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
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

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