# 2027 CATCH LIMITS FOR TROPICAL TUNAS AND SWORDFISH

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## Purpose

This paper presents the catch limits calculated by the IOTC Secretariat for 2027 for yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna and swordfish, and provides participants at the 22nd Session of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS22) with an opportunity to review the figures before their consideration by the Scientific Committee and subsequent dissemination through an IOTC Circular.

The Excel spreadsheets containing the underlying catch data, calculations and assumptions, together with an accompanying README, are available as a ZIP archive in the **Datasets** section of the WPDCS22 meeting webpage (IOTC-2026-WPDCS22-DATA01).

The WPDCS is invited to:

1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2026-WPDCS22-06.

2) **REVIEW** the catch limits calculated for 2027 and identify any discrepancies in the underlying data or calculations before their consideration by the Scientific Committee and subsequent dissemination to CPCs.

## Abstract

The IOTC has established Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and individual catch limits for yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna and swordfish under several Conservation and Management Measures. This paper presents the catch limits calculated by the IOTC Secretariat for 2027, taking into account the applicable provisions of the Resolutions, adjustments for previous overcatches and, where relevant, the outcomes of Management Procedures. The calculations are based on the latest available catch data and are provided for review by CPCs ahead of their consideration by the Scientific Committee and subsequent dissemination through an IOTC Circular.

# Yellowfin tuna

**Table 1** presents the catch limits calculated for 2027 under Resolution 26/01, including adjustments for overcatches in 2025. These limits remain subject to the entry into force of the Resolution and any subsequent adjustments required under its provisions.

**Tab. 1.** Calculated yellowfin tuna catch limits for 2027. 2025 overcatch according to Resolutions 19/01 and 21/01

| CPC code | CPC | 2025 overcatch | Reference catch limit | 2027 catch limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CHN | China | 0 | 4,641 | 4,641 |
| TWN | Taiwan,China | 0 | 10,688 | 10,688 |
| COM | Comoros | 889 | 6,000 | 5,111 |
| EUR | European Union | 381 | 73,078 | 72,697 |
| IDN | Indonesia | 0 | 45,426 | 45,426 |
| IRN | I. R. Iran | 0 | 42,000 | 42,000 |
| JPN | Japan | 0 | 4,003 | 4,003 |
| KEN | Kenya | 1,207 | 6,000 | 4,793 |
| KOR | Korea | 0 | 9,056 | 9,056 |
| LKA | Sri Lanka | 0 | 33,245 | 33,245 |
| MDG | Madagascar | 0 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| MDV | Maldives | 0 | 47,195 | 47,195 |
| MUS | Mauritius | 0 | 10,990 | 10,990 |
| OMN | Oman | 0 | 25,000 | 64,230 |
| PAK | Pakistan | 0 | 14,468 | 14,468 |
| SYC | Seychelles | 0 | 39,577 | 39,577 |
| TZA | Tanzania | 0 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| YEM | Yemen | 28,997 | 20,500 | 0 |

The following specific provisions apply:

- The 2027 catch limit for Yemen is set to 0 t, as the overcatch calculated for 2025 exceeds its reference catch limit of 20,500 t
- The 2027 catch limit for Oman is estimated by applying an annual 20% reduction to its reported catch for 2025, in accordance with footnote ^ to paragraph 4 of Resolution 26/01.

## Bigeye tuna

**Table 2** presents the catch limits calculated for 2027 under Resolution 25/04, taking into account the applicable adjustments for overcatches in 2024–2025. The 2027 catch limits are based on the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 92,670 t determined through the Management Procedure established under Resolution 22/03.

**Tab. 2.** Calculated bigeye tuna catch limits for 2027

| CPC code | CPC | 2024-2025 overcatch | Reference catch limit | 2027 catch limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CHN | China | 0 | 4,353 | 4,353 |
| TWN | Taiwan,China | 0 | 13,211 | 13,211 |
| EUR | European Union | 0 | 19,562 | 19,562 |
| IDN | Indonesia | 0 | 21,396 | 21,396 |
| IRN | I. R. Iran | 0 | 2,421 | 2,421 |
| JPN | Japan | 0 | 4,237 | 4,237 |
| LKA | Sri Lanka | 545 | 5,488 | 4,943 |
| SYC | Seychelles | 0 | 13,664 | 13,664 |

## Skipjack tuna

**Table 3** presents the catch limits calculated for 2027 under Resolution 25/03, accounting for the TAC of 565,745 t derived from the Management Procedure established in Resolution 24/07 (IOTC–2025–SC28–R, paragraph 212). The 2027 catch limits are based on the 2026 catch limits published in IOTC Circular 2026-18. The 2027 catch limits were calculated by subtracting half the difference between the 2026 catch limits and the corresponding 2028 limits established under Resolution 25/03.

**Tab. 3.** Calculated skipjack tuna catch limits for 2027

| CPC code | CPC | Reference catch 2021-2023 | Revised reference catch limit | 2027 catch limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IDN | Indonesia | 143,080 | 124,200 | 132,793 |
| IRN | I. R. Iran | 73,129 | 61,200 | 66,310 |
| MDV | Maldives | 124,757 | 108,900 | 116,202 |
| SYC | Seychelles | 79,922 | 69,052 | 73,954 |
| LKA | Sri Lanka | 34,775 | 34,200 | 36,100 |
| EUR | European Union | 131,186 | 112,500 | 120,812 |

# Swordfish

**Table 4** presents the catch limits calculated for 2027 under Resolution 26/02, based on the TAC of 30,527 t determined through the Management Procedure.

**Tab. 4.** Calculated swordfish catch limits for 2027

| CPC code | CPC | 2027 catch limit |
|---|---|---|
| CHN | China | 1,766 |
| TWN | Taiwan,China | 3,358 |
| EUR | European Union | 6,356 |
| IDN | Indonesia | 3,263 |
| IRN | I. R. Iran | 1,595 |
| LKA | Sri Lanka | 7,977 |