THAILAND NATIONAL REPORT TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION 2026

Authors

Department of Fisheries,
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives,
Thailand

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Thailand 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).	NO 30/06/2026
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: No Thai longline vessels operated in the IOTC Area of Competence in 2025.	

Executive Summary

In 2025, Thai fishing vessels operating within the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Area of Competence conducted fishing activities exclusively within Thailand's Andaman Sea Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The fleet comprised 218 licensed purse seine vessels, primarily targeting small pelagic species. The total reported catch of IOTC-managed species was 18,925 tonnes, mainly consisting of longtail tuna (30.04%), kawakawa (20.90%), skipjack tuna (19.90%), frigate tuna (13.88%), and bullet tuna (13.51%).

Thailand continued to implement fisheries monitoring and catch verification measures, including vessel monitoring systems (VMS), fishing logbooks, landing declarations, and port inspections. In 2025, 6.61% of purse seine fishing trips were monitored during catch unloading, with landing data cross-checked against logbooks. Monthly scientific port sampling, complemented by an enumerator-based programme in Phang-nga Province, supported catch composition analysis and biological data collection. A total of 29,827 fish were measured to improve the availability of length data for IOTC-managed species. No onboard observers were deployed in 2025.

Regarding ecosystem protection and bycatch management, no seabird interactions with fishing gear were reported by Thai vessels operating in Thai waters, and no blue shark catches were recorded. Thailand's second National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks was adopted by the National Fisheries Committee in mid-2026. Thailand also maintained marine turtle protection measures and implemented national plans and regulations addressing seabirds and other ecologically related species.

Thailand has not implemented an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) for fishing vessels operating within the Thai EEZ under IOTC Resolution 22/04; therefore, a nil report is submitted for this section.

Thailand remains committed to responsible fisheries management, data collection and reporting, and the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) to support the sustainable utilization of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.

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1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION

In 2025, Thai fishing vessels fishing for IOTC-managed species conducted fishing activities exclusively within Thailand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) throughout the year. with no fishing activities conducted outside Thai waters.

Thai fisheries in the Andaman Sea (Eastern Indian Ocean) comprise both artisanal fisheries and commercial fisheries. Artisanal fisheries generally operate close to shore using gillnets and traps to catch small pelagic fishes, small demersal fishes, and invertebrates for fresh consumption and domestic processing. Commercial fisheries include purse seine vessels not exceeding 24 metres in length, which primarily target small pelagic fishes, such as mackerels, scads, and sardines, which account for approximately 85% of the total catch, the remainder comprising tunas and tuna-like species. The main fishing techniques are free-school purse seining and using anchored fish aggregating devices (anchored FADs). Purse seine fishing takes place along coastal areas, with fishing activity concentrated in nearshore waters within 30 nm of the coast. All catches are landed at Thai fishing ports.

Under the current fisheries management system, the Department of Fisheries (DOF) strictly regulates and monitors purse seine fishing vessels operating in Thai waters. Vessels are required to report each departure and arrival at port for fishing operations, record detailed fishing activities in logbooks, and installed a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) that transmits vessel position signals hourly. In addition, catch information is reported through the Landing Declaration System to verify consistency with the information recorded in logbooks. Random inspections of landed catches are also conducted at ports to verify the accuracy of reported catch data.

Furthermore, the Department of Fisheries conducts scientific surveys to assess the status of domestic fisheries. These surveys involve sampling catches landed by a range of fishing vessels, covering both artisanal and commercial fisheries, including purse seine vessels operating along the Andaman Sea coast. The surveys aim to collect detailed fisheries data, determine the species composition of catches from individual vessels, and measure the lengths of selected species. The resulting information is used to support assessments of the status of fishery resources.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE

In 2025, there were 218 purse seine vessels permitted to fish in the Thai EEZ of the Andaman Sea, as presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence, by gear type and size class in 2021 – 2025

Year	Area	Gear	Size of vessel (GT)				
			Total	10.00 -29.99	30.00 - 59.99	60.00 - 149.99	≥150.00
2021	EEZ	Purse seine	227	3	57	147	20
2022	EEZ	Purse seine	219	4	52	144	19
2023	EEZ	Purse seine	218	4	52	144	18
2024	EEZ	Purse seine	216	4	50	140	22
2024	High seas	Handline	1	0	0	0	1
2025	EEZ	Purse seine	218	4	51	141	22

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND FISHERY)

The total catch of IOTC-managed species in 2025 was 18,925 tons. The main catch comprised neritic tunas, skipjack tuna, and Indo-Pacific sailfish. The catch composition was as follows: longtail tuna 30.04%, kawakawa 20.90%, skipjack tuna 19.90%, frigate tuna 13.88%, bullet tuna 13.51%, narrow-barred Spanish mackerel 0.77%, Indo-Pacific king mackerel 0.38%, Indo-Pacific sailfish 0.37%, and yellowfin tuna 0.25% (Table 2).

Table 2 Annual catch and effort by fishery and primary species in the IOTC area of competence in 2021 – 2025

Year	Area	Gear	Effort (Day)	Catch by species (Tons)									
				Total catch	Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Indo-Pacific king mackerel	Longtail tuna	Kawa kawa	Frigate tuna	Bullet tuna	Skipjack tuna	Indo-Pacific sailfish	Yellowfin tuna
2021	EEZ	Purse seine	38,238	20,365	194	217	4,234	5,916	3,304	2,485	3,997	17	1
2022	EEZ	Purse seine	42,461	19,377	120	136	4,041	6,166	3,667	892	4,312	37	6
2023	EEZ	Purse seine	38,328	24,806	224	226	6,092	5,636	1,270	5,554	5,528	239	37
2024	EEZ	Purse seine	41,607	37,831	247	142	5,895	5,714	4,050	15,506	6,029	233	15
2024	High seas	hand line	46	0.13	-	-	-	0.13	-	-	-	-	-
2025	EEZ	Purse seine	37,707	18,925	146	72	5,685	3,955	2,627	2,556	3,766	70	48

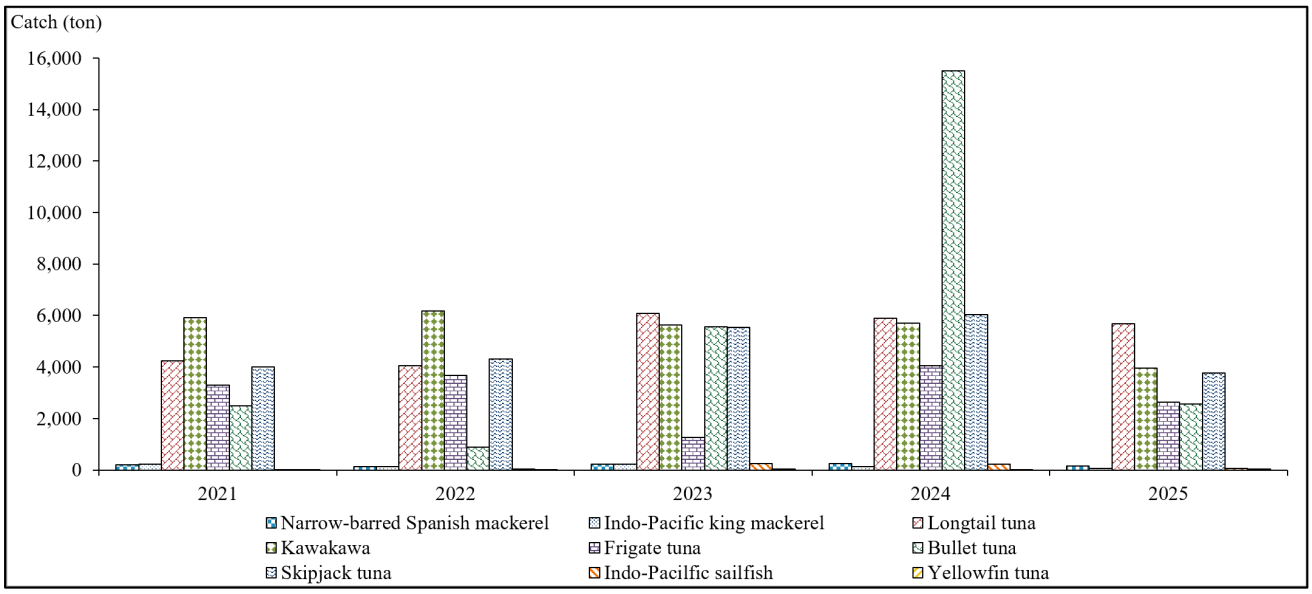

Figure 1 Historical annual catch for the national fisheries by primary species, for the IOTC area of competence in 2021 - 2025

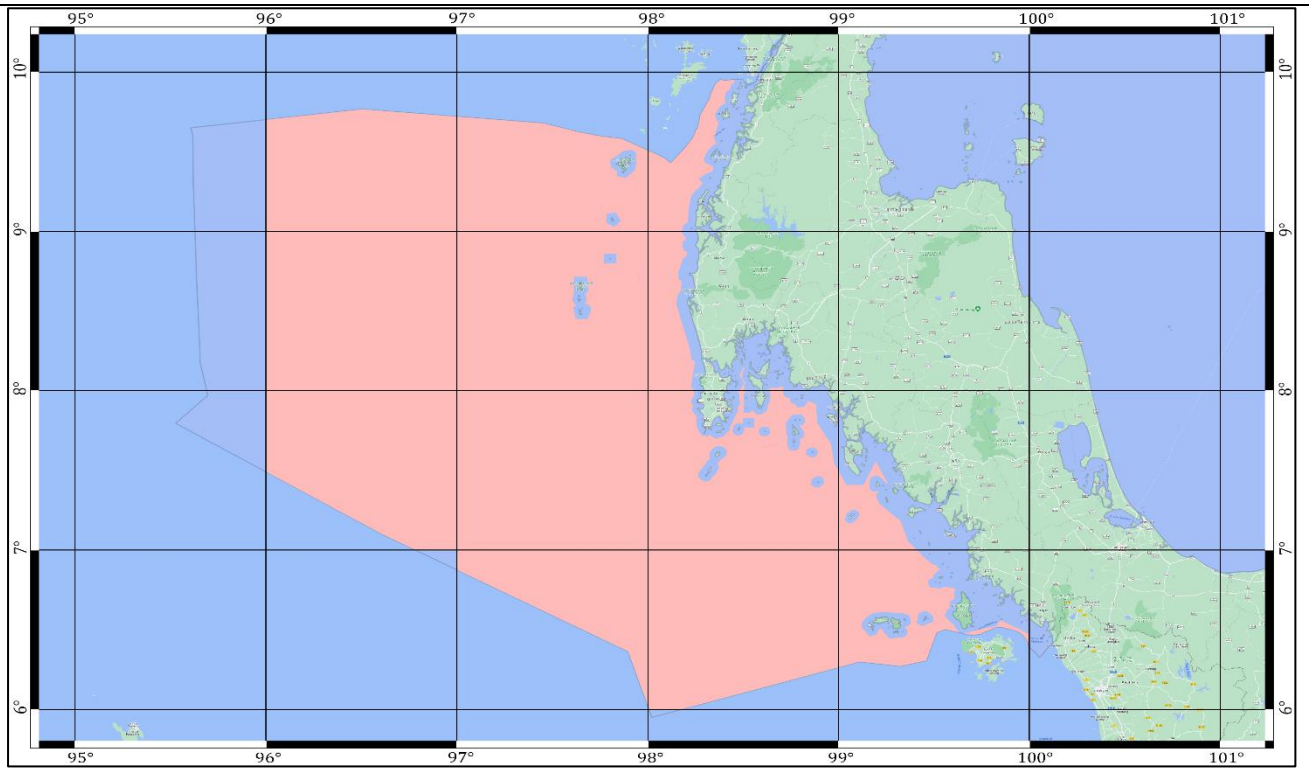

Figure 2 Map showing the distribution of catch and fishing effort by domestic purse seiners operating in Thai waters of the Andaman Sea in 2025

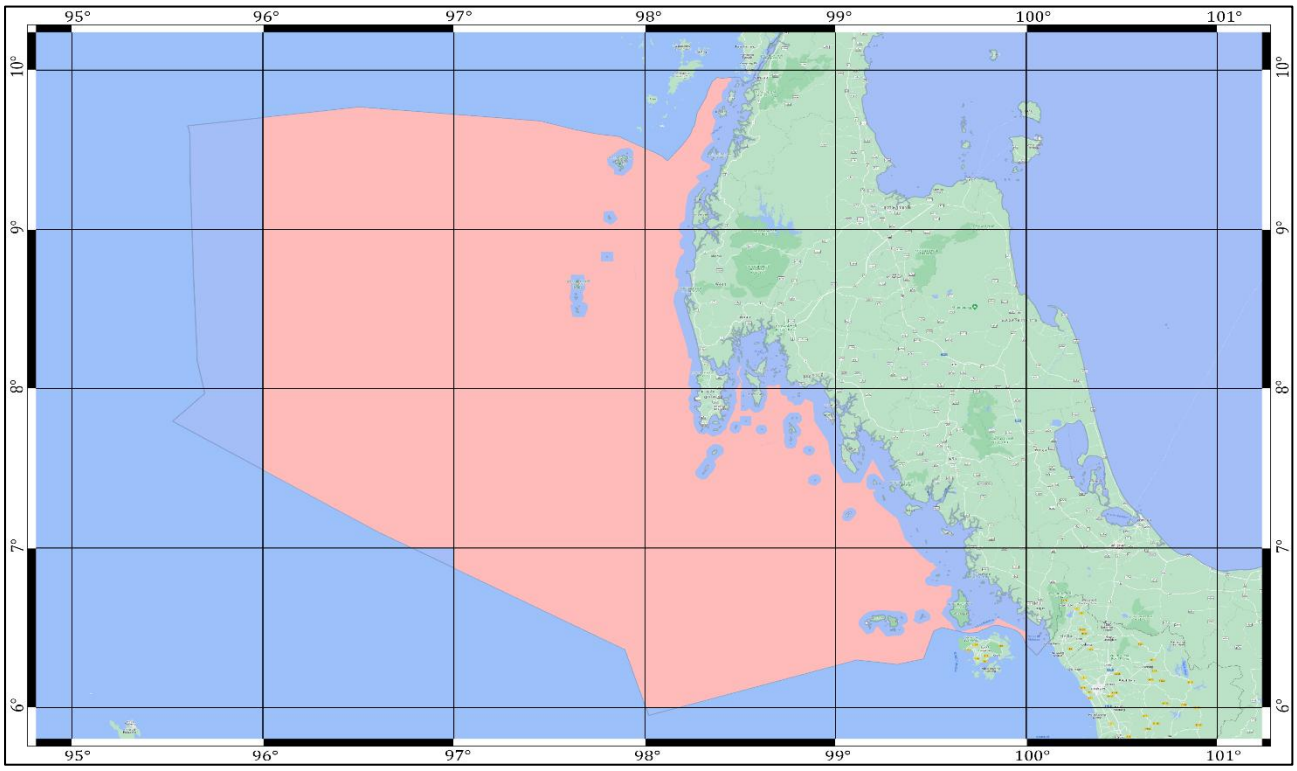

Figure 3 Map of the distribution of catch and fishing effort, by domestic purse seine operated in the Thai waters in the Andaman Sea during 2021 – 2025

Note: The data on fishing grounds for catch and effort are identical; therefore, they have been consolidated into a single image. As Thailand's purse seine fishery is a multispecies fishery, the data mapping cannot be separated or categorized by individual species.

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY

Recreational fishing is associated with marine tourism limited available only in non-monsoon period, usually using rod and reel purposely target any large demersal or pelagic fishes. The species depend on tourist's preferences but regularly are trevallies, yellowfin tuna, emperor fishes, and groupers. Thailand does not have official records of recreational fishery due to it is not regulated under current fisheries legislation.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES

Thailand has implemented fishery management measures in accordance with FAO guidelines to prevent, reduce and mitigate impacts on marine ecosystem. Several measures are in effect within Thai waters including NPOA-Sharks, NPOA-Seabirds and implementation of the FAO guideline to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operation.

5.1 Sharks

Thailand's key national strategy for shark conservation and management is the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks). The first NPOA-Sharks covered the period 2020–2024, and its implementation was evaluated to inform the development of the second plan. The second NPOA-Sharks was adopted by the National Fisheries Committee in mid-2026, focusing on improving scientific data collection, catch monitoring, traceability, enforcement, and stakeholder participation to promote the sustainable management of shark resources in Thailand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Regarding shark interactions, sharks are generally encountered as bycatch in other fisheries, rather than being targeted by a dedicated shark fishery. No blue shark catches by Thai fishing vessels have been recorded to date. Thailand continues to strengthen shark catch monitoring and data collection under the NPOA-Sharks to support conservation and management.

5.1.1. NPOA sharks

Thailand implemented its first National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) in 2020, covering the five-year period from 2020 to 2024. The plan aimed to establish a comprehensive database on shark resources in Thai waters, improve shark conservation and management measures, and develop an effective stakeholder network to support shark management. The first NPOA-Sharks concluded in 2024, and its results have been evaluated to inform the development of the subsequent plan.

Recognizing the importance and effectiveness of the first NPOA-Sharks, the Thai Government, through the Department of Fisheries (DOF), developed the second NPOA-Sharks to build on previous achievements and further strengthen collaboration between government agencies and local stakeholders. The second NPOA-Sharks was adopted by the National Fisheries Committee in mid-2026. It aims to promote the sustainable use and management of shark resources within Thailand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), with an emphasis on improving data collection, strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance, and integrating economic considerations into shark resource management.

The second NPOA-Sharks comprises six key objectives:

1. To study and improve knowledge of shark biology, ecology, fisheries, and resource exploitation in Thai waters
2. To develop a database and traceability system for shark resources and shark-derived products
3. To systematically and continuously assess the status of shark populations and identify the impacts and threats arising from fishing activities and environmental factors
4. To enhance knowledge and capacity in shark conservation and management
5. To establish shark conservation, fisheries management, and trade measures in accordance with relevant international agreements, regulations, and obligations
6. To develop and strengthen stakeholder networks and promote participation in shark resource management

Following its adoption by the National Fisheries Committee, the second NPOA-Sharks is currently being translated into Thai and English for bilingual publication. The plan provides a framework for advancing the sustainable management of shark resources in Thailand through improved scientific information, effective monitoring and enforcement, enhanced traceability, consideration of economic aspects, and stronger collaboration among government agencies and relevant stakeholders.

5.1.2. Blue shark

There is no record of blue shark catch from Thai fishing vessels until now. However, the monitoring of the shark catch is in place as stated in the NPOA-Sharks.

5.2 Seabirds

In 2025, no seabird interactions with fishing gear were reported by Thai fishing vessels operating within Thailand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Local purse seine vessel skippers observed seabirds flying around their vessels during fishing operations; however, no interactions with fishing gear or incidental captures were reported.

Thailand implemented the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for reducing incidental seabird bycatch as a precautionary measure in 2024. The NPOA aims to mitigate the potential impacts of Thai-flagged longline fisheries operating outside Thai waters, despite the absence of active Thai longline fishing operations in recent years. The mitigation measures are based on best practices adopted by several Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and apply to fishing activities conducted north of 23 degrees North latitude and south of 25 degrees South latitude. These measures include night setting, the use of tori lines, and branch line weighting. The NPOA incorporates seabird mitigation measures required under the conservation and management measures (CMMs) of the IOTC, the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

In addition to implementing seabird bycatch mitigation measures, the NPOA establishes an action plan comprising five key elements: (1) enhancing knowledge of seabird vulnerability and disseminating mitigation measures to relevant stakeholders; (2) reviewing national legislation to ensure alignment with RFMO conservation and management measures; (3) establishing a system for collecting seabird bycatch data; (4) strengthening monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) of seabird bycatch in fisheries; and (5) establishing a national network to promote stakeholder participation and raise awareness of seabird conservation, involving government agencies, the private sector, and the public.

The NPOA will be reviewed and updated as necessary to reflect changes in fisheries conditions and revisions to relevant RFMO conservation and management measures.

5.3 Marine Turtles

Marine turtles are protected under Thai national legislation. In accordance with the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations, Thailand has implemented the following measures to prevent incidental marine turtle capture, improve the handling and release of accidentally caught turtles, promote the use of appropriate fishing gear, and strengthen the protection of marine turtle species and their habitats:

1. Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015), as amended by the Act Amending the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries, B.E. 2558 (2015), B.E. 2568 (2025)

Section 66 prohibits the fishing, disturbance, or retention on board of marine turtles and marine mammals, except for rescue purposes. Any marine turtle or marine mammal accidentally caught alive must be released immediately. If the animal is injured, emergency treatment must be provided before its release into the sea.

2. Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirements and Regulations for Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Waters in the Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), B.E. 2569 (2026)

The Notification establishes specific requirements for preventing and mitigating incidental marine turtle bycatch, including the following provisions:

- Clause 18: Purse seine vessels are prohibited from setting their nets around cetaceans, other marine mammals, marine turtles, or whale sharks sighted before the commencement of a fishing set.
- Clause 20: Purse seine vessels must carry and use dip nets to facilitate the safe rescue and release of marine turtles.
- Clause 22: When incidental catches of protected or vulnerable species occur, including marine turtles, the vessel master must release the animals and record the incident using the IOTC incidental catch logsheet. The completed records must be submitted to the Fisheries Operation and Fleet Management Division of the Department of Fisheries upon transshipment or landing of the catch.
- Clause 23: Marine turtles accidentally caught and found to be weak or injured must be brought on board and cared for until they recover sufficiently for release. Handling and release must follow the guidelines on marine turtle rescue and identification appended to the Notification.
- Clause 24: All longline vessels must carry line cutters and de-hookers to facilitate the proper handling and prompt release of marine turtles caught on fishing gear or entangled in fishing lines.

3. Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives dated 16 September 1996

This Notification requires the installation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) on shrimp trawlers operating in designated fishing areas. TEDs help reduce marine turtle mortality by allowing turtles to escape from trawl nets while retaining the target catch.

4. Wild Animal Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2567 (2024)

Five species of marine turtles are protected under this Act: the leatherback turtle, green turtle, hawksbill turtle, loggerhead turtle, and olive ridley turtle. The Act provides legal protection for these species and regulates activities affecting their conservation.

5. Ministerial Regulation Prescribing Species of Protected Wildlife that May Be Bred in Captivity B.E. 2546 (2003)

The keeping and breeding of marine turtles in captivity by private entities are subject to strict regulatory controls under this Ministerial Regulation, supporting the protection and conservation of marine turtle populations.

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

Thailand has identified 50 marine species as endangered, threatened, or protected (ETP) under its current national legislation. These species include whale sharks, marine turtles, cetaceans, mobulid rays, guitarfishes, winghead sharks, zebra sharks, hammerhead sharks, and corals.

The protection and management of these species are governed by three key legal instruments:

1. Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirements and Regulations for Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Waters in the Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), B.E. 2569 (2026).
2. Wild Animal Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019).
3. Ministerial Regulation Prescribing Certain Wild Animal Species as Protected Wildlife (No. 4), B.E. 2561 (2018).

In addition, although the tiger shark is not currently listed as an ETP species under Thai national legislation, fishers generally avoid catching this species in their fishing operations.

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification

For commercial fishing vessels, i.e., the vessel from 10 GT and above, operating inside Thai waters, fishing logbook data are collected at landing sites. Catch data in the logbooks are verified with the actual landing weight at port. In 2025, 6.61% of purse seine vessel trips in the Andaman Sea coast were monitored during offloading at port and the data were crosschecked with the logbooks.

The data from the logbooks and the actual catch are consistent. Then, the verified data are recorded in the "Thai-flagged" database system for the purpose of domestic catch traceability system.

Data collection of Thai overseas fisheries is categorized into two themes. The first theme is to collect information from daily report while fishing vessel is fishing or conducting transhipment activities outside Thai waters through the Electronic Reporting System (ERS). This data is transmitted via a satellite system. The second theme is to collect data from landing sites, including catch and weight.

6.2. Observer scheme

No onboard observer deployed in 2025.

Table 3. Annual observer coverage by operation

Year	Total no. fishing trip per year	No. fishing trip with onboard observer	Observation coverage
2021	0	0	0%
2022	0	0	0%
2023	0	0	0%
2024	1	1	100%
2025	0	0	0%

6.3. Port sampling programme

Two complementary port sampling programmes are implemented in Thailand. The first is a routine port inspection programme conducted by fisheries officers to verify the species and quantities of aquatic animals landed against the information recorded in fishing logbooks. Approximately 5% of vessels notifying the authorities of their intention to land catches are selected for inspection through random sampling from both the normal-risk group and the monitoring group. The monitoring group includes vessels with a previous record of discrepancies exceeding 20% between estimated and verified catch weights.

The inspection aims to verify the species and quantities of landed catches and confirm that the aquatic animals originate from the fishing vessel being inspected and were caught using authorised fishing gear. This process helps ensure the accuracy and reliability of reported catch information and supports fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS).

Another port sampling program or scientific port sampling was carried out by Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division, Department of Fisheries on monthly basis. The sampling was carried out at fishing ports along the Andaman Sea coast, covering both artisanal and commercial fisheries. Fishing vessels landing their catches at these ports were selected through opportunistic sampling. Fisheries data were collected through interviews with vessel skippers, covering fishing days, number of hauls, fishing grounds, catch quantities, and other relevant fishing information. Catch sampling was subsequently conducted to determine species composition, and length measurements were taken for selected commercially important species including IOTC managed species.

In late 2024, the DOF was conducted additional length measuring program to meet the requirement of IOTC resolution 15/02 by hiring an enumerator stationed at designated ports in Phang-nga province. The enumerator was tasked to measured length and weighting of any IOTC species found during purse seiners landing. The sharp increased measured fish figures in 2025 were accumulated with figures of scientific port sampling and reported by the enumerator.

Table 4. Number of purse seiner trips landing along the Andaman Sea coast of Thailand monitored in 2025

Gears	**Andaman Sea**	
	Number of vessel trips notified to port in	Number of vessel trips monitored
Purse seine	22,864	1,511

Table 5 Number of fish measured yearly from purse seine fishery by species

Species	Code	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Auxis rochei	BLT	3,141	2,619	2,468	627	5,790	5,861
Auxis thazard	FRI	983	1,221	2,312	1,635	1,113	2,745
Euthynnus affinis	KAW	2,989	5,124	6,214	3,384	1,703	7,572
Makaira nigricans	BLM	0	2	0	0	0	0
Istiophorus platypterus	SFA	65	43	42	38	6	85
Katsuwonus pelamis	SKJ	198	387	1,012	715	1,350	5,116
Scomberomorus commerson	COM	369	296	471	154	156	1,091
Scomberomorus guttatus	GUT	0	274	146	196	137	92
Thunnus albacares	YFT	0	188	7	27	794	123
Thunnus tonggol	LOT	525	1,087	3,029	1,737	597	7142
Total		**8,270**	**11,241**	**15,701**	**8,513**	**11,646**	**29,827**

Table 6 Number of fish measured yearly from handline fishery (oversea vessel) by species

Species	Code	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Auxis rochei	BLT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Auxis thazard	FRI	0	0	0	0	0	0
Euthynnus affinis	KAW	0	0	0	0	26	0
Istiophorus platypterus	SFA	0	0	0	0	0	0
Katsuwonus pelamis	SKJ	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scomberomorus commerson	COM	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scomberomorus guttatus	GUT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thunnus albacares	YFT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thunnus tonggol	LOT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**26**	**0**

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

Thailand monitors billfish catches through fishing logbooks and catch declaration documents, complemented by port sampling activities as described in Section 6.3. Billfish are currently recorded under the broader pelagic fish category and managed within Thailand's existing fisheries management framework. Marlins and sailfishes are rarely caught by purse seine, and their catches are incidental. These species are included in the pelagic fish group for stock assessment purposes and are managed collectively with other pelagic species.

6.5. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring

No onboard observer program applied for gillnet fishery since there are no gillnet vessels targeting IOTC-managed species.

6.6 Sampling plans for mobulid rays

Thailand does not have a specific plan for mobulid rays sampling as these rays only reported sighting in marine protected areas. Fishers rarely catch mobulid rays in their fisheries. The scientific sampling program as described in 6.3 is applied for all cartilaginous fish which includes mobulid rays, and fishers are required to record any ETP species which are accidentally caught in their logbook.

6.7 Electronic Monitoring Standards

Thailand has not opted to use an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) to meet the minimum data requirements of the Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) under IOTC Resolution 22/04. Therefore, Thailand submits a nil report for this section. However, Thai-flagged overseas fishing vessels are equipped with EMS in accordance with Thai regulations, primarily for monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) of fishing activities.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

7.1. National research programs on blue shark

No blue shark research program conducted in 2025.

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

No specific billfish research program conducted in 2025.

7.3. National research programs on sharks

Thailand implemented a national research project on elasmobranch bycatch from 2023 to 2025, covering the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. The project has been completed and aimed to improve scientific knowledge of shark and ray bycatch to support the sustainable management and conservation of elasmobranch resources in Thailand. Six research studies were conducted in the Andaman Sea, focusing on shark and ray bycatch from trawl fisheries landed in Phuket Province, ray resources from artisanal fisheries, resources from longline fisheries landed in Phuket, the reproductive biology of the spot-tail shark (*Carcharhinus sorrah*), and the reproductive biology of whip rays (*Brevitrygon heterura* and *B. imbricata*) and the bluespotted maskray (*Neotrygon caeruleopunctata*). The findings are expected to

provide a scientific basis for strengthening national elasmobranch fisheries management and conservation measures.

7.4. National research programs on oceanic whitetip sharks

No oceanic whitetip shark research program conducted in 2025.

7.5. National research programs on marine turtles

Thailand conducts annual marine turtle monitoring programmes to assess population status, identify nesting grounds and nursery habitats, and investigate relevant ecological issues affecting marine turtles. These activities also include rescue and rehabilitation efforts for marine turtles reported by fishers, coastal communities, or tourists. In addition, targeted research is undertaken on specific conservation issues, such as the occurrence of marine debris in the digestive tracts of marine turtles. The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) is responsible for coordinating and overseeing marine turtle research and conservation activities nationwide.

7.6. National research programs on thresher sharks

No thresher shark research program conducted in 2025.

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

Table 7. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2012 and 2024.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	The legal framework for these requirements is established under the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) and the amendments, and the Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirements and Regulations for Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Waters in the Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), B.E. 2569 (2026).
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	The legal framework for these requirements is established under the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) and the amendments, and the Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirements and Regulations for Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Waters in the Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), B.E. 2569 (2026).
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	The legal framework for these requirements is established under the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) and the amendments, and the Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirements and Regulations for Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Waters in the Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), B.E. 2569 (2026).
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)	Paragraphs 7– 9	The legal framework for these requirements is established under the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) and the amendments, and the Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirements and Regulations for Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Waters in the Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), B.E. 2569 (2026). Moreover, Thailand has implemented the National Action Plan for Marine Mammal Conservation and Management 2023 – 2027. The National Action Plan aims to reduce the impact that causes death or severe injury to marine mammals such as dolphins, whales, dugongs, etc.
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 legal framework for these requirements is established under the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) and the amendments, and the Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirements and Regulations

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			for Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Waters in the Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), B.E. 2569 (2026). Thailand's first National Plan of Action for Sharks (2020–2024) concluded in 2024. The NPOA–Sharks for 2025–2029 is officially approved and being implemented to continue research and strengthen management.
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	Thailand collected fisheries information including catch and effort from fishing logbook, landing declaration, and the Electronic Report System.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	Thailand collected fisheries information in the IOTC area of competence and submitted the reports to IOTC secretariat in accordance with Resolution 15/02.
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	Thailand has implemented the regulations on recording fishing activities via fishing logbook which appoint the vessel masters to record interaction of conservative marine species, including cetaceans, whale shark, sea turtles, seabirds, and other conservative IOTC species, during fishing in the logbooks. The regulations are applied to domestic vessels and overseas vessels. The data are submitted to IOTC secretariat in accordance with Resolution 17/05.
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	Thailand has implemented the regulations on recording fishing activities via fishing logbook which appoint the vessel masters to record interaction of conservative marine species, including cetaceans, whale shark, sea turtles, seabirds, and other conservative IOTC species, during fishing in the logbooks. The regulations are applied to domestic vessels and overseas vessels. The data are submitted via annual report as required in the Resolution.
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 – 11	Thailand has implemented the regulations on recording fishing activities via fishing logbook which appoint the vessel masters to record interaction of conservative marine species, including cetaceans, whale shark, sea turtles, seabirds, and other conservative IOTC species, during fishing in the logbooks. The regulations are applied to domestic vessels and overseas vessels. The data are submitted to IOTC secretariat in accordance with Resolution 18/05.
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	Thailand has the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) and the amendments, which specify penalties for vessels that fail to fulfill reporting obligations under the IOTC.
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	Not applicable.
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	The legal framework for these requirements is established under the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) and the amendments, and the Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirements and Regulations for Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Waters in the Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), B.E. 2569 (2026).
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	All Thai fleets fully implemented Resolution 21/01 by reporting yellowfin tuna catch every year.
23/07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	Thailand has implemented the regulations on recording fishing activities via fishing logbook which appoint the vessel masters to record interaction of conservative marine

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			species, including cetaceans, whale shark, sea turtles, seabirds, and other conservative IOTC species, during fishing in the logbooks. The regulations are applied to domestic vessels and overseas vessels. Especially, there is the Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirements and Regulations for Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Waters in the Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), B.E. 2569 (2026), Section 26: A holder of a license to conduct fishing activities outside Thai waters using longline fishing gear in areas south of 25 degrees latitude must implement at least two of the three mitigation measures listed in Table 1, or apply alternative measures to reduce incidental seabird bycatch. Additionally, hook-shielding devices must be used as specified in Table 2 attached to this Notification. Moreover, Thailand has implemented the National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Bycatch of Seabird since 2024 as a precautionary approach, aiming to mitigate fishery impact of Thai flagged longline fishery outside Thai waters even there are no active longliners in recent years.
23/08	On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 3c	Thailand has not opted to use an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) to meet the minimum Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) data requirements under IOTC Resolution 23/08. Therefore, Thailand submits a nil report for this section.
25/06	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 12	All Thai fleets operating within the IOTC's area of competence have completely implemented Resolution 25/06.

9. LITERATURE CITED

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