IOTC CATCH LIMIT CALCULATIONS — SPREADSHEET DOCUMENTATION

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Catch Limit Calculations — Spreadsheet Documentation

Purpose

This document describes the structure, data sources and main calculation fields of the Excel spreadsheets developed by the IOTC Secretariat to calculate annual catch limits for yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) under the relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.

The spreadsheets are intended to ensure transparency and facilitate the review and verification of the calculations and resulting catch limits by IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs), prior to their formal dissemination through IOTC Circulars.

The following spreadsheets are available:

Spreadsheet	Species	Applicable Resolutions
`YFT_catch_limits_1901_2101.xlsx`	Yellowfin tuna	19/01, 21/01
`YFT_catch_limits_2601.xlsx`	Yellowfin tuna	26/01
`BET_catch_limits.xlsx`	Bigeye tuna	23/04, 25/04
`SKJ_catch_limits.xlsx`	Skipjack tuna	25/03
`SWO_catch_limits.xlsx`	Swordfish	26/02

Common Worksheet Structure

Except for the historical yellowfin tuna spreadsheet (`YFT_catch_limits_1901_2101.xlsx`), the spreadsheets follow a common structure comprising two main worksheets: `Nominal catches` and `Category A limits`.

The terms Category A and Category B are used to distinguish CPCs subject to individual catch limits from those not subject to such limits, although these categories are formally defined only in Resolutions 26/01 and 25/03.

Nominal catches

These worksheets contain the best scientific estimates of nominal catches compiled by the IOTC Secretariat for each species, covering all gears and fleets, including CPCs, Taiwan,China and non-IOTC countries.

The reporting periods vary by species and reflect the requirements of the applicable Resolutions. Catches attributed to the European Union include those of France (including Mayotte and Réunion), Italy, Portugal, and Spain.

Category A limits

These worksheets provide the calculations of annual catch limits based on the reference catches, catch limits and adjustments specified in the applicable Resolutions.

Depending on the species, the worksheets include the following information:

Species	Information included
Yellowfin tuna	Reference catch limits for Category A CPCs under Resolution 26/01, overcatches calculated for 2025 and resulting 2027 catch limits
Bigeye tuna	Reference catch limits, overcatches calculated for 2024–2025 under Resolution 23/04 and estimated 2027 catch limits
Skipjack tuna	Reference catches for 2021–2023, initial and revised reference catch limits, 2026 catch limits and calculated 2027 catch limits
Swordfish	Reference catch limits and calculated 2027 catch limits

The worksheets also include the assumptions and references to the relevant provisions of the Resolutions used in the calculations.

Historical Yellowfin Tuna Calculations

The spreadsheet `YFT_catch_limits_1901_2101.xlsx` documents the historical calculations of yellowfin tuna catch limits under Resolutions 19/01 and 21/01.

It includes the following worksheets:

Worksheet	Description
`Nominal catches`	Historical estimates of yellowfin tuna nominal catches
`19-01 base annual limits`	Baseline catches, reduction percentages and base annual catch limits under Resolution 19/01
`19-01 catch, overcatch, limits`	Annual catch limits and overcatch calculations under Resolution 19/01
`19-01 annual limits`	Historical series of annual catch limits under Resolution 19/01
`21-01 base annual limits`	Reference catches and base annual catch limits under Resolution 21/01
`21-01 catch, overcatch, limits`	Annual catch limits and overcatch calculations under Resolution 21/01
`21-01 annual limits`	Historical series of annual catch limits under Resolution 21/01

The overcatches calculated for 2025 under Resolution 21/01 are used to determine the adjustments to the 2027 catch limits established under Resolution 26/01. These calculations are transferred to the `Category A limits` worksheet of `YFT_catch_limits_2601.xlsx`.

Catch Data and Limitations

The catch data used in the calculations correspond to the best scientific estimates of nominal catches compiled by the IOTC Secretariat, unless otherwise stated.

These estimates are derived following the data review procedure proposed by the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (Appendix V of IOTC-2014-WPDCS10-R) and endorsed by the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2014-SC17-R).

Although these datasets represent the most comprehensive information currently available to the Secretariat, they are subject to uncertainties that vary among species, fisheries, fleets and reporting periods.

Catch estimates may be revised following the submission of additional information, corrections to previously reported data or improvements in data processing and validation procedures. Consequently, catch limits derived from these estimates may also require subsequent revision.