

CHINA NATIONAL TUNA FISHERY REPORT IN IOTC WATERS (DRAFT)

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1 - FISHING ACTIVITIES

Longlining is the only fishing method applied by Chinese fishing companies for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC water. As indicated in table 1, number of tuna longliners has been relatively stable since 1999. 93 tuna longliners from 13 fishing companies were operating in the Indian Ocean In 2001, their fishing areas were in $45-95^{\circ} E, 10^{\circ} N-15^{\circ} S$. The fleet mainly consists of small-scale longliners. Over 80 percent of the fishing boats are between 24m and 30m in Loa, adopting ice cooling method for preserving catch.

The total nominal catch of tunas in the IOTC waters is 5721MT in 2001, 786MT or 12 percent less than that in 2000, 7 percent less compared with that in 1999 (table 3). Bigeye tuna and Yellowfin tuna have been the two main targeting species, which account for 52.3 % and 31% the total tuna catch respectively in 2001.

Total fishing effort of China longlining fleet in 2001 was 19,994 thousand hooks, about 7% less than the previous year. The fishing effort in the West Indian Ocean has been increased since 1999. Number of hooks deployed in the West Indian Ocean was 4.7 million hooks in 2001, 22 percent increase compared with that in 2000.

CPUE in the Indian Ocean is shown in table 5. In 2001, CPUE varied from 248 to 402gk/1000hooks, with the mean value 286 kg/1000hooks. Average CPUE was 149 kg/1000 hooks for the bigeye tuna and 88 kg/1000 hooks for yellowfin tuna. As in previous year the lowest CUPE also occurred in March, while the highest CUPE occurred in December other than in August like last year.

2 - RESEARCH AND CATCH STATISTICS

Shanghai Fisheries University (SHFU) has been in charge of the data collection and compilation of tuna fishery statistics in IOTC water. The compiled data including FORM 1 and FORM 3, as well as information of fishing vessels have been routinely reported to the IOTC Secretariat. WINTUNA in Chinese version was made under the instruction of Mr. Garcia, the programmer of the IOTC Secretariat. The software has been used by the Shanghai Fisheries University to deal with the fisheries data for the whole Chinese tuna fleets. In supporting the IOTC tropic tuna tagging programme, a IOTC tagging correspondent for China has been nominated.

3 - HOSTING THE FOURTH WPTT MEETING IN SHANGHAI

Under the sponsorship of the Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, People Republic of China, and the support of IOTC secretariat, the fourth WPTT meeting was successfully held at Shanghai Fisheries University between 3 -11 June 2002. A total of 41 scientists from eleven contracting parties, fishing entity and IOTC secretariat attended the meeting.

4 - FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES

4.1 Tuna Statistical Document program

Since July 2002, all bigeye tuna caught by China tuna fleet have been accompanied by Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document, as required by the resolution and recommendation adopted by IOTC.

4.2 Fishing vessel management

It is noted that China government will issue fishing licenses to all Chinese fishing vessels operating in the high seas of world oceans on December 1, 2002. Each license should specify the type of fishery, fishing grounds, targeted species and quota, if any, etc. This shall facilitate fishing port inspection and also help China government effectively supervise its fleet.

A scheme for Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is being made. According to this scheme, all the large tuna longliners flying China flags and operating in the high seas will be required to install the VMS in mandatory way. Once the scheme is implemented, fishing position could be monitored simultaneously.

4.3 Observer program

A scientific observer program will be carried out with the first observer dispatching on December 2002.

Table 1. Tuna Longline Fleet operating in Indian Ocean, 1995-2001

YEAR	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of boats	12	52	89	120	96	98	93

Table 2 Composition of Chinese tuna longliners by Loa

Loa (m)	< 24m	24~30 m	30~40 m	40~50m	> 50m	Total
Number of fishing boats	3	76	2	10	2	93
%	3.2	81.7	2.15	10.8	2.15	100

Table 3 Catches of tunas and tuna-like species (in round weight , MT), 1995-2001

Species	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Yellowfin tuna	137.89	493.77	750.14	402.1	2,335	2,361.5	1771.3
Bigeye tuna	139.52	466.3	1,651.68	2,164.48	2,182	2,698.6	2994.3
Swordfish	71.34	237.8	255.2	117.16	270	372.2	262.6
Albacore					189	2.8	21.2
Sharks					187	98.4	
Billfish					287	485.9	379.6
Others*	95.7	299.42	306.77	396.43	712	487.6	292.8
Total	444.45	1,497.3	2,963.8	3,080.2	6,162	6,507	5721.8

Table 4 Nominal Catch in Metric tons from Chinese Longline Fleet by Gear and Fishing Areas between 1999 and 2001

Year	Area	Total hooks (x1000)	BET	YFT	ALB	SWO	BIL	SHK	OTH	TOTAL
1999	E	14,939	2113	2206	101	262	287	187	712	5,868
	W	317	69	129	88	8	//	//	//	294
	SUM	15,256	2182	2335	189	270	287	187	712	6,162
2000	E	17,627.7	1,822.1	2,055.2	0	293.6	343.8	94.8	308.5	4,918
	W	3,838.6	876.5	306.3	2.8	78.6	142.1	3.6	179.1	1,589
	SUM	21,466.3	2,698.6	2,361.5	2.8	372.2	485.9	98.4	487.6	6,507
2001	E	15,303.6	2,105.0	1,287.8	19.6	169.9	258.3	--	167.6	4,008.2
	W	4,690.8	889.3	483.5	1.6	92.7	121.3	--	125.2	1,713.6
	SUM	19,994.4	2,994.3	1,771.3	21.2	262.6	379.6	--	292.8	5,721.8

Table 5 Fishing Effort (x 1000 hooks) and CPUE (kg per 1000 hooks) in IOTC waters by month, 2000-2001

Year		Jan	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June
2000	Effort	1,924.5	2,003.9	2,254.3	2,355.1	2,244.6	1,897.5
	CPUE	311.7	288.9	266.5	299.9	271.9	291.0
2001	Effort	1733.7	1723.4	1752.3	1736.6	1713.1	1667.6
	CPUE	277	302.5	293	272.3	307.2	258.4
Year		July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2002	Effort	1,005.3	993.4	957.4	1,458.4	2,086.5	2,285.4
	CPUE	338.0	351.0	327.8	346.3	314.1	304.2
2001	Effort	1263.1	1118.8	1927.7	1630.7	1794.6	1932.8
	CPUE	231.9	294.7	248	255.7	268.3	402.2