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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy

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

Reporting year 2025

Prepared by
Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy
Federal Government of Somalia, Mogadishu

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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**.	**YES** 26/06/2026 (retained catch, and catch and effort) 30/06/2026 (size frequency)
In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional **longline data** for the previous year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year. **REMINDER:** Final longline data for the previous year are due to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 December of the current year.	**Not applicable to industrial longline.** Somalia has no industrial longline fleet. Catches of the small-scale drifting and set longline fisheries are included in the data provided on 30/06/2026.
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	Not applicable.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Somalia's fisheries for IOTC species are small scale and work from the coast within national waters. In 2025 the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MFBE) monitored landings at 16 sites between 1.6°S and 11.3°N, covering 12,586 of the 48,400 trips in the national frame (26%). Retained catch, catch and effort, and size frequency data for 2025 reached the IOTC Secretariat on 30 June 2026.

Retained catch of IOTC species is estimated at 112,870 t. Tropical tunas made up 45.8%, led by yellowfin tuna (32,816 t), with neritic tunas and seerfishes at 31.0%, billfishes 18.4%, sharks 4.1% and albacore 0.7%. Drifting gillnets (38.0%) and handlines (35.0%) landed most of the catch over 182,529 fishing days. Tropical tunas formed a larger share during the northeast monsoon.

Catches of the four principal tunas were 74% higher than in 2024, and yellowfin 76% higher. The rise follows the expansion of monitoring from six to 16 landing sites and brings to light catch that went unrecorded while national statistics were rebuilt after the collapse of the central government. The 2025 estimates begin a new and more complete series.

Samplers measured 43,320 fish of 21 species. After screening for biologically implausible lengths, yellowfin tuna had a median fork length of 107.5 cm and 90% exceeded the length at 50% maturity.

Species composition is not yet resolved by gear and catch, and effort is not yet gridded. MFBE is revising the raising procedure by gear stratum and is undertaking billfish and small tuna identification checks, a mobulid sampling plan and an NPOA Sharks in 2026, while adding two landing sites towards full coverage of all 25 major sites.

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1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION

1.1 Development of national fisheries data collection and statistics, 2017 to 2025

For three decades after 1991 Somalia produced no national fisheries statistics. The country had not reported catches to FAO since 1988, and the figures held in global databases were estimates prepared on its behalf (Glaser et al., 2019, Cashion et al., 2018). When catch reconstructions finally filled that space, they revealed how large the gap had become. Cashion et al. (2018) rebuilt domestic and foreign removals from Somali waters for 1950 to 2015 and estimated that foreign fleets had taken about 1.3 times the reconstructed domestic catch. The broader lesson, that small scale fisheries without monitoring are consistently underrepresented in official statistics, holds far beyond Somalia (Pauly and Zeller, 2016). For the IOTC the consequence was plain. Somalia has the longest coastline of mainland Africa, about 3,330 km (Sheikheile, 2017, MFBE, 2024), and its waters hold one of the most productive upwelling systems in the world ocean (Schott and McCreary, 2001). Tropical tunas show large scale movements across the western Indian Ocean (Fonteneau and Hallier, 2015, Hallier and Fonteneau, 2015), and waters off Somalia are among the key areas for tropical tuna fisheries identified in analyses of spatial management in the Indian Ocean (Kaplan et al., 2014). Yet for three decades Somalia contributed almost nothing to the data on which regional stock assessments depend (Glaser et al., 2019).

The gap had a single origin. With the collapse of the central government in 1991 the national fisheries administration, its field staff and its statistical archive were lost, and for more than twenty years no institution was able to count what Somali fishers landed. When Somalia became a Member of the IOTC in 2014, the Federal Government therefore faced the task of building a statistical system from first principles rather than repairing an existing one. The account that follows traces that rebuilding.

The first steps towards a national system were taken in 2017. Somalia informed the Scientific Committee that year that it had no data collection system for its artisanal fleet (IOTC, 2018), and in November 2017 the then Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources presented to the 13th session of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) a design for a central database for artisanal fisheries, with a sampling scheme, database software, user manuals and guidelines for data collectors (Sheikheile, 2017). In 2018 Project Kalluun, a partnership between the Ministry, City University, Secure Fisheries and FAO, began catch sampling at a single landing site in November 2018, following a market sampling pilot in 2017. Its report to the 14th WPDCS found that the decentralized systems then in use suffered from low sampling coverage, poor species identification, heavy aggregation of species and an absence of gear-based data (Sheikheile et al., 2018). That diagnosis has shaped every phase of the work since.

In 2019 was the turning point. Collection moved from a set of informal initiatives run separately by universities, NGOs and the Ministry to a single effort led by the Federal Government (MFMR, 2020). The Government convened the Fisheries Data Collection Working Group (FDCWG), and the participating fisheries administrations adopted a harmonized protocol, a fish identification guide, and a common set of data forms. From late December 2019 enumerators at six landing sites recorded catch and effort three times a week, with 18 data collectors trained and supervised by landing site coordinators (Sheik Heile et al., 2020). The resulting database was the first nationwide effort to collect scientifically valid fisheries catch data in Somalia in more than 30 years (Sheik Heile et al., 2020). Because collection started only in December, no 2019 data could be used in that year's national report (MFMR, 2020).

The first results were presented to the 16th WPDCS in 2020. They covered catch composition at the six sites and length frequency and length weight relationships for yellowfin tuna, longtail tuna, kawakawa and skipjack tuna from December 2019 to August 2020 (Sheik Heile et al., 2020). The same paper recorded the interruption of sampling at two sites during the COVID 19 pandemic, a reminder of how fragile the system still was at that stage.

Data capture moved to electronic forms in 2021, and Phase 2 of the national programme started at seven landing sites in December 2021. A centralized national database followed in 2022 (MFBE, 2024). Electronic capture removed the transcription step between field sheet and database and allowed records to be checked soon after collection (MFBE, 2024).

Phase 3 (November 2023 to June 2024) combined port sampling at six sites with a frame survey of vessels, gears, and site infrastructure. It covered 1,790 trips, identified 60,532 fish, and measured 16,524 (MFBE, 2024). The Fisheries Law No. 008 of 2023 gave the program a clear legal basis. Phase 4 (July 2024 to June 2025) monitored 2,418 trips, identified more than 72,000 fish and measured more than 17,500, and supported the reconstructed national series for 2019 to 2024 that was submitted in 2025 (MFBE, 2025).

The 2025 program is the largest to date (Figure 1). Monitoring was extended to 16 landing sites, identified in this report as LS1 to LS16, spread across six IOTC 5° grid cells between about 1.6°S and 11.3°N. Enumerators monitored 12,586 trips against a national frame of 48,400 trips and measured 43,320 fish of 21 IOTC species. For the first time Somalia submitted, for a complete calendar year, quarterly retained catch by fishery, monthly catch and effort by fishery, and monthly size frequency by 5° cell (MFBE, 2026). Coverage is therefore no longer the main constraint on Somali statistics. The constraints now lie in stratification: separating species composition by gear, resolving effort in space, and confirming the identity of species that are easily confused at landing. Section 3 sets these out.

Expansion continues and two further landing sites were added in 2026, bringing the network to 18, and the Ministry intends to cover all 25 major landing sites in the country. Each step so far has done more than enlarge the sample. Every new site has brought into view catches that the earlier network could not see, and with them a sharper picture of both the scale of the national data gap and the abundance of the resources on which Somali fishers depend.

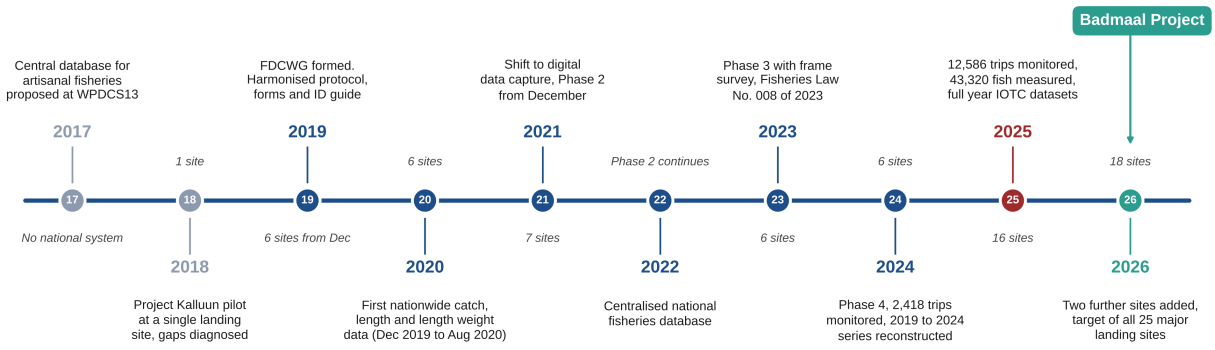


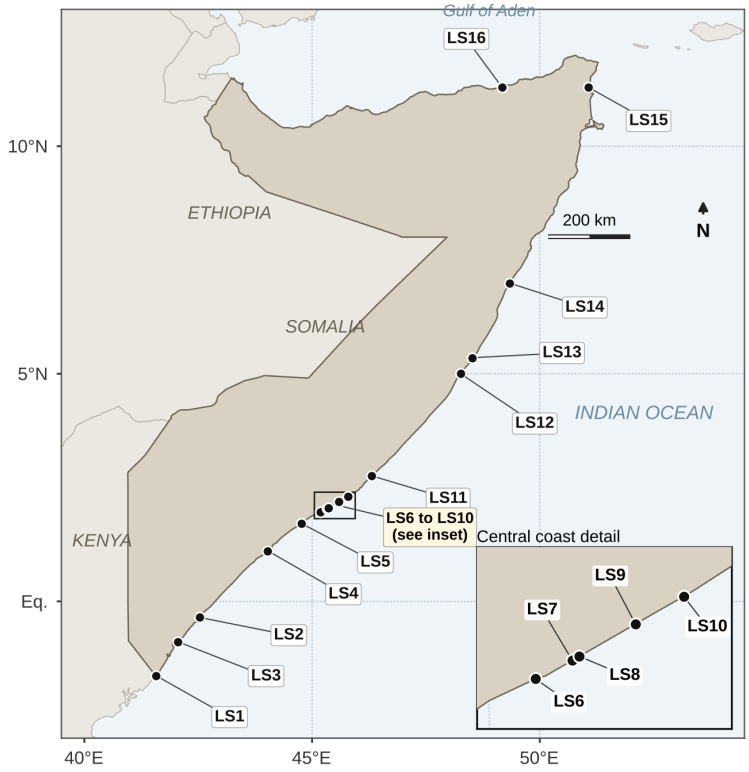
Figure 1. Main milestones in the development of the Somali national fisheries data collection and statistics system, 2017 to 2026, with the number of landing sites monitored in each phase shown in italics. The 2026 expansion is delivered through the Badmaal Project. Sources: Sheikheile (2017), Sheikheile et al. (2018), Sheik Heile et al. (2020), MFMR (2020), MFBE (2024, 2025, 2026).

1.2 National fisheries in the IOTC area of competence

Somali fisheries for tunas and tuna like species are small scale. Vessels work from open beaches and small harbours, mostly on trips of one to a few days, and fish over the narrow continental shelf and the slope beyond it. The 2025 data distinguish six fisheries: drifting gillnet (GD[SS]), set gillnet (GS[SS]), handline (HL[SS]), drifting longline (DL[SS]), set longline (SL[SS]) and a residual category of unclassified gears (UN[IS]) (MFBE, 2026). Many vessels carry more than one gear and change between them with the season, so the fishery assigned to a trip reflects the gear used for most of the fishing time (MFBE, 2025). Somalia has no purse seine, pole and line or industrial longline fleet, and no Somali flagged vessel of 24 m or more fishes in the IOTC area (MFBE, 2025).

In 2025 landings were monitored at 16 sites spread along the full length of the coast, from about 1.6°S in the south to the Gulf of Aden at 11.3°N (Figure 2). Seven sites lie on the central coast between the Equator and 5°N, where landings are most concentrated, and every 5° cell bordering the coast contains at least one monitored site. Site positions are given in decimal degrees so that the network can be related directly to the IOTC grid.

(a) National landing site network, 2025



(b) Landing site coordinates

Site	Latitude	Longitude	5° cell
LS1	1.638° S	41.584° E	6200040
LS2	0.359° S	42.545° E	6200040
LS3	0.894° S	42.066° E	6200040
LS4	1.104° N	44.039° E	6100040
LS5	1.708° N	44.774° E	6100040
LS6	1.956° N	45.192° E	6100045
LS7	2.032° N	45.344° E	6100045
LS8	2.049° N	45.373° E	6100045
LS9	2.182° N	45.604° E	6100045
LS10	2.295° N	45.803° E	6100045
LS11	2.752° N	46.319° E	6100045
LS12	4.998° N	48.269° E	6100045
LS13	5.347° N	48.531° E	6105045
LS14	6.987° N	49.347° E	6105045
LS15	11.286° N	51.080° E	6110050
LS16	11.290° N	49.181° E	6110045

Decimal degrees, WGS84. 5° cells use the IOTC grid coding.

Figure 2. National landing site network monitored in 2025. (a) Location of the 16 landing sites (LS1 to LS16), with the central coast shown in detail in the inset. (b) Geographic coordinates of each site and the IOTC 5° grid cell in which it lies. Source: MFBE (2026).

The monsoon governs the fishery, while the Somali Current reverses with the seasons and during the southwest monsoon, from June to September, drives one of the most intense coastal upwelling systems in the world ocean (Schott and McCreary, 2001 and Schott et al., 2009). Upwelling raises coastal productivity but also brings strong winds and heavy seas. The northeast monsoon, from December to March, brings calmer conditions along most of the coast. These cycles shape the seasonal distribution of tropical tuna fishing in the western Indian Ocean (Kaplan et al., 2014) and are visible in the seasonal composition of the 2025 catch (Section 3).

The catch figures in this report cover landings by the monitored national fisheries only. They exclude catches purchased or transferred at sea by foreign collector vessels inside Somali waters and catches landed outside Somalia, which are being handled as a separate monitoring, control and surveillance matter (MFBE, 2026). Catches by foreign vessels licensed to fish in the Somali EEZ are reported by their flag States and are not part of this report.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE

The national fleet consists of locally built and imported wooden and fibreglass craft that fall into a small number of recognised classes (MFBE, 2025). The largest inboard powered craft, known locally as Volvo, Laash and Leyla, measure 12 to 23.5 m overall and make multiday trips with handlines, longlines and floating gillnets. Outboard powered craft of 6 to 12 m, the Afdheer and Farboarta classes, form the numerical core of the tuna fishery and switch between handlines and gillnets through the year. Unpowered Houri canoes of 3 to 5 m fish close inshore with handlines and simple nets. Range, ice capacity and endurance all increase with length and propulsion, and these differences explain much of the variation in fishing area and catch composition between vessel classes (MFBE, 2025).

Table 1 gives the number of active vessels by propulsion class for 2021 to 2025 as reported in earlier national reports. The fleet grew from 12,490 to 15,966 vessels over the period. Almost all of the growth came from motorised craft. Inboard powered vessels increased by 51% (5,237 to 7,913) while unpowered craft fell from 596 to 458. Because most vessels carry several gears, counts by gear type would double count vessels, and the table therefore lists the principal gears rather than numbers per gear.

Trip length differs between fisheries and in 2025 gillnet and unclassified gear trips averaged 3.8 fishing days, calculated as fishing days divided by trips (MFBE, 2026). Across all fisheries vessels made about two sets per fishing day. Drifting and set longlines deployed about 700 hooks per fishing day and handlines about 14 (MFBE, 2026).

Table 1. Number of national vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence by propulsion class, with principal gears, 2021 to 2025.

Year	Inboard engine	Outboard engine	Unpowered	Total	Principal gears
2021	5,237	6,657	596	12,490	Bottom gillnet, handline, horizontal longline, floating gillnet
2022	5,793	7,159	617	13,569	Floating gillnet, handline, horizontal longline
2023	5,819	7,211	574	13,604	Floating gillnet, handline, horizontal longline
2024	7,913	7,595	458	15,966	Floating gillnet, handline, horizontal longline

Year	Inboard engine	Outboard engine	Unpowered	Total	Principal gears
2025	7,339	7,295	423	15,057	Drifting and set gillnet, handline, drifting and set longline

Source: MFBE (2025) for 2021 to 2024. 2025: not available for this report. Vessels are polyvalent, so counts by gear type and size class as specified in the IOTC template cannot be given without double counting. Gear names for 2021 to 2024 follow the earlier reports. The 2025 gears follow the fishery definitions used in the 2025 data (MFBE, 2026).

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND FISHERY)

3.1 Catches and fishing effort in 2025

Retained catch of IOTC species by the national fisheries was estimated at 112,870 t in 2025 (Table 2a, Figure 3). These are raised estimates, not census totals. Landing site records were cleaned and standardized, checked against trip logs, landing slips, gear and vessel records, species identification notes and length and weight observations, and then raised from sampled vessel activity to annual national totals by landing site, gear, season, and vessel category (MFBE, 2026). The sample-based design follows the approach set out by Stamatopoulos (2002) for small scale fisheries. Effort is reported as fishing days and sets for every fishery, as hooks for the longline and handline fisheries, and as trips for the gillnet and unclassified fisheries. Hook and set counts are estimates from a subsample of gear (MFBE, 2026).

Yellowfin tuna dominated the catch at 32,816 t (29.1%). Skipjack tuna (10,996 t), Indo Pacific king mackerel (10,600 t) and narrow barred Spanish mackerel (10,585 t) followed, then bigeye tuna (7,907 t), striped marlin (7,370 t) and Indo Pacific sailfish (6,725 t). By species group, tropical tunas accounted for 51,719 t (45.8%), neritic tunas and seerfishes for 34,978 t (31.0%), billfishes including swordfish for 20,765 t (18.4%), the six reported shark groups for 4,664 t (4.1%) and albacore for 744 t (0.7%). Every retained catch was reported at species or species group level, so the not elsewhere included (NEI) category is zero for 2025.

Drifting gillnets landed 42,890 t (38.0%) and handlines 39,504 t (35.0%). Drifting longlines contributed 20,317 t (18.0%), set gillnets 5,079 t (4.5%), set longlines 3,386 t (3.0%) and unclassified gears 1,693 t (1.5%). Total effort amounted to 182,529 fishing days, 382,886 sets and 28.1 million hooks, of which 23.3 million were set by the drifting longline fishery.

Table 2a. Retained catch (t) by species and fishery, and fishing effort by fishery, in the IOTC area of competence, 2025. Values are raised estimates rounded to the nearest tonne. Totals were computed before rounding.

Species (IOTC code)	GD[SS]	HL[SS]	DL[SS]	GS[SS]	SL[SS]	UN[IS]	Total	%
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	12,470	11,486	5,907	1,477	984	492	32,816	29.1
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	4,178	3,849	1,979	495	330	165	10,996	9.7
Bigeye tuna (BET)	3,005	2,767	1,423	356	237	119	7,907	7.0
Tropical tunas, subtotal	**19,653**	**18,102**	**9,309**	**2,327**	**1,552**	**776**	**51,719**	**45.8**
Longtail tuna (LOT)	2,086	1,921	988	247	165	82	5,489	4.9
Kawakawa (KAW)	1,232	1,134	583	146	97	49	3,241	2.9
Frigate tuna (FRI)	487	448	231	58	38	19	1,281	1.1

Species (IOTC code)	GD[SS]	HL[SS]	DL[SS]	GS[SS]	SL[SS]	UN[IS]	Total	%
Bullet tuna (BLT)	1,437	1,324	681	170	113	57	3,782	3.4
Narrow barred Spanish mackerel (COM)	4,022	3,705	1,905	476	318	159	10,585	9.4
Indo Pacific king mackerel (GUT)	4,028	3,710	1,908	477	318	159	10,600	9.4
Neritic tunas and seerfishes, subtotal	**13,292**	**12,242**	**6,296**	**1,574**	**1,049**	**525**	**34,978**	**31.0**
Swordfish (SWO)	1,306	1,203	619	155	103	52	3,438	3.0
Striped marlin (MLS)	2,801	2,579	1,327	332	221	111	7,370	6.5
Black marlin (BLM)	826	761	391	98	65	33	2,174	1.9
Blue marlin (BUM)	402	370	190	48	32	16	1,058	0.9
Indo Pacific sailfish (SFA)	2,556	2,354	1,211	303	202	101	6,725	6.0
Billfishes, subtotal	**7,891**	**7,268**	**3,738**	**934**	**623**	**311**	**20,765**	**18.4**
Albacore (ALB)	283	260	134	33	22	11	744	0.7
Albacore, subtotal	**283**	**260**	**134**	**33**	**22**	**11**	**744**	**0.7**
Mako sharks (MAK)	486	448	230	58	38	19	1,280	1.1
Hammerhead sharks (SPN)	392	361	186	46	31	15	1,031	0.9
Thresher sharks (THR)	387	356	183	46	31	15	1,018	0.9
Silky shark (FAL)	266	245	126	32	21	10	700	0.6
Blue shark (BSH)	211	194	100	25	17	8	554	0.5
Oceanic whitetip shark (OCS)	31	28	15	4	2	1	81	0.1
Sharks, subtotal	**1,772**	**1,632**	**840**	**210**	**140**	**70**	**4,664**	**4.1**
NEI (all other IOTC species)	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0.0*
Total retained catch (t)	**42,890**	**39,504**	**20,317**	**5,079**	**3,386**	**1,693**	**112,870**	**100.0**
Share of total catch (%)	*38.0*	*35.0*	*18.0*	*4.5*	*3.0*	*1.5*	*100.0*	
Effort: Fishing days	69,443	63,698	32,951	8,121	5,564	2,752	182,529	
Effort: Sets	145,727	133,586	69,401	16,894	11,530	5,748	382,886	
Effort: Hooks	n.r.	900,843	23,305,917	n.r.	3,876,979	n.r.	28,083,739	
Effort: Trips	18,387	n.r.	n.r.	2,174	n.r.	728	21,289	

Fisheries: GD[SS] drifting gillnet, HL[SS] handline, DL[SS] drifting longline, GS[SS] set gillnet, SL[SS] set longline, UN[IS] unclassified gears. n.r.: effort unit not reported for the fishery. Source: MFBE (2026). The allocation of catch among fisheries applies a common species composition to all fisheries.

Monthly catches varied within a narrow band, from 8,337 t in December to 10,256 t in August (Figure 4a). Composition changed more than volume. Tropical tunas made up about half of each monthly catch from January to March and fell to 42% in August, while the share of neritic tunas and seerfishes rose from 27% to 36% over the same months (Figure 4b). Yellowfin tuna followed the same pattern, falling from 37.5% of the February catch to 22.4% in August. Nominal catch per fishing day was highest in February (0.72 t) and lowest in August (0.54 t). Recorded effort was greatest from July to September (53,938 fishing days, against 40,489 from January to March). Effort at that level during the southwest monsoon is unexpected for small craft and was checked against the raising factors. The examination showed that most of the effort recorded in these months came from inboard powered vessels longer than 12 m fishing more than 50 nautical miles from the coast. These vessels make multiday trips and can

operate in the sea conditions of the southwest monsoon, when much of the smaller outboard and unpowered fleet remains ashore. Offshore waters stay productive through this season because the Somali upwelling and its associated eddies carry nutrient rich water seaward (Schott and McCreary, 2001). The seasonal effort profile therefore reflects a change in the composition of the active fleet towards larger vessels rather than an artefact of the raising procedure. The lower catch per fishing day in August is consistent with longer offshore trips, in which more days are spent searching and steaming for each tonne landed.

Catches of the four principal tunas rose from 18.0 thousand t in 2019 to 32.9 thousand t in 2024 and 57.2 thousand t in 2025 (Table 2b, Figure 3a). Between 2024 and 2025 their combined catch increased by 74%. Yellowfin tuna increased by 76%, skipjack tuna by 54%, bigeye tuna by 33% and longtail tuna more than fourfold.

These increases must be read against the history of Somali statistics. The collapse of the central government in 1991 left the country without a fisheries statistical system for more than two decades, and the catches attributed to Somalia in that period were estimates made elsewhere (Glaser et al., 2019, Cashion et al., 2018). Since joining the IOTC in 2014 the Federal Government has worked to centralize data collection and to rebuild the national series. Monitoring began at a single landing site in 2018, ran at six or seven sites between 2019 and 2024, and reached 16 sites in 2025. The 2019 to 2024 values are a reconstructed series built on that smaller network (MFBE, 2025). The 2025 estimates draw on 16 sites and a national trip frame of 48,400 trips.

The jump between 2024 and 2025 therefore tracks the growth of the monitoring network much more closely than any plausible change in fishing power or in stock abundance. Each new site brought into the program landings that had always taken place but had never been counted. The rise is best understood as a measure of how large the national data gap was, and of how productive the waters fished by Somali vessels are, rather than as an increase in fishing pressure between the two years. The two periods should not be read as one series. The 2025 estimates should be treated as the start of a new and more complete series, and the 2019 to 2024 values recalibrated against the 2025 trip frame before any trend is inferred. Comparison with the totals in earlier reports is not meaningful in any case, because those totals included species outside the IOTC mandate such as lobsters, groupers, and jacks (MFBE, 2024, 2025).

Table 2b. Annual catch (t) of the principal tuna species in the IOTC area of competence, 2019 to 2025.

Year	Yellowfin tuna	Skipjack tuna	Bigeye tuna	Longtail tuna	Total	Source
2019	8,049	6,500	2,800	700	18,049	MFBE (2025)
2020	8,400	6,700	2,900	720	18,720	MFBE (2025)
2021	8,673	6,579	2,850	706	18,808	MFBE (2025)
2022	9,290	6,900	3,000	740	19,930	MFBE (2025)
2023	10,965	5,100	4,100	760	20,925	MFBE (2025)
2024	18,635	7,140	5,945	1,178	32,898	MFBE (2025)
2025	32,816	10,996	7,907	5,489	57,208	MFBE (2026)

Year	Yellowfin tuna	Skipjack tuna	Bigeye tuna	Longtail tuna	Total	Source
Change 2024 to 2025 (%)	*+76.1*	*+54.0*	*+33.0*	*+366.0*	*+73.9*	

Values for 2019 to 2024 are reconstructed estimates reported in MFBE (2025) and include all national fisheries combined. Catches by fishery are not available for those years. Catches of other IOTC species were not reported consistently before 2025 and are not shown.

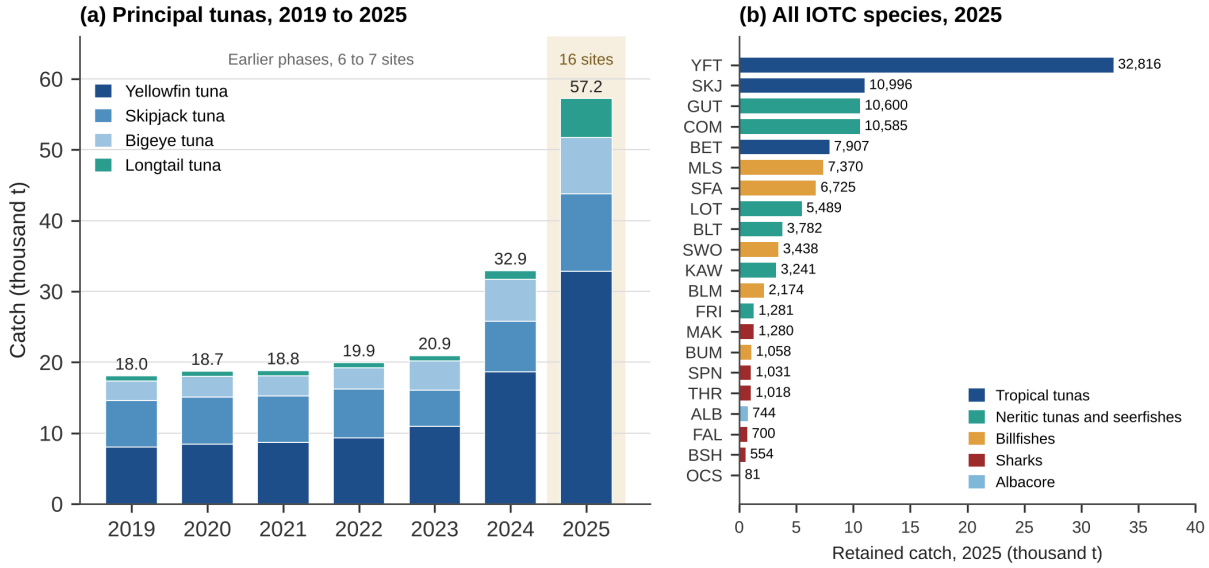


Figure 3. Historical annual catch by the national fisheries in the IOTC area of competence. (a) Catch of the four principal tuna species, 2019 to 2025. The shaded bar marks the change from six or seven to 16 monitored landing sites. (b) Retained catch of all IOTC species in 2025, coloured by species group. Sources: MFBE (2025) for 2019 to 2024 and MFBE (2026) for 2025. This figure corresponds to Figure 1 of the IOTC template.

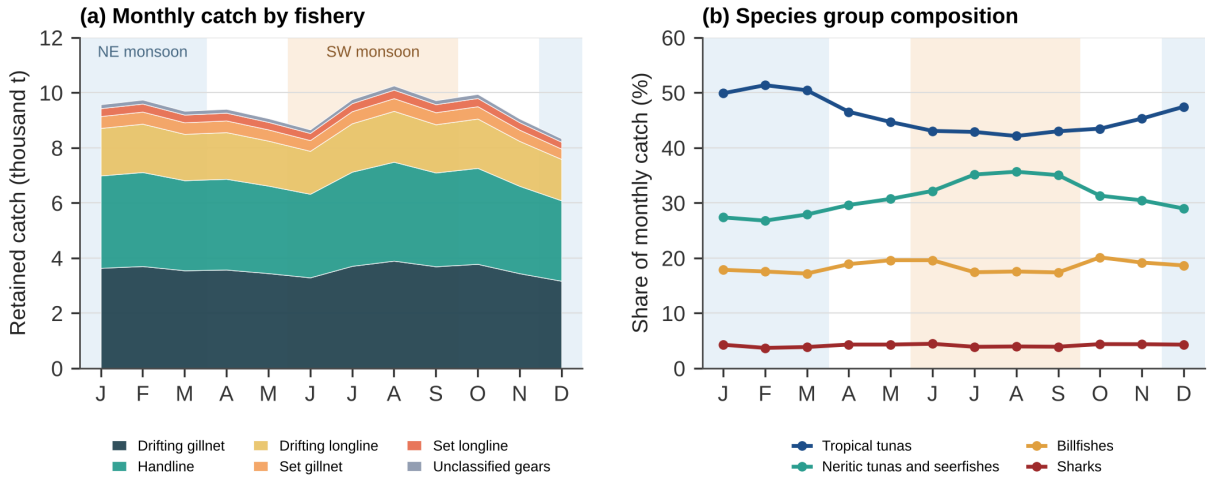


Figure 4. Seasonal pattern of the 2025 retained catch. (a) Monthly catch by fishery. (b) Monthly share of the four main species groups. Shading marks the northeast monsoon (December to March, blue) and the southwest monsoon (June to September). Source: MFBE (2026).

The 2025 catch and effort data were compiled at national level and not assigned to grid cells, pending validated fishing area codes (MFBE, 2026). The size frequency data, however, are referenced to IOTC 5° cells and give the best available picture of where monitored fishing took place (Figures 5 and 6). Half of all measured fish (49.8%) came from the cell between the Equator and 5°N and 45°E to 50°E, which contains seven of the 16 landing sites (LS6 to LS12). The adjacent cell to the west (LS4 and LS5) provided 20.0%, the southernmost cell (LS1 to LS3) 8.8%, the cell containing LS13 and LS14 9.8%, and the two northern cells (LS15 and LS16) 5.7% and 5.9%. Tropical tunas formed the largest share of sampled fish in every cell, between 40% and 49%. Figures 5 and 6 show where monitored landings originated. They are not maps of total effort or total catch.

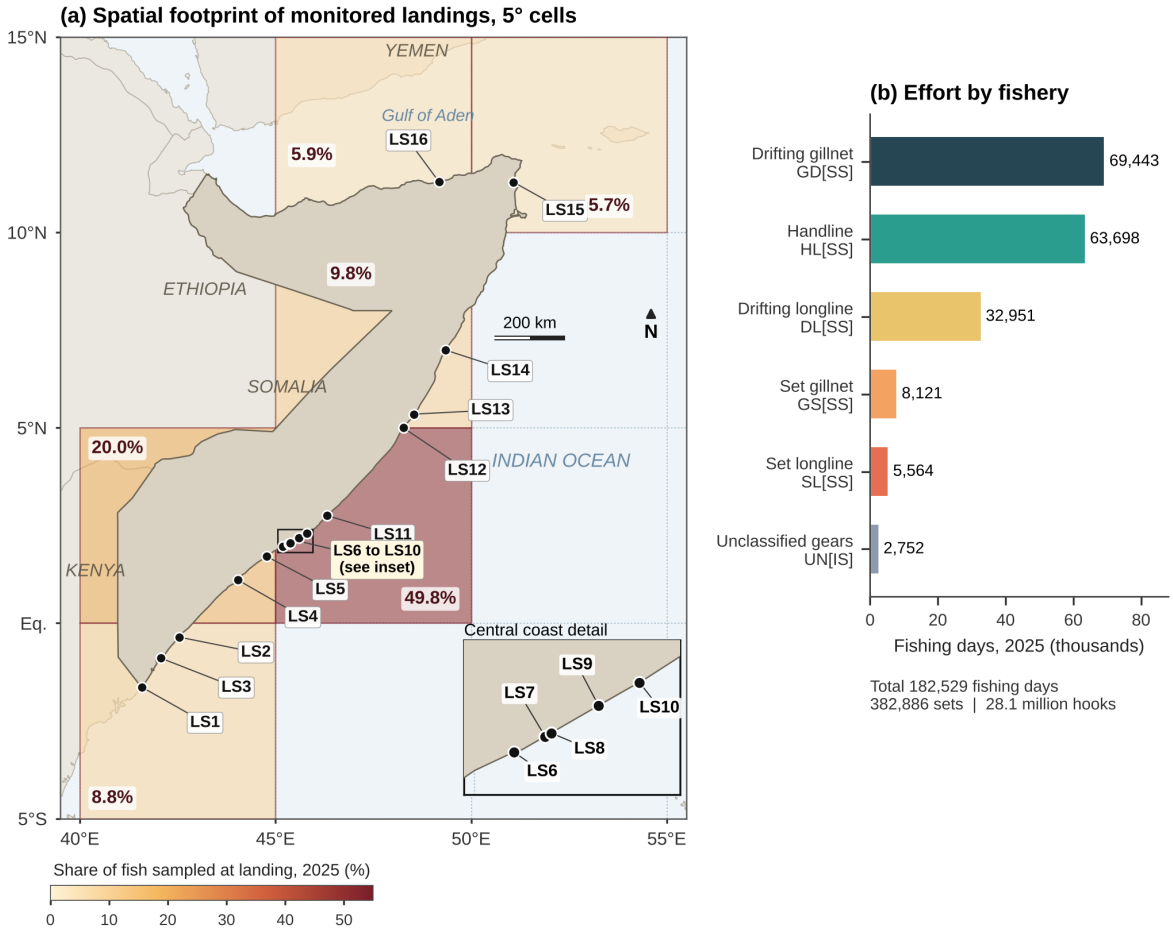


Figure 5. Distribution of fishing activity by the national fisheries in the IOTC area of competence, 2025. (a) Share of all fish sampled at landing that originated in each IOTC 5° cell, with the 16 monitored landing sites (LS1 to LS16). The inset shows the central coast, where LS6 to LS10 lie within about 70 km of each other. (b) Fishing days by fishery. Effort was not reported by grid cell in 2025, so the shading indicates the spatial footprint of monitored landings rather than effort itself. Source: MFBE (2026). This figure corresponds to Figure 2a of the IOTC template.

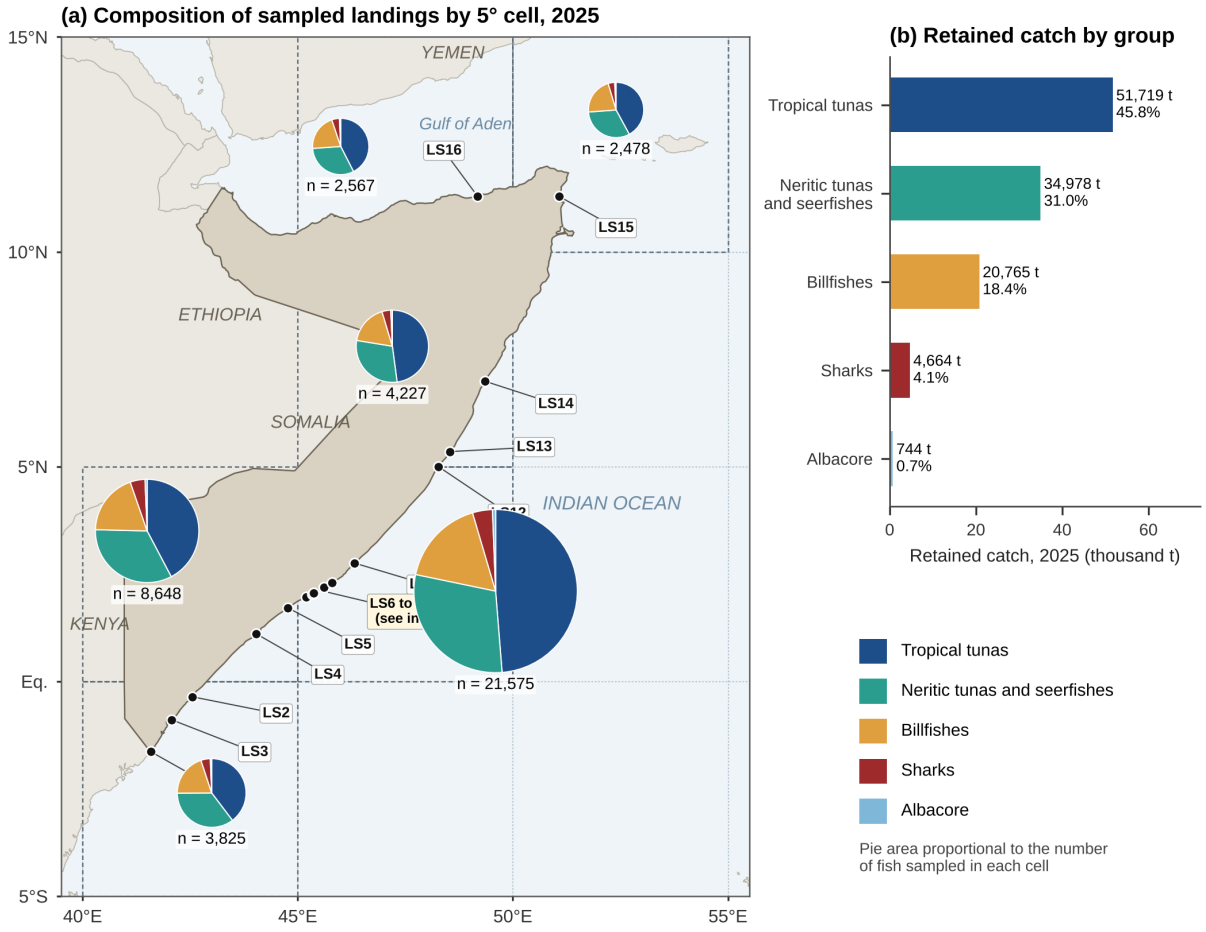


Figure 6. Distribution of catch by the national fisheries in the IOTC area of competence, 2025. (a) Species group composition, by number, of fish sampled at landing in each IOTC 5° cell. Pie area is proportional to the number of fish sampled. (b) Retained catch by species group. Source: MFBE (2026). This figure corresponds to Figure 3a of the IOTC template.

The five-year average maps of effort and catch requested as Figures 2b and 3b of the IOTC template are not presented. Both require catch and effort referenced to fishing area in each year of the period. For 2021 to 2024 catch is available only as national annual totals by species (Table 2b). In 2025 catch and effort were compiled at national level pending validated fishing area codes (MFBE, 2026). The only spatial information is the 5° cell recorded with the size samples, used as a proxy in Figures 5 and 6, and a five-year average cannot be built from a single year of proxy data. MFBE is introducing fishing area recording on landing site forms in 2026 and will report catch and effort by 5° cell, and by 1° cell where records allow, from the 2026 data year. Five-year average maps will follow as gridded years accumulate.

The 2025 catch and effort estimates were raised to national totals with species composition and effort ratios pooled across gears. National totals by species are the best available estimates but catch by fishery and nominal catch per unit effort do not yet carry gear specific information and are not presented as indices of abundance. Species identification among small tunas, seerfishes and billfishes is being verified at the landing sites in 2026 (Section 6.4). MFBE is revising the raising procedure by gear stratum and will provide revised 2025 estimates to the IOTC Secretariat (Section 6.1).

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY

Somalia has no organized recreational or charter fishery for tunas and billfishes. Occasional angling from the shore and from small boats takes place near urban beaches and harbours (MFBE, 2025), but it is not covered by the landing site program. The 2025 datasets contain no recreational component, and no recreational catches are reported for 2025. Recreational trips will be identified separately in landing site records if the activity grows.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES

Small scale gillnets and longlines are the gears of most concern for vulnerable species in the Indian Ocean. Gillnets take sharks, marine turtles, cetaceans and mobulid rays across a wide range of sizes, and their effects are difficult to observe because small vessels seldom carry observers (Lewison et al., 2004 and Gilman, 2011). In Somalia gillnets landed 42.5% of the 2025 catch of IOTC species. The 2025 datasets cover retained catch only. They contain no records of discards, releases or interactions with protected species, and no ecological risk assessment or bycatch action plan has yet been completed for the national fisheries. Building interaction recording into the landing site program is the first step towards both.

5.1 Sharks

Retained catches of six shark groups totalled 4,664 t in 2025: mako sharks 1,280 t, hammerhead sharks 1,031 t, thresher sharks 1,018 t, silky shark 700 t, blue shark 554 t and oceanic whitetip shark 81 t (Table 2a). Port samplers measured 1,791 sharks (Table 5). Oceanic sharks have declined steeply across the world ocean over the past half century (Pacoureau et al., 2021), and several of the groups landed in Somalia are among the most threatened chondrichthyans (Dulvy et al., 2014). Catches in earlier national reports were recorded as a single school shark category (MFBE, 2025) and cannot be compared with the 2025 species level figures.

Sharks are not targeted by the national fleet. They are taken as bycatch by small scale vessels fishing for tunas and tuna like species with gillnets, handlines and longlines inside national waters. Sharks that are retained are landed whole with fins naturally attached and are fully used, with meat, fins, skin, and liver all entering local markets and household consumption and export to neighbouring countries for consumption. The removal of fins at sea is prohibited under the Fisheries Law No. 008 of 2023 (MFBE, 2024).

Oceanic whitetip shark (81 t) and thresher sharks (1,018 t) were landed in 2025 as incidental bycatch of small-scale vessels operating exclusively within national waters, and the catches were fully used for local consumption, consistent with the provision for such fisheries in Resolutions 13/06 and 12/09. The Government is strengthening awareness among fishers, traders, and landing site committees of the conservation status of these species and of the safe release of live animals and applies strict measures against any intentional targeting of sharks, including inspection of landings and licence conditions that prohibit directed shark fishing.

5.1.1 NPOA sharks

Somalia has not yet adopted an NPOA Sharks. Its development is a national priority for 2026 (MFBE, 2025). The Fisheries Law No. 008 of 2023 already prohibits the removal of shark fins and requires full use of the carcass (MFBE, 2024). The 2025 data provide the plan with a starting baseline of species level retained catch and length composition for six shark groups.

5.1.2 Blue shark

Blue shark is recorded as a separate species in landing site sampling. Retained catch in 2025 was 554 t, and 213 blue sharks were measured, with fork lengths from 59 to 225 cm and a median of 200.5 cm (Table 5). Catch and size data for the species were reported to the IOTC Secretariat with the 2025 submissions, in line with Resolution 18/02.

5.2 Seabirds

Somali fisheries operate between about 1.6°S and 11.3°N, far north of the latitudes where seabird bycatch in longline fisheries is a concern. Somalia has no NPOA Seabirds, and the 2025 data contain no seabird interaction records. The answers to the template questions are as follows. (1) No Somali vessel operated south of 25°S in 2025. (2) to (4) The use of bird scaring lines, line weighting and night setting south of 25°S does not apply.

5.3 Marine turtles

Marine turtles' nest on Somali beaches and are exposed to gillnets, which are among the gears with the highest turtle bycatch rates worldwide (Wallace et al., 2010). The Fisheries Law No. 008 of 2023 prohibits the capture, killing and trade of marine turtles and requires the release of turtles caught incidentally (MFBE, 2024). The 2025 datasets contain no turtle interaction records, because the landing site program records retained catch and turtles may not legally be landed. Quantifying interactions in small scale gillnets requires recording at sea or by fishers, and MFBE is testing fisher reported interaction forms in 2026.

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

Mobulid rays, cetaceans and whale sharks do not appear in the 2025 retained catch. Gillnets are among the gears with the highest reported bycatch rates of mobulid rays (Croll et al., 2016), and their absence from landing records cannot be taken as evidence that interactions do not occur. National guidance prohibits deliberate fishing around marine mammals, whale sharks and mobulid rays and requires the release of animals caught incidentally.

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS

6.1 Logsheet data collection and verification

Somali small-scale vessels do not keep logbooks. Catch and effort are recorded at landing by enumerators, who complete a trip record for each sampled vessel giving dates, landing site, gear, effort and retained catch by species. Records have been captured on electronic forms since 2021 and stored in a central national database since 2022 (MFBE, 2024). In 2025 each record was checked against trip logs, landing slips, gear and vessel records, species identification notes and length and weight observations before

raising (MFBE, 2026). Collection under the current national design began in December 2019 (Sheik Heile et al., 2020) and has run in successive phases since then. A logbook for the larger inboard powered vessels has not yet been introduced. It would provide fishing positions and gear specific effort that landing interviews cannot capture reliably.

Raising procedure and improvements under way and the MFBE is moving to a fully stratified estimation in which catch, and effort are raised separately within each landing site, gear, and month stratum, following the sample-based approach of Stamatopoulos (2002). Fishing effort in each stratum is estimated from the trip frame and the proportion of vessels active, catch per fishing day and species composition are taken from the trips sampled in that stratum, and catch is obtained as the product of effort and catch per day. The revised procedure will be applied to the 2025 data and the revised estimates provided to the IOTC Secretariat. Three further changes are being introduced on the electronic landing forms in 2026: a fishing area field coded to the IOTC 1° and 5° grid, with a position recorded for vessels longer than 12 m, maximum length checks for each species at the point of entry, and photographic records for a subsample of billfishes and small tunas, checked against the IOTC species identification cards. Effort will be recorded in units suited to each gear, as trips and fishing days for all fisheries and hooks for longlines. MFBE intends to describe the revised sampling and raising design in a paper to the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics in Nov 2027.

6.2 Observer scheme

Somalia's observer scheme is landing based. The protocols required under paragraph 12 of Resolution 25/06 are as follows. Paragraph 3 (vessels of 24 m or more, and smaller vessels fishing outside the EEZ): no Somali flagged vessel met either condition in 2025, so at sea coverage does not apply. Paragraph 4 (electronic monitoring as a complement to observers): no electronic monitoring is in place. Paragraph 6 (monitoring of purse seine unloading): Somalia has no purse seine fleet. Paragraph 9 (artisanal landings monitored by field samplers): the landing-based programme covered 12,586 of 48,400 trips (26%) in 2025, well above the indicative 5% level, with sampling stratified by landing site, gear, season, and vessel category, and produced 16,305 biological sampling records from six 5° cells (Table 3, Figure 7). Coverage was not yet separated by fishery in 2025 and will be from the gear stratified revision onward. Trip coverage for 2023 and 2024 is shown as reported in MFBE (2025). In both years the national trip total was obtained by dividing observed trips by an assumed coverage of 5%, so those values are assumptions rather than measurements.

Table 3. Annual observer coverage of national fisheries by the landing-based programme, 2021 to 2025. Operation unit: fishing trip.

Year	Monitored trips	Trips in national frame	Coverage (%)	Notes
2021	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	No coverage estimate reported
2022	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	No coverage estimate reported
2023	2,288	45,760	5.0	Six landing sites. Frame derived from an assumed 5% coverage
2024	2,418	48,360	5.0	Six landing sites. Frame derived from an assumed 5% coverage
2025	**12,586**	**48,400**	**26.0**	**Sixteen landing sites. National trip frame**

Sources: MFBE (2025) for 2023 and 2024 and MFBE (2026) for 2025. n.a.: not available. Coverage by fishery is not available for any year.

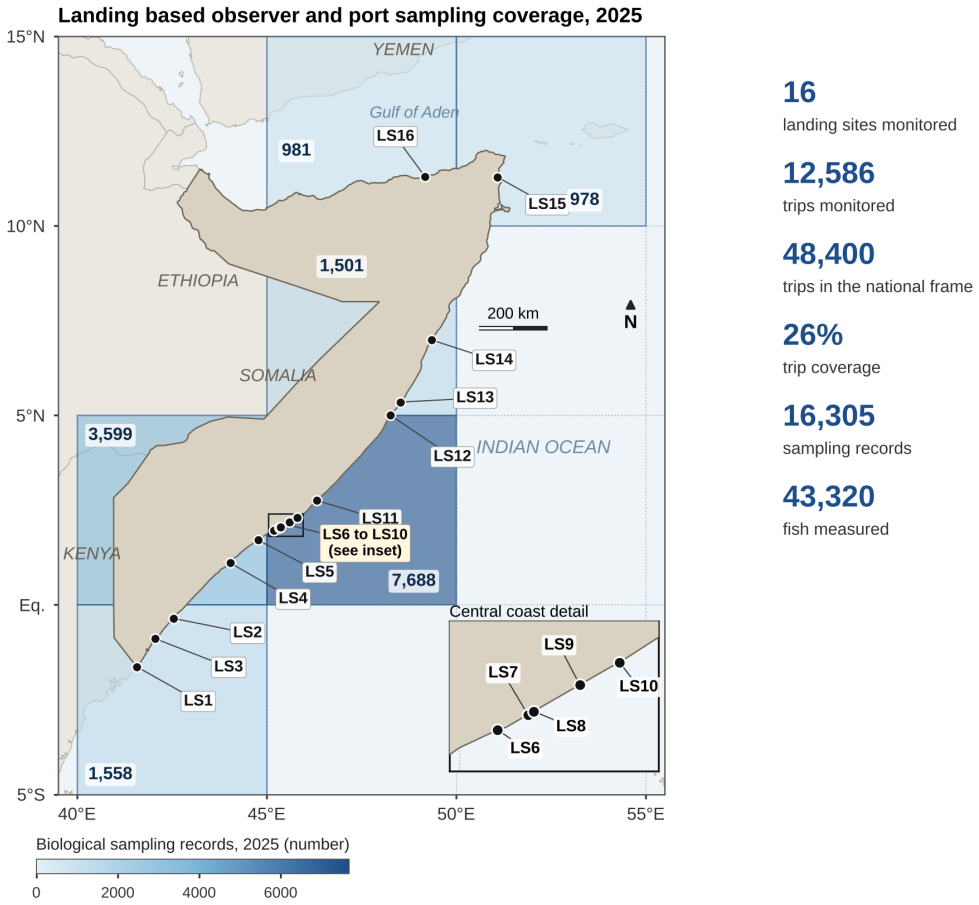


Figure 7. Spatial distribution of landing-based observer and port sampling coverage, 2025. Shading gives the number of biological sampling records in each IOTC 5° cell. Dots mark the 16 monitored landing sites (LS1 to LS16). The recommended 1° resolution is not yet available because fishing positions are not recorded at that precision. Source: MFBE (2026). This figure corresponds to Figure 4 of the IOTC template.

6.3 Port sampling programme

Port sampling under the national design began in December 2019 (Sheik Heile et al., 2020) and in 2025 operated at all 16 landing sites. Each 5° cell contains between one and seven sites: LS1 to LS3 lie in cell 6200040, LS4 and LS5 in 6100040, LS6 to LS12 in 6100045, LS13 and LS14 in 6105045, LS15 in 6110050 and LS16 in 6110045 (Figure 2). Samplers took 16,305 sampling records and measured 43,320 fish of 21 species to the nearest centimetre on measuring boards. Fork length was used for all species except black marlin and blue marlin, which were measured as eye fork length. Sampling was spread across the year, from 2,691 fish in December to 4,851 in August.

Size data are collected in six sampling strata defined by species group and the gears that land them. For the 2025 data MFBE has adopted the following correspondence with the catch fisheries. The tropical tuna, neritic, marlin and sailfish, swordfish, and albacore strata (HL+TL+DL[SS]) correspond to the handline and drifting longline fisheries, and the shark stratum (GD+HL+TL[SS]) to the drifting gillnet

and handline fisheries. Troll lines are a minor gear without a separate catch fishery, and their catches are included with handlines (Table 4).

Before analysis every record was screened against thresholds set at or above the maximum fork lengths published for each species (Collette and Nauen, 1983). The screen removed 653 records containing 1,784 fish: 1,228 bullet tuna of 55 cm or more, 401 Indo Pacific king mackerel of 90 cm or more, 121 frigate tuna of 65 cm or more and 34 skipjack tuna of 110 cm or more. These lengths almost certainly belong to other species recorded under the wrong code. The screened dataset of 41,536 fish is used in Table 5 and Figure 8. The submitted records are unchanged and will be corrected once identification has been verified.

Table 4. Number of biological sampling records by sampling stratum and species group, 2025.

Species group	Sampling stratum	Species	Sampling records	Share (%)
Tropical tunas	HL+TL+DL[SS]TR	YFT, SKJ, BET	5,681	34.8
Neritic tunas and seerfishes	HL+TL+DL[SS]NS	LOT, KAW, FRI, BLT, COM, GUT	4,362	26.8
Marlins and sailfish	HL+TL+DL[SS]MS	MLS, BLM, BUM, SFA	3,496	21.4
Swordfish	HL+TL+DL[SS]SW	SWO	970	5.9
Albacore	HL+TL+DL[SS]AL	ALB	285	1.7
Sharks	GD+HL+TL[SS]SK	MAK, SPN, THR, FAL, BSH, OCS	1,511	9.3
All sampling strata		**21 species**	**16,305**	**100.0**

Source: MFBE (2026). Sampling records are sampling events at landing, drawn from the 12,586 monitored trips (Table 3). HL handline, TL troll line, DL drifting longline, GD drifting gillnet. Strata HL+TL+DL[SS] correspond to catch fisheries HL[SS] and DL[SS], and stratum GD+HL+TL[SS] to GD[SS] and HL[SS]. Troll line catches are included with handlines.

Table 5. Number of fish measured, length range and median length by species or species group and sampling stratum, 2025, after screening for implausible lengths.

Species or group	Sampling stratum	Sampling records	Fish measured	Range (cm)	Median (cm)
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	HL+TL+DL[SS]TR	3,258	12,595	25 to 177	107.5
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	HL+TL+DL[SS]TR	1,168	4,186	30 to 106	71.5
Bigeye tuna (BET)	HL+TL+DL[SS]TR	1,238	3,035	25 to 188	112.5
Neritic tunas and seerfishes (6 species)	HL+TL+DL[SS]NS	3,666	11,675	33 to 187	73.5
Billfishes (5 species)	HL+TL+DL[SS]MS and SW	4,466	7,969	50 to 272	218.5
Sharks (6 groups)	GD+HL+TL[SS]SK	1,511	1,791	50 to 315	185.5
Albacore (ALB)	HL+TL+DL[SS]AL	285	285	65 to 124	92.5
All species		**15,592**	**41,536**		

Lengths are fork-length, except black marlin and blue marlin, measured as eye fork length. Excludes 653 records (1,784 fish) above documented maximum lengths. Source: MFBE (2026).

Size data are presented at species group level, except for the three tropical tunas, which are reported by species. Yellowfin tuna were sampled in the largest numbers (12,595 fish) and had a median fork length of 107.5 cm. Most were adults. Ninety per cent exceeded 75 cm, the length at which half of western Indian Ocean females are mature when the cortical alveolar stage is taken as the onset of maturity (Zudaire et al., 2013). Bigeye tuna had a similar median of 112.5 cm. Skipjack tuna had a median of 71.5 cm, and nearly all exceeded 39.9 cm, the length at 50% maturity estimated for western Indian Ocean females (Grande et al., 2014). Neritic tunas and seerfishes had a median of 73.5 cm, billfishes 218.5 cm and sharks 185.5 cm (Table 5). The predominance of adult tunas reflects the handline and longline fisheries, which take larger fish than surface gears, and is consistent with the composition reported for Somali landings in earlier phases (MFBE, 2024).

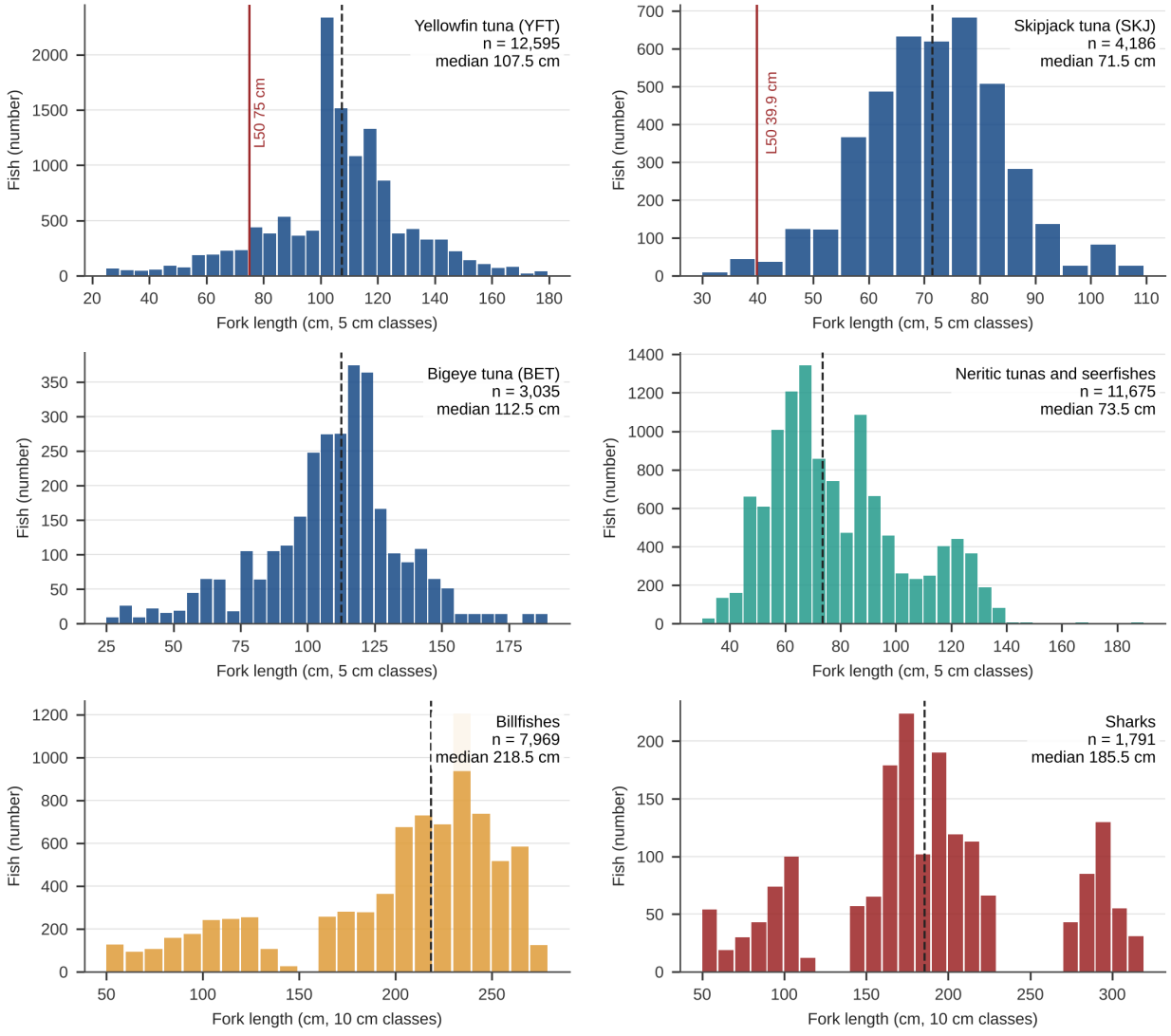


Figure 8. Length frequency distributions of fish sampled at landing in 2025, after screening for implausible lengths: the three tropical tunas by species and other IOTC species aggregated by group (5 cm classes for tunas, 10 cm for billfishes and sharks). Dashed lines show median length. Red lines show the female length at 50% maturity for yellowfin tuna (Zudaire et al., 2013) and skipjack tuna (Grande et al., 2014). Source: MFBE (2026).

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

Billfish catches are recorded at species level at every monitored landing site. In 2025 the national fisheries retained 7,370 t of striped marlin, 6,725 t of Indo Pacific sailfish, 2,174 t of black marlin and 1,058 t of blue marlin, together with 3,438 t of swordfish (Table 2a). Samplers measured 6,650 marlins and sailfish and 1,319 swordfish (Table 5). Catch and size data for all four species were submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in accordance with Resolution 18/05.

The striped marlin estimate of 7,370 t is more than twice the catch limit of 3,260 t that Resolution 18/05 sets for the whole Indian Ocean. Separating striped marlin from other marlins and from sailfish is difficult at landing, particularly when fish are landed in pieces. MFBE is therefore undertaking billfish verification at the landing sites in 2026, using photographic records for a subsample of landings and refresher training for enumerators, and will revise the 2025 estimates where needed before they are used by the Working Party on Billfish. Domestic management of billfishes relies on licensing conditions under the Fisheries Law No. 008 of 2023 and on the species level monitoring described here.

6.5 Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring

Drifting and set gillnets together landed 47,970 t (42.5%) of the 2025 catch. Gillnet trips are monitored within the landing-based programme, whose overall trip coverage was 26% in 2025. Coverage specific to gillnets was not separated, and no at sea or electronic monitoring of gillnet vessels is in place. Resolution 19/01 (paragraph 22) encourages coverage of gillnet vessels through alternative methods. The most practical option for Somalia is a combination of fisher reported interaction forms and periodic at sea trips on volunteer vessels, which MFBE is testing in 2027.

6.6 Sampling plans for mobulid rays

Mobulid rays were not recorded in the 2025 retained catch. Somalia does not consider that this demonstrates the absence of interactions, because gillnets, which landed the largest share of the 2025 catch, are among the gears with the highest reported bycatch rates of mobulid rays (Croll et al., 2016) and live releases are not captured by a program that records retained catch. MFBE is developing a sampling plan in 2027 with three elements. Enumerators record mobulid encounters, fate, and condition through a short interview at every sampled gillnet trip. Photographs are used to confirm species identity. Effort is concentrated on drifting gillnet trips in the cells with the most gillnet activity. The plan, with its scientific and operational rationale, is being documented for submission to the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch for advice, as required by Resolution 19/03.

6.7 Electronic Monitoring Standards

Somalia is not implementing electronic monitoring systems in its fisheries. Annex A is therefore not applicable.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Somalia has no dedicated research program on tunas, billfishes, sharks, or turtles at present. The national landing site program is the main source of biological information (Table 6). It provides species level catch data and length frequencies for 21 IOTC species, and the 2025 length data are the largest biological dataset yet collected in Somali waters over three decades. Research priorities follow directly from the limitations described in Sections 3 and 6: verification of species identification, recalibration of the historical series and spatially resolved effort.

7.1 National research programs on blue shark

No dedicated program. Blue sharks catch and length data (213 fish in 2025) are collected through landing site sampling (Section 5.1.2).

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

No dedicated program. Landing site sampling provides catch and length data for all four species. The identification study under way in 2026 (Section 6.4) is the first targeted work on billfishes in Somalia, and its results will be presented to the Working Party on Billfish.

7.3 National research programs on sharks

No dedicated program. Species level catch and length data are collected for six shark groups. Research on gear selectivity, wire leaders, nursery areas and handling practices, as described in paragraph 11 of Resolution 17/05, has not begun.

7.4 National research programs on oceanic whitetip sharks

No dedicated program. Thirty-one oceanic whitetip sharks were measured in 2025, with fork lengths between 99 and 181 cm. The numbers are too small to identify nursery areas.

7.5 National research programs on marine turtles

No dedicated program. No trials of circle hooks, alternative baits or gillnet modifications have been carried out. Fisher reported interaction forms are being tested in 2026 (Section 5.3).

7.6 National research programs on thresher sharks

No dedicated program. Thresher sharks were landed at all six 5° cells in 2025, and 391 were measured with fork lengths between 50 and 200 cm. The presence of small individuals in the samples could help to locate nursery areas once identification to species level within Alopias spp. is in place.

Table 6. Summary of national research and monitoring programs currently underway.

Project title	Period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives	Short description
National landing site monitoring and port sampling program	2019 to present	Somalia	Not reported	Federal Government of Somalia, with FAO Fisheries support in the pilot phases	Catch, effort, species composition and size data for national management and IOTC reporting	Landing site sampling at 16 sites (LS1 to LS16) in 2025. 12,586 trips monitored and 43,320 fish measured
Reconstruction of national catches	2023 to 2026	Somalia	Not reported	MFBE	Consistent historical catch series for stock assessment	2019 to 2024 series submitted in 2025. Recalibration against the 2025 trip frame pending

Sources: Sheik Heile et al. (2020), MFBE (2024, 2025, 2026).

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

Somalia's main progress against the recommendations of the Scientific Committee in 2025 was in data reporting. All datasets due under Resolution 15/02 for the 2025 calendar year were submitted before the 30 June deadline, coverage of artisanal landings rose to 26% of trips, and catches of sharks and billfishes were reported at species level. The outstanding requirements concern gridded catch and effort, gear specific species composition, shark species identification, interaction recording for protected species, and the plans for sharks and mobulid rays. Table 7 summarises progress against each scientific requirement.

Table 7. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission adopted between 2012 and 2025, and progress by Somalia.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6 to 10	Turtles protected under Fisheries Law No. 008 of 2023, with capture, killing and trade prohibited and release required. No interaction data in 2025 because the programme records retained catch. Fisher reported interaction forms being tested in 2026.
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family Alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4 to 8	1,018 t landed in 2025 as bycatch of small-scale vessels in national waters, landed with fins attached and fully used locally. 391 fish measured. Awareness program and strict measures against intentional targeting in place.
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7 to 9	No cetacean catches in 2025 data. National guidance prohibits deliberate fishing around cetaceans and requires release. No at sea interaction recording.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (Rhincodon typus)	Paragraphs 7 to 9	No whale shark catches in 2025 data. National guidance prohibits deliberate fishing around whale sharks. Somalia has no purse seine fleet.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraphs 5 to 6	Oceanic whitetip shark: 81 t landed in 2025 as small-scale bycatch in national waters, fins attached and fully used locally. 31 measured. Awareness, species identification, and enforcement against intentional targeting strengthened.
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1 to 10	Small-scale vessels do not keep logbooks. Catch and effort recorded at landing for 26% of trips and raised to national totals. Logbooks for larger inboard vessels not yet introduced.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1 to 7	2025 retained catch, catch and effort, and size frequency submitted on 30 June 2026. Catch and effort preliminary and not gridded. Gear specific species composition not resolved.
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	Fin removal prohibited and full use required by national law. Species level catches and lengths reported for six shark groups. Research under paragraph 11 not begun.
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2 to 5	554 t retained and 213 fish measured in 2025. Monitoring through landing site sampling. No dedicated research.
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 to 11	Species level catches and lengths reported for all four species. Billfish identification verification under way in 2026.
18/07	On measures applicable in case of nonfulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	2025 data submitted by the 30 June deadline. Preliminary catch and effort to be finalized.
19/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 22	Gillnet trips monitored at landing within 26% overall trip coverage. No at sea or electronic gillnet monitoring. Combined methods being tested in 2026.
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	No mobulid rays in 2025 retained catch. Sampling plan for gillnet strata under development in 2026 (Section 6.6) for submission to the WPEB.
21/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 23	Yellowfin catch by fishery and length data for 12,595 fish reported for 2025 in support of the stock assessment.
23/07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries	Paragraphs 3 to 7	No Somali vessel operates south of 25°S. Not applicable to the national fleet.
23/08	On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries	Paragraph 3c	Somalia is not implementing electronic monitoring. Annex A not applicable.
25/06	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 12	Landing based coverage of 26% of trips in 2025 across 16 landing sites. No at sea observers. Coverage by fishery not yet separated.

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ANNEX A: A FLEET LEVEL SUMMARY OF THE VESSEL MONITORING PLANS

Not applicable. Somalia does not implement electronic monitoring systems in its fisheries (Section 6.7). Sections A.1 (number of vessels implementing electronic monitoring by gear), A.2 (range of system configurations) and A.3 (requirements placed on skippers and crews) will be completed if electronic monitoring is introduced.