



# NATIONAL REPORT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

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## INTRODUCTION

Fishing for tunas and tuna like species is one of the most important activities for Iranian artisanal fisheries. The main species caught are yellowfin (38.6% ), longtail tuna (28.8%), and skipjack (17.4%). The total artisanal catch increased from 1993 to 1994 (Table 2).

In 1994, two purse seiners and nine longliners were active in the Gulf of Oman. In 1992-1994 the average annual catch of tunas was 1,360 t for purse seiners and 380 t for longliners. The species caught were yellowfin and skipjack, but in the logbooks large fish are recorded as yellowfin and others as skipjack. The annual catches of the industrial tuna fisheries in 1992-1994 are given in Table 1.

The total catch in 1991-1994 of one longliner belonging to an industrial fishing company is recorded as 1,149 t, and the total catch of the other vessels was estimated to be around 4,600 t in 1994 (Table 3). It should be noted that Iranian industrial fisheries have little experience in fishing operations.

Nominal CPUE for the longline fisheries in 1992 was 994 kg/1000 hooks; in 1993 this rate decreased to 368 kg/1000 hooks. One longliner had 172 days fishing in the last seven months of the Iranian calendar year 1371 (1992-1993) and 290 days in 1372 (1993-1994).

## FISHING CRAFT AND GEAR

The artisanal vessels number about 3,100. They are built of wood or fibreglass (mostly wood), and their carrying capacities range from 1 to 100 GT.

All artisanal fishing is done with gillnets, which range from 2 to 8 km in length. Tuna and tuna-like species are caught by various types of gillnets, with mesh sizes ranging from 110 to 180 mm.

Because of the different types of gillnets, estimating effort, CPUE and catch is very difficult. A stratified random sampling scheme is used to collect the required data, as follows:

- Samples at least 10% of the active vessels of the different categories and carrying capacities (boats, small, medium, and large dhows).
- Type of gear (gillnet) used.

- The fishing area code in samples.
- The total effort, in number of days, according to the vessel and gear permits.
- CPUE of each species, according to type of gillnet and vessel in the samples.

**Table 1.** Annual landings of industrial purse-seine tuna fisheries in Iran

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of vessels</i>	<i>Fishing days</i>	<i>Total catch (t)</i>	<i>Average catch (kg/day)</i>
1992	2	280	2,080.5	7,430
1993	2	304	3,356.1	11,040
1994	2	226	2,732.0	12,088

**Table 2.** Annual landings of artisanal tuna fisheries in Iran (in t).

<i>Species</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>1994<sup>2</sup></i>
Yellowfin	13,300	16,248	19,450
Longtail	8,150	12,139	12,100
Skipjack	4,353	7,356	7,400
Kawakawa	518	1,207	2,100
Frigate	436	200	200
Spanish Mackerel	2,869	3,059	3,300
King Mackerel	1,636	1,310	1,650
Sailfish	740	526	1,085
Total catch (t)	32,002	42,045	47,285

<sup>1</sup> Figures estimated by IFR&TO

<sup>2</sup> Figures estimated by Deputy of Planning, Iranian Fisheries Company, and sent to FAO.

**Table 3.** Total annual landings in Iran.

Artisanal fisheries	47,285 t
Two purse seiners (belonging to Industrial Fishing Co.)	2,732 t
One longliner (belonging to Industrial Fishing Co.)	380 t

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Eight longliners (belonging to private sector; catches estimated)	4,600 t
Total	54,997 t

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