	Protected
Mobulid rays	-	Protected
Sawfishes	-	Protected
Marine turtles	-	Protected
Marine mammals	-	Protected
Marlins, sailfish and Spanish mackerel	60 cm	-
Hammerhead sharks, blue shark and other requiem sharks (Carcharhinidae)	150 cm	-
Mako sharks	200 cm	-

Moreover, Mozambique has developed in 2014, the Terms and Conditions of Licensing for tuna fishing and update annually to include the new IOTC resolutions approved, it is attached to fishing license. These contain all the measures for the conservation and management of tuna fisheries and include the aspects related to conservation of sharks, seabirds and sea turtles.

5.1 Sharks

Mozambique has implemented several national measures to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of sharks and rays. Protected species include thresher shark, oceanic whitetip, great white shark, whale shark, manta rays, devil rays, and sawfish, with additional protections in Marine Protected Areas, such as for hammerhead sharks. The capture of sharks is prohibited in the PRD, and the landing of detached shark fins is banned. Minimum size limits are enforced, and all stakeholders are required to cooperate in research, conservation, and management efforts under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Reporting of fisheries statistics to the IOTC and compliance with CITES export requirements are mandatory for all relevant species.

Furthermore, draft Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) have been prepared for two CITES Appendix II-listed species, namely the scalloped hammerhead shark and the silky shark, resulting in a negative NDF for the former and a positive NDF for the latter. Mozambique continues to strengthen fisheries monitoring, reporting and the implementation of mitigation measures in accordance with IOTC conservation and management measures and relevant international obligations, reinforcing its commitment to the sustainable management and conservation of sharks and rays.

5.1.1. NPOA sharks

Mozambique has developed its National Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays (NPOA-Sharks) for the period 2025–2029, building on a process initiated in 2016. The NPOA provides a strategic framework for the conservation and sustainable management of sharks and rays in Mozambican waters. It addresses key aspects of shark and ray management, including the improvement of fisheries data collection and monitoring, assessment of species status and fishing impacts, implementation of

conservation and management measures, reduction of incidental catches and associated mortality, and strengthening of institutional capacity, research and stakeholder engagement. The Plan was developed through a consultative process involving stakeholders from the fisheries and conservation sectors and is intended to guide national actions in line with regional and international commitments.

5.1.2. Blue shark

Mozambique monitors blue shark catches across its longline, artisanal, and recreational fisheries in accordance with national reporting requirements and IOTC Resolution 18/02. Catch data are recorded in logbooks and complemented by observations collected through the National Observer Scheme in the tuna longline fleet. Fishing masters receive pre-fishing briefings to ensure accurate reporting, and blue shark interactions are documented and included in national annual reports submitted to the IOTC Scientific Committee. These measures aim to support science-based management and contribute to the sustainable exploitation of blue shark populations in Mozambican waters.

5.2 Seabirds

Mozambique has not yet developed a National Plan of Action for Seabirds (NPOA-Seabirds); however, the country has implemented several measures to mitigate potential impacts of longline fisheries on seabirds. In 2017, Mozambique participated in the FAO Common Oceans Project, implemented by BirdLife South Africa, and held a national awareness workshop with representatives of national and foreign vessel operators, government institutions, and NGOs to discuss seabird conservation and mitigation measures. Current measures include mandatory pre-fishing briefings for vessel masters on reporting seabird interactions, deployment of scientific observers on longline vessels, and the use of night-setting and line-weighting techniques.

Although no tuna vessels operated south of 25°S during the reporting period, all licensed tuna vessels are required to deploy bird-scaring lines, a requirement verified by fisheries inspectors during pre-fishing inspections. Detailed information on seabird interactions is officially reported to the IOTC Secretariat through form 1DI for vessels recorded in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels, in accordance with IOTC Resolutions 23/07 and 15/02. Mozambique continues to implement seabird-related mitigation measures in compliance with IOTC requirements, which are incorporated into the mandatory terms and conditions of fishing licences.

5.3 Marine Turtles

In accordance with the mandate of the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB), the Mozambique continues to contribute to regional assessments of marine-turtle interactions in tuna and tuna-like fisheries. Since the Commission's request in 2017 for a review of mitigation measures under Resolution 12/04 on the Conservation of Marine Turtles, Mozambique has maintained the required reporting obligations through logbook submissions. Although Mozambique has not yet established a dedicated national strategy or recovery plan for marine turtles, the tuna longline logbooks introduced in 2012 systematically record interactions with turtles, and the national observer programme documents operational practices and mitigation outcomes. In 2025, no turtle interactions were observed.

Historical interactions between industrial fisheries and marine turtles along the Sofala Bank remain an important reference for current management actions. Observer data from 2015 estimated a catch ratio of approximately one turtle per 7,000 hooks in the longline fleet, with high post-release survival, findings that InOM plans to update for submission to a future WPEB session. In the shrimp-trawl fishery, interactions have been documented since the earliest years of operation. Interview-based assessments indicated that between 1,235 and 5,436 turtles were caught annually, particularly near the Primeiras and Segundas archipelagos. These findings supported the introduction of mandatory Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) under Decree 43/2003. Although interactions with artisanal fisheries

are known to occur, no recent studies exist to quantify their magnitude, and InOM recognises the need to address this knowledge gap.

Over the last five years, Mozambique has continued to implement localised but active monitoring and conservation programmes for marine turtles, particularly in the Quirimbas Archipelago, Bazaruto, and other priority coastal areas. These programmes have documented nesting activity, strandings, and incidental capture, while also registering new and ecologically relevant observations such as the first recorded green-turtle nesting attempt in Pemba in 2025. In collaboration with governmental bodies and conservation partners, InOM has supported workshops and initiatives aimed at assessing and reducing turtle bycatch and other fisheries-related impacts. However, challenges persist, as national implementation of FAO/IOTC guidelines—such as the development of a National Plan of Action for marine turtles—remains incomplete.

Despite these constraints, Mozambique remains committed to strengthening the national evidence base on marine-turtle ecology, threats and fishery interactions, as well as, continues to document habitat degradation, coastal erosion, and the increasing presence of marine debris (including plastics) that pose additional risks to turtles within Mozambique's waters. Through expanded monitoring, improved data collection, and collaboration with both national and international partners, InOM seeks to enhance compliance with IOTC Resolutions, support the implementation of effective mitigation measures, and contribute to the long-term conservation and recovery of marine turtles in the IOTC area of competence.

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

Mozambique continues to monitor ecologically related species such as cetaceans, mobulid rays and whale sharks within Exclusive Economic Zone, in alignment with IOTC recommendations. Although Mozambique has not yet established a dedicated national strategy for these species, scientific surveys and long-term monitoring programmes provide essential information on their occurrence and interactions with fisheries. Observer data indicate that interactions between cetaceans and tuna longline fisheries is null, as in 2025, no interactions were recorded.

Beyond cetaceans, Mozambique hosts important populations of mobulid rays and whale sharks, particularly in high-productivity coastal areas such as Tofo, Bazaruto and northern offshore corridors. While national management frameworks for these species are still evolving, research initiatives continue to document sightings, migratory behaviour and emerging threats, including habitat degradation and incidental capture. Mozambique remains committed to improving monitoring systems, expanding observer coverage and strengthening reporting in accordance with IOTC conservation measures.

Mozambique's National Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays (NPOA-Sharks and Rays) is in its final stage of publication in the Boletim da República. The plan has achieved consensus among all key stakeholders during its initial consultation phases, reflecting broad agreement on conservation and management measures for sharks and rays in national waters.

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS

Collection of fisheries data and statistics in Mozambique falls under the mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries (MAAP). Since the restructuring process MAAP is responsible for consolidating and publishing fisheries data at national level, including catch, effort and socio-economic information.

Several autonomous institutions under the Ministry hold direct responsibility for fisheries data collection and monitoring. These include the National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DINAPA), the Institute for

Marine and Fisheries Research (IIMP) and the National Institute for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture (IDEPA). Together, these institutions ensure comprehensive data gathering across the industrial, semi-industrial and artisanal fisheries sectors, providing the foundation for scientific assessments and evidence-based management.

Table 6. Fisheries data collection in Mozambique: Institutions involved and categories of data collected

Category of data	Artisanal fleet	Semi-industrial fleet	Industrial fleet	Recreational and Sport
Fishing craft statistics/ licenses	IDEPA	IDEPA	DINAPA	IDEPA
Catch-and-effort data	IDEPA	IDEPA	DINAPA	IDEPA
Length frequency data	IIMP	IIMP	IIMP	IIMP
Other scientific data	IIMP	IIMP	IIMP	IIMP
Socio-economic data	IDEPA and MAAP	IDEPA and MAAP	MAAP	MAAP

All fisheries with potential to catch IOTC species are subjected to monitoring programs. On-board scientific observer program is conducted by IIMP in semi-industrial and industrial commercial fisheries. Artisanal fisheries are monitored through National Stratified Random Sampling System locally known as SNAPA (Sistema Nacional de Amostragem da Pesca Artesanal).

The number of artisanal gears available in the country and other social aspects of the artisanal sector are assessed on a five-year basis through a national census of the artisanal fishing (frame survey) conducted by IDEPA (former IDPPE). As the last frame survey was performed in 2022.

Recreational fisheries are monitored by mean of outing cards however, the level of reporting is recognizably low. Sport fishing is covered by on landing site sampling during the disembarkation on the local of the fishing tournaments and also by catch reports that the organizers provides to the fishing sector authorities at local level.

Logbooks and other monitoring tools are also used as part of monitoring system (see table 14 below). These Logbooks are monitored by ADNAP which also issue the fishing licenses.

Table 7. The data collection coverage by InOM and ADNAP in 2025 for Mozambican fisheries with potential impacts on IOTC species

Fishery Sector and fisheries	On-board Sampling	Port Sampling	On landing site Sampling	Logbooks
1. Artisanal	NA	NA	Yes	No
1.1. Beach seine	NA	NA	1-5%	0%
1.2. Handline	NA	NA	1-5%	0%
1.3. Gillnets	NA	NA	1-5%	0%
1.4. purse seines	NA	NA	1-5%	0%
1.5. longlines	NA	NA	1-5%	0%
1.6. other gears	NA	NA	1-5%	0%
2. Semi-industrial	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes
2.1 Linefishery	4%	0%	NA	100%
3. Industrial	Yes	No	NA	Yes
3.2. Linefishery	5%	0%	NA	100%
3.3. Pelagic longline	5.1%	0%	NA	100%
4. Recreational & sport	NA	NA	Yes	Yes
4.1. Recreational fishing	NA	NA	0%	5%
4.2. Sport fishing	NA	NA	0%	5%

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

Longline Logbook compatible with IOTC requirement of data collection and reporting was developed by Mozambique in 2012 and its implementation started in 2014 in the national fleet. It allows collecting a wide range of information such as fishing positions (coordinates), catch by species and effort (hooks) per set and fishery interaction with protected species. The logbooks are provided to the vessels captains at annual basis prior to the fishing activity and during this process captains are briefed on how to fill it correctly. Filled logbooks are returned back to the DINAPA by the end of each fishing trip. The data verification process is carried out by DINAPA. After the verification of the information, DINAPA send a copy to IIMP which use the relevant information for scientific advice on the fishery activity.

Mozambique receives logsheet information from the foreign fleet through a dedicated email address established for this purpose. In addition, verification and cross-checking of the data with the flag States of these vessels is carried out regularly, improving data reliability and ensuring compliance with national and regional reporting requirements.

6.2. Observer scheme

In 2025, Mozambique did not have any nationally flagged vessels operating within the IOTC management area and does not participate in the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme. Nevertheless, the country implements a national observer program under the National Fisheries Observer Plan, which covers the domestic longline fleet and other relevant fisheries. Observers are deployed to collect data on catch, bycatch, and compliance with fisheries regulations, following standardized protocols for sampling and reporting.

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

Mozambique has strengthened its conservation framework for billfishes through the implementation of the new maritime fisheries regulation (Decreto n.º 89/2020), which established a national minimum size of 60 cm TL for all billfish species and a daily bag limit of two billfish per fisher in recreational and sport fisheries. Billfish catches are systematically recorded through logbooks in compliance with IOTC Resolution 15/01 and are further monitored through the National Observer Scheme operating in the longline, artisanal, and recreational sectors. Fishing masters receive regular pre-fishing briefings to reinforce reporting requirements, and compliance measures are integrated into the mandatory Terms and Conditions of tuna fishing licences.

6.5. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring

Mozambique does not use gillnets in its tuna fisheries, as the national tuna fleet operates exclusively with longline gear. Therefore, the provisions of Resolution 19/01, paragraph 22, encouraging CPCs to increase observer coverage or field sampling on gillnet vessels, do not apply to Mozambique. Monitoring of the Mozambican tuna fleet is instead conducted through the national observer programme, which covers longline operations in accordance with IOTC requirements.

6.6 Sampling plans for mobulid rays

Mozambique confirms that incidental and/or intentional catches of mobulid rays have been recorded in its artisanal and subsistence fisheries. In response, the country is developing sampling plans to monitor mobulid ray interactions. These plans, incorporating scientific and operational rationale, will be reported to the relevant authorities and implemented from 2022 onward. Additionally, Mozambique's National Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays (NPOA-Sharks & Rays) is in the final stages of publication.

6.7 Electronic Monitoring Standards

Mozambique is not currently implementing Electronic Monitoring Standards (EMS) in its fisheries. Consequently, no fleet-level summary of Vessel Monitoring Plans is available at this time. The national observer program continues to serve as the primary tool for monitoring catch, bycatch, and compliance with fisheries regulations.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The table below summarizes the national research programs in place that are directly or indirectly related with management and conservation of IOTC species.

Table 8. Summary table of national research programs, including dates.

Project title	Period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives	Short description
Mozambique Government and Partners – on establishment of the First NPOA Sharks and Mobulid Rays	2025-2029	Mozambique	-	Mozambique Government, WWF, WCS	Mozambique NPOA –Sharks and Mobulid Rays	Deliver the first NPOA –Shark and Mobulid Rays with the best available knowledge and participation of all groups of interest
Implementation of management Plan for the Demersal Fishery on Rocky Bottoms	2021-2025	Mozambique	-	Mozambique Government	Guarantee the sustainability of demersal fishery by using an ecosystem approach	Aims to promote sustainable fishing, protect habitats, and improve data through regulated effort, monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and initial species recovery.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC.

Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2012 and 2025.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	Marine turtles are protected according with national legislation(Conservation Law, Fisheries Law and Marine FisheriesRegulation). Observer scheme observations, shows that there are some interactions of longline fleet with these species. In 2025 no interaction recorded. Mozambique is regularly briefing the master of the vessels on the mandatory requirement to report all interactions with marine turtles and on safe realise procedures. Also, this resolution is included in the Terms and Conditions for Tuna License. There is an ongoing monitoring program of marine turtles in the main nesting sites falling within the well-established MPAs across the coastline.
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	All thresher sharks are protected in Mozambique according with the maritime fishing regulation approved in 2020 and fishing by any fleet is totally prohibited. Mozambique is recording the incidentals catches and live releases of sharks of Alopiidae family through scientific observer scheme. In 2025 no interactions were observed. Fishing masters are

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			continuously encouraged to record and report on these species of sharks during the pre-fishing briefing. Also, this resolution is included in the Terms and Conditions for Tuna License. Recreational and sport fishing have no impact on thresher sharks since all sharks' catches are forbidden.
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	According to the national legislation (as updated in the maritime fisheries regulation approved in 2020) the cetaceans are protected species. In the longliners and purse seiner, no interaction with cetaceans (dolphins) was observed in 2025 which raised to total level of 39 interactions.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)	Paragraphs 7– 9	Whale sharks are protected in Mozambique according with the maritime fishing regulation approved in 2020 and fishing is totally prohibited. In the longliners and purse seiner, no interaction with whale sharks was observed in 2025.
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	The Oceanic whitetip shark is protected in Mozambique according with the new maritime fishing regulation approved in 2020 and fishing is totally prohibited. In 2025 no interactions with Oceanic whitetip shark were observed. Fishing masters are continuously encouraged to record and report on this species of shark during the pre-fishing briefing. Also, this resolution is included in the Terms and Conditions for Tuna License.
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	Mozambique has developed and implemented since 2014 the national tuna longline logbook that captures all required information stated in this resolution.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	Mozambique submitted the mandatory statistics for the national fleet as stated in the resolution requirements within deadlines (30/06/2025) through eMARIS platform.
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	The Mozambican sharks' catches of the year 2025 were reported within the deadlines as required in the resolution 15/02, using the eMARIS platform. In the longline fishery, sharks have been monitored through the observer scheme and well as the logbook. The maritime fishing regulation approved in 2020 (Decree nr. 89/2020 of October 8th) establish in the number 6 of the article 146 the ban of shark finning. Size limits was established for all IOTC sharks to discourage catches of juveniles sharks. Additionally, the Recreational and Sport Fishing Regulation approved in 2021 (Decree 82/2021 from October 15th) prohibit the catch of sharks in recreation and sport fishing. Fishing masters are continuously encouraged to record on logbooks and report on this species of shark during the pre-fishing briefing. Also, this resolution is included in the Terms and Conditions for Tuna License. Mozambique is also committed to improve the level of scientific research on sharks.
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	The maritime fishing regulation approved in 2020 (Decree nr. 89/2020 of October 8th) established the minimum size of 150cm TL for blue shark caught in all fisheries (article 145 – appendice XI) and finning was prohibited (nr. 6 of article 146). Fishing masters are continuously encouraged to record on logbooks and report on this species of shark during the pre-

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			fishing briefing. Also, this resolution is included in the Terms and Conditions for Tuna License.
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 – 11	The new maritime fishing regulation (Decreto n.º 89/2020 of October 8th) established the minimum size of 60cm TL for billfishes caught in all fisheries as a conservation measure for this group. Additionally, a daily bag limit of 2 billfish per fisherman was established for recreational and sport fishing by the new Recreational and Sport Fishing Regulation. Billfish catches are captured throughout logbooks and reported according the resolution 15/01. Information of billfishes have been collected through the observer scheme in the longline fisheries, in artisanal fisheries and recreational fisheries. Fishing masters are continuously encouraged to record and report on this species of shark during the pre-fishing briefing. Also, this resolution is included in the Terms and Conditions for Tuna License.
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	-Mozambique updates annually, the Terms and Conditions for Tuna License where all relevant IOTC resolutions are listed; -Mozambique is implementing a mandatory logbook since 2014, based on the IOTC requirements for data gathering. Mozambique conduct pre fishing briefings sessions prior to give fishing license to the fishing masters at port where they are informed to comply with recording of data according to the logbook. Mozambique also conducts trainings for the vessel masters on how to fill properly the logbooks. The quality of logbook data for national fleet is assessed by comparing it with the scientific observer data, mainly on ecosystem and bycatch issues. -Mozambique is implementing Electronic Report System-ERS for foreign fleet, entry exit catch report system and Vessel Monitoring System which cover all national and foreign tuna vessels; -Mozambique is implementing observer scheme for national fleet and Mozambique observers were trained by OFCF-Japan in 2016 and IOTC species ID guides were translated into Portuguese to facilitate all users to correctly identify IOTC species and thus improve reporting. -The master plan of fishing statistics was recently revised aiming to adequate the actual data collection system to the new structure of the fishing sector (under the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries) and decentralization process; - Following recommendations of the Secretariat, Mozambique adopted the Submission of observer data in electronic format since 2015, that is more accessible by the secretariat (data section) and minimize data entry errors.
19/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (*If not provided under Res 21/01 below*)	Paragraph 22	Despite not having an established gillnet fleet targeting on IOTC primary species, Mozambique has been making efforts to increase the level of observer coverage above the recommended minimum of 5% in the longline fishery.
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	All Mobulid Rays are protected in Mozambique according with the maritime fishing regulation approved in 2020 (Decree nr. 89/2020 of October 8th) and fishing by any fleet is totally prohibited (Article 146 – Appendice XIII).

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			Mozambique is recording the incidentals catches and live releases of Mobulid Rays through scientific observer scheme. Fishing masters are continuously encouraged to record and report on fisheries interactions with these group of rays during the pre-fishing briefing including the briefing on safe release technics. Also, this requirement is included in the Terms and Conditions for Tuna License.
21/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (*If not provided under Res 19/01 above*)	Paragraph 23	Despite not having an established gillnet fleet targeting on IOTC primary species, Mozambique has been making efforts to increase the level of observer coverage above the recommended minimum of 5% in the longline fishery.
23/07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	All licensed tuna longliners are required to use bird-scaring lines as a mandatory mitigation measure, verified during pre-fishing inspections. Additional national measures include night-setting, line-weighting, compulsory reporting of any seabird interaction, and the deployment of scientific observers on board. Mozambique has not yet developed a National Plan of Action for Seabirds; however, implementation of mitigation requirements follows IOTC standards and is incorporated into the fishing licence terms and conditions.
23/08	On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 3c	Mozambique recognises the importance of developing electronic monitoring (EM) standards for IOTC fisheries but has not yet begun implementing EM systems on its tuna fleet. National institutions, including ADNAP and InOM, are currently assessing feasible technological options and operational requirements to support future adoption of EM as a complement to the existing National Observer Scheme.
24/04	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 12	Mozambique does not participate in the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme. However, for its national tuna fleet, a National Observer Scheme is implemented to monitor fishing operations, collect scientific data and assess interactions with non-target species. This national programme provides essential information on catch composition, bycatch, compliance with management measures and overall fishing practices within Mozambique's tuna fishery. Although it does not replace the regional scheme, it ensures that a baseline level of independent monitoring is maintained across the national fleet.

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