

**PERMANENT WORKING PARTY ON DATA COLLECTION AND STATISTICS  
PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT**

**ABSTRACT MISSING**

**DATA COLLECTION: AVAILABILITY OF IOTC STATISTICS FOR 2002**

Table 3 lists the fleets of countries to which the Secretariat sent data requests during the year 2003. The countries are sorted by their most recent catches and the status regarding the availability of catches, effort, size frequency and craft statistics indicated through different colours. Timeliness of reporting and data source are also shown in each case.

**Timeliness of reporting:** Fourteen countries (3 in 2002) submitted statistics to IOTC before the deadline of June 30. Furthermore, only partial statistics were submitted in most cases. Requests were sent to **59 countries** in April-May 2002. Second (to 47 countries) and third requests were needed in most cases.

Table 1 below shows the catches for 2002 available (**Rep**) and not available (**Unrep**, as catches of 2001 carried forward for non-available strata) in the IOTC Nominal Catches (NC) database by the deadline for data submission and before December 2003 (**01-Dec-03**). The 70% of the catch was still not available by the deadline, with only the 60% of the catches available before December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003. The availability of data on species other than tropical tunas before the deadline was negligible. Almost no longline data, whether preliminary or final, were available for 2002.

Late reports also compromise the validation and verification of data, especially when data are submitted close to or during Working Party meetings.

<p><i>Table 1. Proportion of Nominal Catches available (thousands of tonnes) by the deadline for data submission (30th June 2003) and before 1st December 2003</i></p>							<p><i>Table 2. Proportion of the NC, CE and SF statistics available at the IOTC Secretariat compared to the total catches estimated for 2002 (1st December 2003) and proportion of catches reported by official sources (SO) versus total catches so far reported.</i></p>																													
Availability 2002	30-Jun-03			01-Dec-03			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2002</td> <td>NC</td> <td>CE</td> <td>SF</td> <td>SO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Available</td> <td>972</td> <td>643</td> <td>614</td> <td>920</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1581</td> <td>1581</td> <td>1581</td> <td>972</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% Available</td> <td><b>61</b></td> <td><b>41</b></td> <td><b>39</b></td> <td><b>95</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2001%</td> <td>67</td> <td>45</td> <td>39</td> <td>87</td> </tr> </table>					2002	NC	CE	SF	SO	Available	972	643	614	920	Total	1581	1581	1581	972	% Available	<b>61</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>95</b>	2001%	67	45	39	87
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	Unrep	Rep	%Unrep	Unrep	Rep	%Unrep																														
Billfish	54	11	83	33	33	50																														
Neritic Tunas	280	35	89	176	138	56																														
Temperate Tunas	40	15	74	40	15	72																														
Tropical Tunas	490	424	54	235	679	26																														
Species Aggregates	149	83	64	126	106	54																														
TOTAL	1013	484	68	609	972	39																														

**Completeness of statistics:** Table 2 above summarizes the availability of statistics to IOTC as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003. The proportion of statistics available for 2001 is shown for comparison. Levels of reporting therefore worsened in 2003, being very low.

Complete sets of data (NC, CE, SF) for 2002 are only available for the European Community, Sri Lanka, Netherlands Antilles, Malaysia and Australia<sup>1</sup>. More details about the amount of data available regarding the different types of data gathered by the IOTC Secretariat can be found below:

- **Nominal Catches:** The amount of Nominal Catch data available at the Secretariat regarding the year 2002 is slightly lower than that recorded for 2001. Either partial or complete sets of NC are available for 19 out of the 50 fleets that operated in the Indian Ocean during 2002.













The statistics recorded for several fleets are thought better quality than those available before. This is the case with Indonesia, Seychelles, Egypt and South Africa.

<sup>1</sup> This refers to fleets whose catches amounted to more than 10,000 tonnes in 2002.

Table 3: Availability of IOTC statistics for the year 2002

FLEET	Catch	M/C	NC	CE	SF	DI	FC	FT	VR	TI	SO
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	288	M									
INDONESIA	234	C									
SRI LANKA	165	M									
MALDIVES	160										
CHINA	5	M						N/A			
TAIWAN,CHINA	122										
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC	118	M									
INDIA	97	M									
SEYCHELLES	55	M									
PAKISTAN	50	M									
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	40							N/A			
JAPAN	39	M						N/A			
BELIZE	25							N/A			
OMAN	24	M									
PANAMA	24							N/A			
MALAYSIA	20	M									
THAILAND	17	M									
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	14										
MADAGASCAR	12	M									
AUSTRALIA	10	M									
YEMEN	8										
COMOROS	8	M									
SAUDI ARABIA	7										
QATAR	7										
TANZANIA	4										
EGYPT	4										
HONDURAS	3							N/A			
MOZAMBIQUE	3										
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	2							N/A			
KENYA	2										
PHILIPPINES	2	C						N/A			
MAURITIUS	1	M									
BOLIVIA	1							N/A			
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	1	M						N/A			
SOUTH AFRICA	1										
URUGUAY	1							N/A			
FRANCE TERRITORIES	1	M									
VANUATU	<1	M						N/A			
KUWAIT	<1										
ERITREA	<1	M									
BAHRAIN	<1										
SUDAN	<1	M									
JORDAN	<1										
DJIBOUTI	<1										
BANGLADESH	<1										
UNITED KINGDOM	<1	M									
EAST TIMOR	<1										
IRAQ	Unkn										
MYANMAR	Unkn										
SOMALIA	Unkn										
SINGAPORE	Nil										
NOT ELSEWHERE IDENTIFIED	3										
TOTAL	1581										

Key Table 3

<b>Catch</b>	Recent catches amounting to (thousands of tonnes)	
<b>M/C</b>	Is Member ( <b>M</b> ) or Cooperating Non Member Party ( <b>C</b> )	
<b>NC</b>	Nominal Catch	
<b>DI</b>	Discards	 Fully available
<b>CE</b>	Catch and Effort	 Partially available
<b>SF</b>	Size Frequency	 Not available
<b>FC</b>	Fishing Craft	 Catches (data) negligible
<b>FT</b>	Foreign Tuna Vessels Activity	 N/A Not Applicable
<b>VR</b>	Vessel Record	
<b>TI</b>	Timeliness	 Good (before 1st July)  Fair (whithin July)  Poor (after 1st August)
<b>SD</b>	Data Source	 Statistics available from flag country  Statistics from both flag and country/ies other than flag country  All statistics from countries other than flag country  No statistics available at all

To date, no data or only partial nominal catch statistics have been received from several member or cooperating non member parties, namely Indonesia, China, India, Oman, Madagascar, Comoros, Vanuatu, Eritrea and Sudan. Furthermore, 2001 nominal catches needed to be estimated for Madagascar, Comoros and Eritrea.

Other important fishing parties with NC statistics not or only partially available are Indonesia, Belize, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The catches of non-reporting longline fleets operating under several flags (Honduras, Belize, Panama, Equatorial Guinea, Taiwan,China etc.) usually recorded under NEI are mostly unreported for 2002. A fleet of purse seiners, formerly belonging to Soviet interests, has been operating since 1995 under the flags of Panama and Belize and their catches are unreported so far.

- **Catch and effort and size-frequency statistics:** Catch and effort statistics are available for 17 fleets (13 from IOTC members or CNMP) and size-frequency data from 12 fleets (9 from IOTC members or CNMP). The statistics available for Sri Lanka, Korea, China (Taiwan,China), Seychelles (deep-freezing longliners), and the European Community (EC) (longline fleets and supply vessels) are either incomplete or poor quality.
- **Discards:** Discards are only available from Australia and the EC for 2002, despite the fact that discard rates are presumed high, especially from longliners and in purse seiners setting on logs.
- **Fishing craft statistics:** Fishing craft statistics are usually available for fleets whose catches are available. Craft statistics are not available, incomplete or inaccurate for many artisanal fleets. The number of non-reporting vessels operating in the Indian Ocean for the period 1973-2002 was re-estimated this year from new information collected through the IOTC Sampling Programs and new vessel records.
- **Vessel Record and Foreign Tuna Vessel Activity:** Many new data were received at the Secretariat during the year 2003, regarding both domestic and foreign fleets. Belize submitted lists of ships operating in the Indian Ocean for the year 2002. Nevertheless, the number of ships operating under several flags, including Taiwan,China, Honduras, Equatorial Guinea, Panama, and Cambodia, is still uncertain.
- **Data source:** The statistics available come usually from the flag country. However, the statistics of some purse seine fleets operating under some non-EC flags were reported by the scientists covering the EC fleet.

## STATUS OF THE IOTC NOMINAL CATCHES (NC), CATCH AND EFFORT (CE) AND SIZE FREQUENCY (SF) DATABASES

### Main Progress Achieved during 2003

The main progress achieved in the collection and verification of the data in the IOTC NC, CE and SF databases are summarized in Table 4 below (more information is provided in Annex in the Boxes referred to in FLAG):

Table 4: Status of the IOTC NC, CE and SF tables: Main Progress Achieved during 2003

DB	FLAG/S	PERIOD	SPECIES	DETAILS OF ACTIVITY	SOURCES	CHANGES IN DATA
ALL	Sri Lanka Oman Iran India Mauritius Thailand Seychelles Indonesia	Current	ALL	Description of data collection and processing systems regarding tuna and tuna-like fisheries in each country. Identification of problem areas and recommendation of actions to solve them	IOTC-OFCE Program and scientists in all countries	These activities are under way. Catch series are likely to change once that the reviews are complete
	ALL	1950-2002	ALL BILLFISH	Re-estimation of catches and species composition regarding all billfish species	IOTC Database Background information	New catches recorded and species composition estimated; data prepared for the WPB, not input into the IOTC NC database
NC	Non-reporting fresh tuna longliners operating under several flags <b>( BOX 1 B )</b> <b>WPTT-02-03</b>	1985-2001	YFT, BET, SBF	Re-estimation of the catches of non-reporting fresh tuna longliners thanks to the new information available	IOTC/AFDEC Sampling FRI (IOTC) Sampling CSIRO/RIMF Sampling IOTC/NARA Sampling CCSBT Publications SFA background information	Decrease in current catch levels
	Non-reporting deep-freezing longliners <b>( BOX 1 C )</b> <b>WPTT-02-03</b>	1985-2001	YFT, BET, ALB, SBF	New review of the series of catches from data collected recently	IOTC Vessel Records IOTC Activity Records	Increase in the catches and first catches at the flag level input (1994-2000)
	Non-reporting industrial purse seiners <b>( BOX 1 D )</b> <b>WPTT-02-03</b>	1995-2001	SKJ, YFT, BET	New review of catches	IOTC Vessel Records European Statistics	Changes in the species composition and new catches input for 2001
	Egypt	1991-2002	COM, KAW	New catches available	Egypt LO	Decrease in the catches for the whole period
	Seychelles South Africa	2000-2002	BET, YFT, SWO	New catches available for longline fleets	Seychelles LO	Increase in the catches for this country
CE	Indonesia	1973-2002	YFT, BET, ALB, SBF, SWO	Catch and effort series available from one state owned longline company	PSB/RIMF	Series under review. Collection of CE data from Port Sampling (Trip information)
	All artisanal	Various	Neritic, YFT	Compilation of catch and effort records assigned to heterogeneous spatio-temporal strata	IPTP Data holdings and paper files	New data input
SF	China, Taiwan, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand	1998-2002	YFT, BET, SWO	Validation and verification of size frequency records (fresh tuna longliners) for data input	IOTC Sampling Programmes Ship operators (processing plants)	More than 600,000 fish recorded, especially YFT, BET and SWO and other records under review
	All artisanal	Various	Neritic YFT	Compilation of size frequency records assigned to heterogeneous spatio-temporal strata	IPTP Data holdings and paper files	New data input
	Oman Maldives	2002	YFT, SKJ	Strengthening of the collection of size data	Local Research institutions (through IOTC-OFCE financing)	Activities still under way or just concluded.
	ALL	1950-2002	YFT, SKJ, BET	Building of Catch-At-Size and Catch-At-Age matrices	IOTC Database Background information	Information prepared for the WPTT; no new data input

**Problem Areas Identified**

Despite the progress achieved regarding the statistics in the IOTC NC, CE and SF databases in recent years, there are still several problems regarding the completeness and quality of the data which should be addressed. The main areas of concern regarding the statistics in these databases are summarized in Table 5 below. Additional documentation about each case is provided in the different Boxes referred to in **PROBLEM**, found in the pages following the Table.

Table 5: Status of the IOTC NC, CE and SF databases: Problem Areas Identified

DB	PROBLEM	SPECIES	FLAG/S	PERIOD	REASON/S	PROPOSED ACTION/S
NC	Statistics not available from the flag country (BOX 3)	YFT, BET, ALB, SBF, SWO, BIL	TWN, BLZ, PAN, HND, GNQ, KHM, VCT, VUT	1980 to Date	Fisheries not monitored by the flag countries	Continue collecting data through the IOTC sampling schemes (fresh-tuna longliners) Identify the fleets for which important tuna catches have been unreported over the years (through retrieval of vessel and, especially, activity records)
		Mainly tropical and neritic tunas	IDN, YEM, MDG, SOM, MMR,BGD	Various	Statistical system unable to produce reliable estimates of catches (as regards IOTC species)	Identify the deficiencies in data collection and processing in the countries concerned
		All	IND, ARE, COM, MOZ, KEN	Various	Statistics available at the country level but not reported	Identify the reasons why the catches are not reported by the flag countries
	Species and/or gear aggregation (BOX 4)	Neritic Tunas Billfish	IDN, IND, THA, LKA, PAK	1950 to date	Statistical systems unable to produce detailed estimates of catches	Identify the deficiencies in data collection and processing in the countries concerned
	Poor quality (BOX 5)	Neritic Tunas Billfish	Non-reporting DWFNs, PAK, LKA, THA, IND, IDN	Various	The catches available are thought unreliable or inaccurate due to inconsistencies found during the verification processes or to the many assumptions made to produce the final catches	Continue the collection of past and recent data through the IOTC sampling programmes in ports of call of fresh-tuna longliners. Continue with the collection of activity records of non reporting fleets Identify the reasons why the catches provided by several countries are of poor quality
DI	Statistics not available from the flag country or highly aggregated (BOX 7)	Undersized or spoiled tunas (YFT, BET, SKJ), Sharks, low-value or spoiled billfishes (SSP, SFA) and other species	All, especially industrial fleets	1952 to date	Most of the discards are unreported and when reported they are usually incomplete and highly aggregated	Collect data on industrial fisheries through observer programs
CE & SF	Statistics not available from the flag country (BOX 6)	All, especially Neritic tunas and Billfish	Many artisanal and non-reporting DWFNs	1950 to date	Catch and effort (size frequency) statistics not collected by the flag country	Assess the availability of records from other sources, especially in fleets which the retrieval of catch and effort (size frequency) records is considered important
					Statistical systems unable to produce reliable catch and effort (size frequency) estimates	Identify the deficiencies in data collection and processing in the countries concerned
					Catch and effort (size frequency) statistics collected by the flag country but no or incompletely reported to the IOTC	Identify the reasons why the catch and effort (size frequency) records are not reported by the flag countries
	Poor Quality	Tropical Tunas Billfish	KOR, TWN, PHL, JPN, EU, ZAF, AUS	Various	Inconsistencies found during the validation and verification of catch and effort (size frequency) records or communicated by the sources reporting the data	Identify the reasons why the data are inconsistent and the ways in which these inconsistencies might be reduced (this would require a perfect knowledge about the way the catch and effort statistics are collected and processed in the country reporting the data)
Low coverage					Identify the reasons why the fleets concerned are poorly covered and the ways in which the fleets might be better monitored Assess the availability of records from other sources, especially in fleets which the retrieval of catch and effort (size frequency) records is considered important	

**STATUS OF THE IOTC FISHING CRAFT STATISTICS (FC), FOREIGN TUNA VESSEL ACTIVITY (FTVA) AND VESSEL RECORD (VR) DATABASES**

**Data Availability**

The availability of **fishing craft statistics** for the period 1991-2002 can be found in **Table 7.6** of the IOTC Data Summary 23. Data from artisanal fisheries are scarce and inconsistent in many cases. On the contrary, the statistics of industrial fleets are thought fairly complete:

**Purse seine fleets:** The number of purse seiners fishing for tropical tunas on the high seas (usually referred to as “industrial”) is well known. This fleet is flagged mainly from the European Community, Seychelles, Netherlands Antilles, Panama, Iran, Japan and Mauritius. The Soviet fleet has reflagged into Panama and Belize. In the catalogue, the fleets flagged in other countries operate mainly in coastal waters.

**Longline fleets:** There are many more longline fleets fishing tuna in the Indian Ocean, mainly under the flags of China, Taiwan, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Philippines, the EC, Seychelles, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, South Africa, Australia, Vanuatu, Belize, Bolivia, Uruguay and Panama. The total number of non-reporting longliners was estimated this year and can be found in the catalogue under Indonesia, NEI-Frozen (Honduras, Belize, Equatorial Guinea, Panama, etc.) and NEI-Fresh (mainly Taiwan, China).

**Main Progress Achieved during 2003**

The progress achieved in the collection and verification of the data in the IOTC FC, FTVA and VR databases is summarized in the Table 6 below.

**Table 6: Status of the IOTC FC, VR and FTVA databases: main progress achieved**

DB	FLAG/S	SOURCES	PERIOD	DETAILS	MAIN RESULTS
FC	Non reporting DWFNs	IOTC Vessel Record IOTC Activity Record	1985-02	Historic review to complete the craft statistics	Number of non-reporting deep-freezing longliners better known: Around 50 in recent years
	Non-reporting Fresh-tuna longliners	IOTC Sampling Programmes WASKI Indonesia DGCF Indonesia CSIRO Australia RIMF Indonesia	1973-02	Historic review to complete the number of fresh tuna longliners operating in the Indian Ocean	Number of Taiwanese and Indonesian fresh tuna longliners input: More than 1,000 boats in all in recent years.
VR & FTVA	All Industrial	AVA Singapore SFA Seychelles Albion Mauritius MAF Oman AFDEC Thailand (IOTC) FRI Penang (IOTC) MRAG United Kingdom USTA & CSP Madagascar DGCF Indonesia IEO Spain / IRD France	1992-02	Reporting of foreign tuna fleets putting in to ports or licensed to operating within the EEZ of these countries	New vessel and activity records input
	Belize	INMARBE Belize	2002	Submission of names, characteristics and reported catches of ships fishing for tunas in the Indian Ocean	Statistics for Belize more complete

**Problem Areas Identified**

The main area problems identified in the IOTC database concerning the tuna fleets operating in the Indian Ocean are summarized in the Table 7 below. Several alternative actions to undertake to reduce these uncertainties are proposed in the right column.

*Table 7: Status of the IOTC FC, VR and FTVA databases: problem areas identified*

DB	PROBLEM	FLAG/S	PERIOD	REASON/S	PROPOSED ACTION/S
FC	Series incomplete for important longline fleets	TWN, IDN, BLZ, PAN, HND, GNQ, BOL, VCT	1980 to date	Lack of information, especially regarding the first years of operation	Continue collecting data through the IOTC sampling schemes (fresh-tuna longliners) Identify the fleets for which important tuna catches have been unreported over the years (through retrieval of vessel and, especially, activity records)
	No data or data inconsistent regarding many artisanal fleets	Many artisanal	1950 to date	Statistics not reported	Identify the reasons why the statistics are not reported by the flag countries
				Statistical systems unable to produce reliable fishing craft statistics	Identify the deficiencies in data collection and processing in the countries concerned
Lack of detailed information	All	1950-02	Incomplete reporting (vessels not reported according to their size, mechanization, etc.)	Identify the reasons why the statistics reported are not complete	
FTVA & VR	Data not reported	ZAF, TWN, HND, EQG	1998-02	Fleets not monitored by the flag countries Statistics not reported by the flag countries	Continue the collection of information through the IOTC sampling programmes Continue collecting information on foreign fleets from third sources
	Information incomplete or inconsistent	All industrial, especially non-reporting flags	1995-02	Ship names, identification or characteristics mistakenly recorded Ship characteristics inconsistent between reports Lack of information about ship activity in the Indian Ocean (vessels bearing licenses to operate but not actually operating)	

**OTHER IOTC DATA HOLDINGS: BIOLOGICAL DATA**

Table 8 shows other datasets available at the IOTC Secretariat:

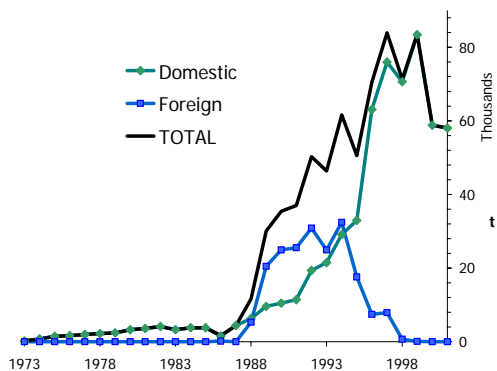
*Table 8: Biological data available at IOTC*

TYPE OF DATA	NUMBER RECORDS	PERIOD	SOURCE
Length-length-weight data of tuna and billfish caught by fresh tuna longliners in the Indian Ocean (BOX 2)	110,000	2000-03	AFDEC Thailand (IOTC Sampling Programmes) NARA Sri Lanka (IOTC Sampling Programs) RIMF Indonesia (IOTC Sampling Programs) FRI Malaysia (IOTC Sampling Programs)
Length-length-weight-sex-maturity of tuna and tuna-like species caught by longliners and purse seiners within the EEZ of Chagos	7,000	1996-02	MRAG United Kingdom (observer data)

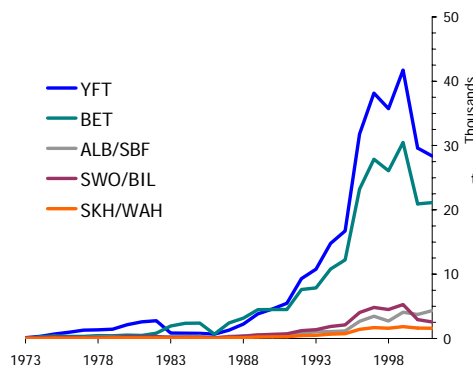
**BOX 1: ESTIMATION OF CATCHES OF NON-REPORTING FLEETS**

**A/ INDONESIA**

*Figure 1: Estimated catches in the Indian Ocean of the domestic and foreign fresh tuna longliners putting in to ports in Indonesia*



*Figure 2: Total catches per species in the Indian Ocean estimated for the Indonesian domestic longline fleet*



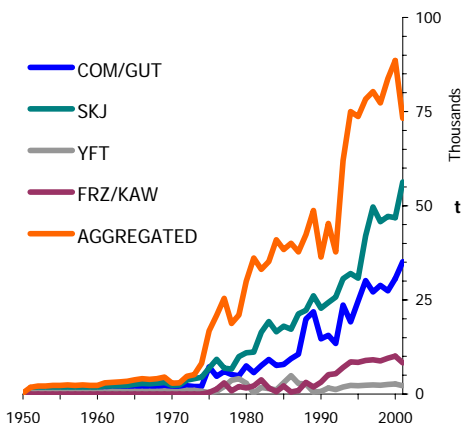
The number of fresh-tuna longliners operating in Indonesia has been increasing rapidly and continuously since the late eighties. Indonesia has in recent times provided incomplete, inaccurate or no reports and the lack of reliable information from other sources has prevented the Secretariat from estimating the catches with any accuracy. Past estimates assumed both artisanal and industrial fisheries in Indonesia unchanging. Information collected during the last two years in Indonesia, together with all other data available at the Secretariat, has allowed re-estimation of the complete series of catches of Indonesian longliners and artisanal gears in the Indian Ocean, from 1970 to 2002.

These new estimates increase the number of longliners and their catches in recent years to about the third of the total number of longliners and catches of all the longline fleets in the Indian Ocean. More than 1,000 vessels catching around 75,000 t have been estimated in recent times. Furthermore, the numbers have been constantly increasing in recent years. About 2,000 longliners are thought to operate currently in Indonesia, mostly in the Indian Ocean.

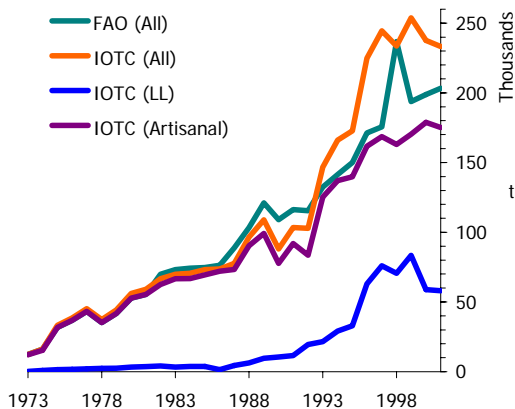
In spite of the current better documentation, this fleet needs much closer monitoring. Size frequency and catch and effort data have been collected from longliners landings in three key ports of Indonesia (Jakarta, Benoa, Cilacap) since August 2002, thanks to the inception of a Catch Monitoring Scheme involving local and foreign institutions.

The catches of artisanal gears operated in Indonesia have also been dramatically increasing since the early 1970s. Most tuna and billfish species caught in Indonesia are recorded under the aggregate Tuna being only the skipjack tuna and some seerfish species recorded at the species level. The lack of detailed information on the species caught and gears used in Indonesia has been preventing the Secretariat to break these aggregates. The collection of new information regarding the catches of artisanal vessels in Indonesia is also underway and will allow reducing considerably the uncertainties regarding species caught and gears used.

*Figure 3: Total catches per species in the Indian Ocean estimated for artisanal gears in Indonesia*



*Figure 4: Total catches of Indonesian vessels in the Indian Ocean in the IOTC NC database versus the catches in the FAO FishStat database*





**B/ NON REPORTING FRESH TUNA LONGLINE FLEETS (OPERATING UNDER FLAGS OTHER THAN INDONESIA)**

Figure 5: Number of non-reporting fresh-tuna longliners operating under flags other than Indonesia presumed to operate in the Indian Ocean

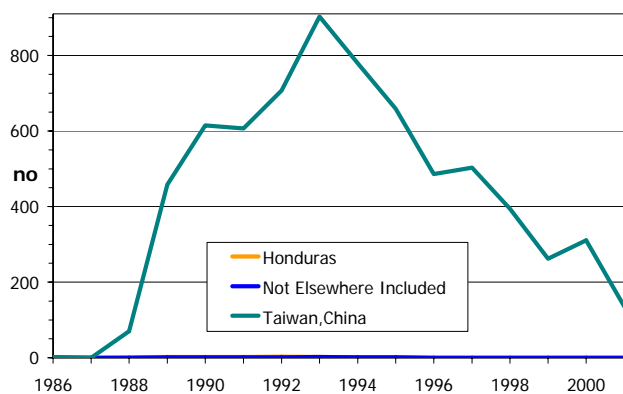
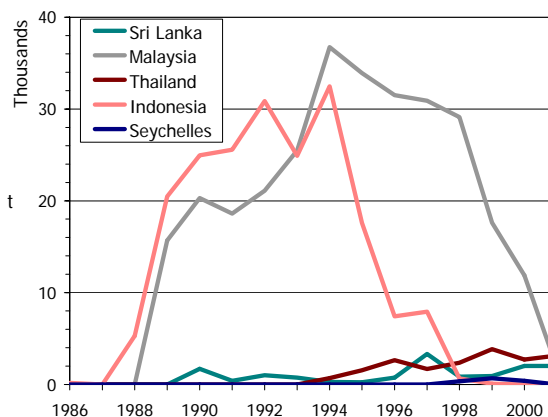


Figure 6: Estimated landings of non-reporting fresh-tuna longliners operating under flags other than Indonesia according to the country where they occurred



NOTE: **Indonesia** on the right chart refers to fresh tuna longliners operating under flags other than Indonesia unloading to ports in that country

The number of non-reporting fresh tuna longliners operating under flags other than Indonesia in the Indian Ocean sharply increased from the mid-eighties to the early nineties, topping at about 900 vessels in 1993. Almost all longliners are from Taiwan,China, flag for which no catches of fresh tuna longliners are available to the IOTC, as opposed to the deep-freezing fleet. The drop in the number of vessels and catches observed since 1993 is due to re-flagging of many Taiwanese vessels to Indonesia (see BOX 1 A).

The estimation of number of vessels and catches has been improving over time, mainly thanks to the information collected through the Sampling Programs implemented by the IOTC in key ports of landing of these vessels in the Indian Ocean. The amount of historical and current information so far collected through these cooperation schemes has helped to improve the estimates in Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The collection of past information should continue to allow better estimates of historical catches in countries like Indonesia.

Current catches have been estimated at about 20,000 tonnes, mostly yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna.

Figure 7: Estimated catches in the Indian Ocean of non-reporting fresh tuna longliners operating under flags other than Indonesia (per flag country)

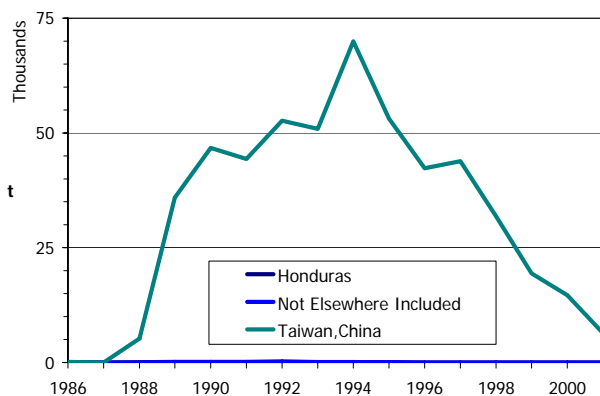
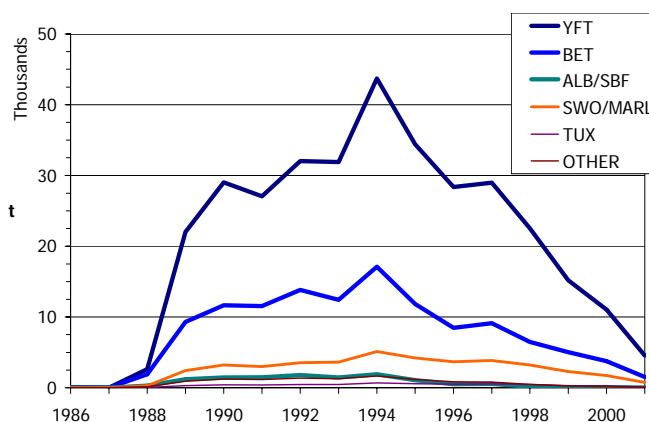
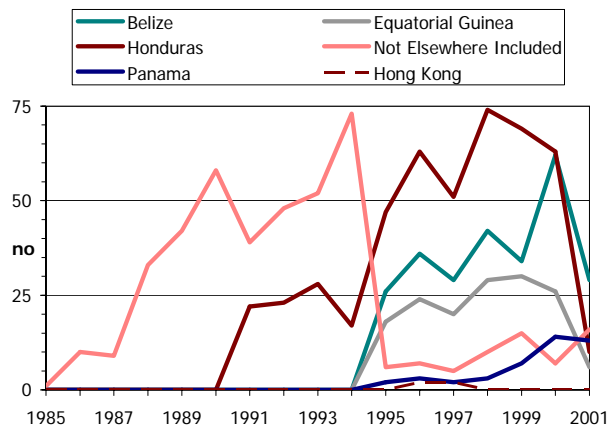


Figure 8: Total catches per species in the Indian Ocean estimated for fresh tuna longline fleets operating under flags other than Indonesia

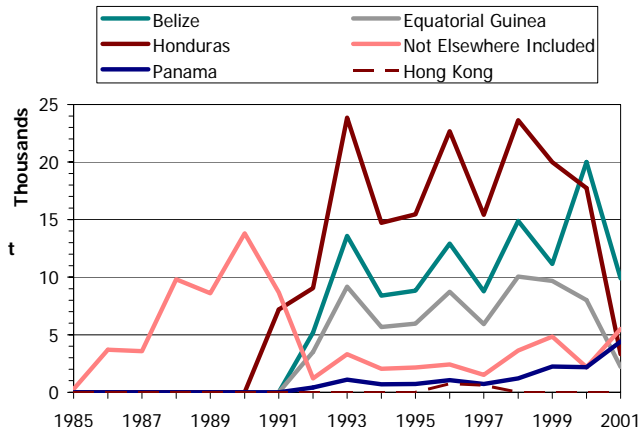


**C/ NON REPORTING DEEP-FREEZING LONGLINE FLEETS**

*Figure 9: Number of non-reporting deep-freezing longliners estimated to operate in the Indian Ocean (per flag country)*



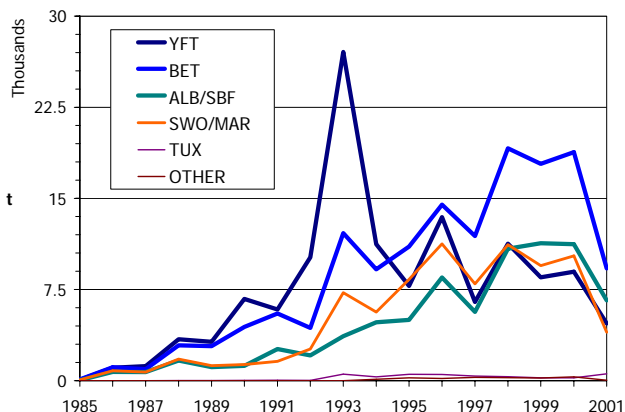
*Figure 10: Estimated catches of non-reporting deep-freezing longliners according to the flag of operation*



The reporting of new information regarding the activities of vessels fishing for tropical tunas in the IOTC Area of Competence during 2003 allowed the production of new estimates of numbers of non-reporting deep-freezing longliners by flag. The main sources for these data are the IOTC Vessel Record and Foreign Tuna Vessels Activity Record to which many new records were input during 2003.

The total number of longliners estimated to operate in recent years amount to about 170, with total catches estimated at 60,000 tonnes. Honduras, Belize, Equatorial Guinea and Panama have been the flags most used by non-reporting longliners over the last years. The catch series was estimated according to average catches per vessel and species composition for the Taiwanese fleet during that period, assuming that most of the vessels operating under flags of non-reporting countries were originally from Taiwan, China, still having skippers from Taiwan, China on board. Although there are many indications to support this, the assumption that the vessels from Taiwan, China and non-reporting countries are exploiting the same spatio-temporal strata over time could be wrong for some flags or periods. The lack of catch and effort and size frequency records regarding non-reporting vessels is of concern.

*Figure 11: Total catches per species in the Indian Ocean estimated for non-reporting deep-freezing longline fleets*



The dramatic drop in the number of non reporting longliners vessels operating and catches estimated for 2001 and 2002 is not fully understood. This could be due to the re-flagging of vessels recorded before under this category to flags of reporting countries. The increase in the number of longliners operating in the Indian Ocean reported by Seychelles and Philippines in recent years would support this assumption. The low catches reported by both countries, however, are thought not to account for this dramatic increase in the number of vessels operating. It is, therefore, likely that the catches recorded since 2000 for these two countries have to be updated once that more information become available.

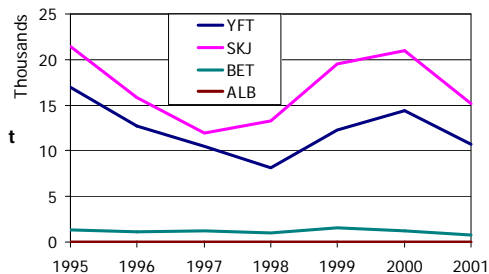
**D/ NON REPORTING INDUSTRIAL PURSE SEINE FLEETS**

Between 9 and 11 non-reporting purse seiners have been operating in the Indian Ocean since 1995 under the flags of Panama and Belize. The catches of these vessels, mainly of skipjack, have been estimated at about 30,000 tonnes. The estimate was conducted taking into account past average catch rates for the Soviet Union fleet (to which most of these vessels belonged to) and species composition for the European fleet, assuming that the two fleets exploit the same areas. This assumption could be biased for periods in which the European vessels operate in the EEZs of third countries, which could not be the case with the ex-Soviet vessels.

The fleet owner, based in Singapore, has been gathering catch and effort data for all vessels since 1995. The Secretariat has been so far unable to obtain these statistics from the ship owner.

**Detailed information about the fleet and catch estimates of non-reporting fleets has been provided in documents presented to the species Working Parties since 2000.**

*Figure 12: Total catches per species in the Indian Ocean estimated for non-reporting industrial purse seine fleets*



**BOX 2: IOTC SAMPLING PROGRAMS**

*Table 9: Total number of fish sampled and total number of length measurements taken by enumerators in processing plants of ports where IOTC Sampling is conducted*

Country	Port	Year	From-To	YFT		BET		SWO		OTH		TOTAL	
				noS	noL	noS	noL	noS	noL	noS	noL	noS	noL
Thailand	Phuket	2000	January-December	16,982	1,630	6,853	376	1,459	187	3,993	224	29,287	2,417
		2001	January-December	31,170	3,318	23,490	2,260	3,077	279	18,556	682	76,293	6,539
		2002	January-December	22,781	1,236	29,278	2,125	1,264	64	17,883	167	71,206	3,592
		2003	January-June	18,342	1,437	5,629	357	668	58	6,012	53	30,651	1,905
Malaysia	Penang	2001	January-December		670		366					25,524	1,036
		2002	January-		1626		1766					14673	3392
Sri Lanka	Mutwal (Colombo)	2002	March-June	8,158	1,018	4,745	659					12,903	1,677
Indonesia	Muara Baru (Jakarta)	2002	August-December	15,100	6,944	12,957	6,274	403		2,509		30,969	13,218
		2003	April-June	52,242	19,329	23,223	9,885	1103	14	9,184	227	85,752	29,455
	Cilacap	2002	August-December	1,827	1,809	3,002	2,999	352	352	3,956	3,939	9,137	9,099
		2003	January-July	18,123	15,819	6,210	5,862	939	909	9,991	1,107	35,263	23,697
	Benoa (Bali)	2002	June-December	35,010	4,011	36,899	4,439	4,505	365	36,013	795	112,427	9,610
		2003	January-July	48325	5,925	35400	4,206	3672	174	41644	675	129,041	10,980
Total		2000	January-December	16,982	1,630	6,853	376	1,459	187	3,993	224	29,287	2,417
		2001	January-December	31,170	3,988	23,490	2,626	3,077	279	18,556	682	101,817	7,575
		2002	January-December	82,876	16,644	86,881	18,262	6,524	781	60,361	4,901	251,315	40,588
		2003	January-July	137,032	42,510	70,462	20,310	6,382	1,155	66,831	2,062	280,707	66,037
TOTAL				268,060	64,772	187,686	41,574	17,442	2,402	149,741	7,869	663,126	116,617

*Table 10: Total number of fish recorded in landing sheets collected from shipping agents in Phuket, Penang and Colombo*

The Secretariat has been implementing Sampling Programmes to monitor the activities of non-reporting fleets since 2000. Sampling is currently conducted in Phuket, Penang, Sri Lanka and Indonesia, ports where most of the catches of non-reporting fresh tuna longliners operating in the Indian Ocean are unloaded.

Country	Port	Year	From-To	YFT	BET	SWO	OTH	TOTAL
				noS	noS	noS	noS	noS
Thailand, Malaysia	Phuket, Penang	1998	January- December	6,543	13,034	1,062	1,742	22,381
		1999	January- December	10,543	21,498	1,488	979	34,508
		2000	January- December	6,948	7,744	869	1,545	17,106
Sri Lanka	Mutwal (Colombo)	2001- 2003	January- December	Paper files to be verified and input				
TOTAL				24,034	42,276	3,419	4,266	73,995

Scientists and samplers of research institutions in the three countries, AFDEC<sup>2</sup>, FRI<sup>3</sup>, NARA<sup>4</sup> and DGCF<sup>5</sup>/RIMF<sup>6</sup> are collecting the information in close cooperation with the IOTC Secretariat.

The main objectives of these programmes are to:

- Collect current and historic information regarding the activities of non-reporting vessels in the Indian Ocean in order to be able to estimate their catches as accurately as possible.
- Collect size frequency statistics through sampling and the retrieval of current and historical data from tuna operators or buyers.
- Collect other relevant biological information concerning the main species landed.

The information collected to date has allowed the Secretariat to conduct preliminary estimates of catches for the period of activity of these fleets, more than 95% of which are longliners operating under the flags of Taiwan, China and Indonesia. These estimates will probably change as more information about the activities of this fleet is obtained through the schemes currently operating or by implementation of new schemes in other important landing ports (Maldives).

**More information about the fleet and information collected through the operating schemes has been provided in documents presented to Working Parties since 2000.**

<sup>2</sup> Andaman Sea Fisheries Development Centre, Phuket

<sup>3</sup> Fisheries Research Institute, Penang

<sup>4</sup> National Aquatic Resources and Development Agency, Colombo

<sup>5</sup> Directorate General of Capture Fisheries, Jakarta

<sup>6</sup> Research Institute for Marine Fisheries, Jakarta

**BOX 3: DATA AVAILABILITY**

The number of **coastal countries** for which tuna statistics are available in the IOTC nominal catches database ranges from 11 in 1950 to 32 in 2002 (out of the 36 coastal countries lying within the IOTC Area of Competence). The low number of countries for which statistics are available in the early years of the fishery, especially between 1950 and 1970, could be because tunas were not targeted, non-reporting or to poor monitoring of fisheries in some countries. Although the catches of most artisanal fisheries are not believed high, the existence of historical records in each country might be investigated.

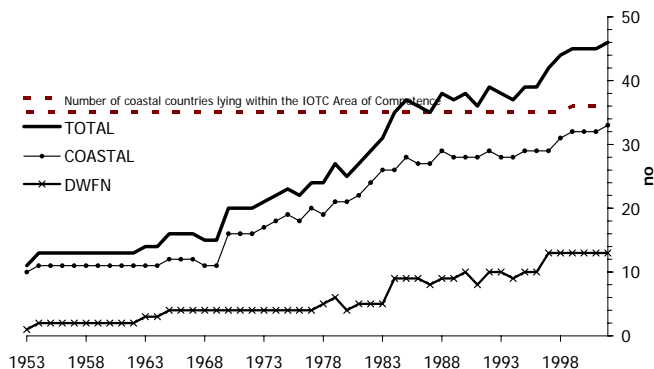
The catches of **DWFNs** have, on the contrary, usually been high. The following fleets are not monitored by the flag countries:

**Fresh tuna longliners (IDN, NEI-ICE, NEI-IDN):** A large number of fresh tuna longliners, mainly from Indonesia and Taiwan,China, has been operating in the Indian Ocean since the early 1970's, but their catches were never monitored by the responsible countries. These fleets are currently monitored through the IOTC Sampling Schemes in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Recent estimates are close to 100,000 tonnes.

**Deep-freezing longliners (NEI-DFRZ):** Between 50 and 150 longliners have been operating in the Indian Ocean in recent years under flags of countries not reporting to the IOTC. The catches have been estimated since the mid-eighties, mainly using information from the IOTC vessel record. Current estimates amount to some 20,000 tonnes.

The number of NEI-DFRZ longliners operating in the Indian Ocean during the last two years has dramatically decreased.

Figure 13: Number of flags for which catches are available in the IOTC NC database:

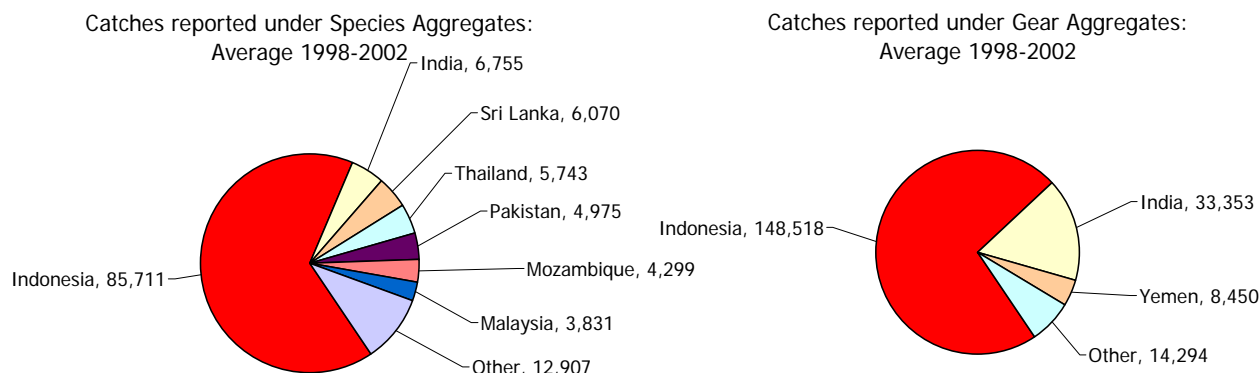


This is probably because of the re-flagging of many longliners to flags of reporting countries, especially Seychelles and Philippines. Nevertheless, the catches reported by these countries are considered very low, probably due to statistical systems still unable to monitor the new fisheries.

**Ex-Soviet purse seiners (NEI-SUN)** operating under Belize and Panama flags: No catches have been reported for the 9 to 11 ex-Soviet ships since 1995. Since then, the catches have been estimated by the Secretariat at around 30,000 tonnes a year.

**BOX 4: GEAR AND SPECIES AGGREGATION**

Figure 14: Proportion of the total catches recorded under species (above left) or gear (above right) aggregates in the IOTC Nominal Catches Database per country during 1998-2002 (average catches in tonnes are shown in each case)



The number of countries not reporting detailed statistics to the IOTC has been always high. More than 30% of the countries have been submitting highly aggregated statistics (80% or more of the catches reported under aggregates containing two or more species) in recent times.

**Indonesia:** The catches of Indonesian vessels in the Indian Ocean were not reported to IOTC between 1993 and 2000. The data reported after this year are considered poor quality due to:

- Highly aggregated catches: the statistical system is unable to produce detailed catches for most tuna and tuna-like species;
- The Indonesian catch statistics are not thought to fully account for the sharp increases in the number of longliners operating under its flag in recent years (especially since 1995)

New estimates conducted by the Secretariat resulted in catches above 150,000 t since 1995. More than 60% of the catches reported aggregated to the IOTC in recent times thus come from Indonesia. Furthermore, high proportions of tropical tunas and billfish, under IOTC mandate are caught in Indonesia.

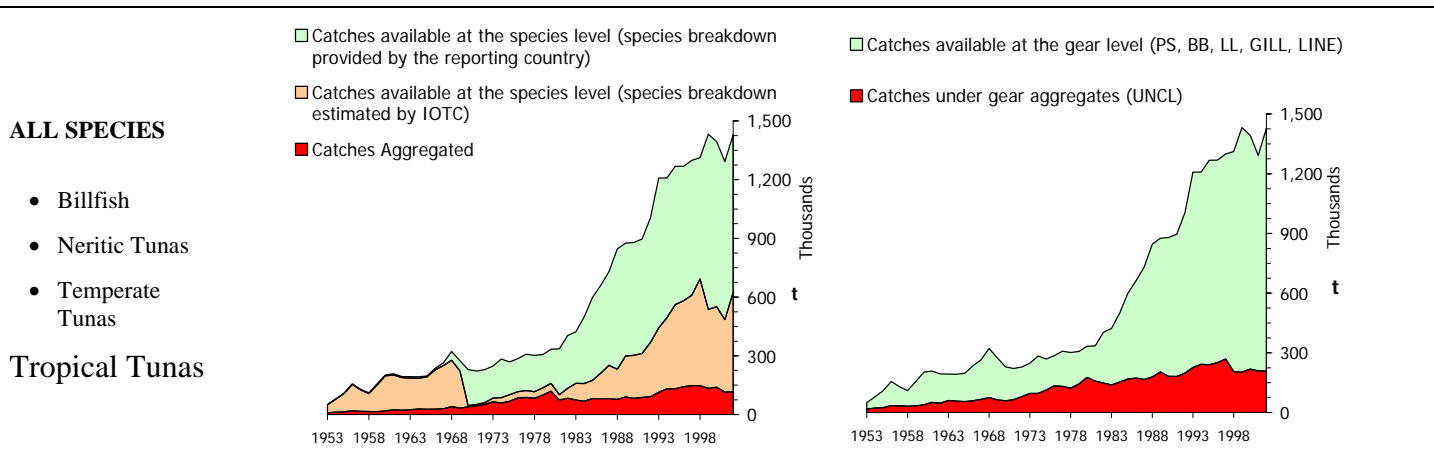
**India:** India has reported the artisanal catches aggregated at the gear level until 2000 and significant catches aggregated at the species level (mainly of neritic tuna species).

**Yemen:** Either reported by the flag country or estimated from the FAO databases, the catches available were all recorded under unclassified gears. The catches for this country are, indeed, thought highly underestimated.

**Sri Lanka, Thailand, Pakistan, Mozambique and Malaysia:** The amount of catches recorded aggregated in the IOTC Nominal Catches Database for these countries has been high in recent years. These aggregates mostly refer to neritic tuna species, although considerable amounts of billfish species have also been reported by Sri Lanka in recent years.

Figure 15: Amount of catch reported at the species level and aggregated

Figure 16: Amount of catch reported at the gear level and aggregated



Almost all catch statistics in the IOTC databases between 1950 and 1969 come from FAO data and are thus considered as being originally aggregated (no gear information is provided in the FAO databases). Nevertheless, the Secretariat was able to assign the catches partially to the corresponding species or gears, especially in well known fisheries with more or less stable composition in species of the catches and a single gear (e.g. Japanese longliners). The amount of catch recorded under unclassified gears remained very high until the mid-eighties.

The amount of catches reported under species aggregates has been increasing since 1970, more rapidly since the early eighties. The main reason for this increase is the growing number of non-reporting fleets operating in the Indian Ocean, using mainly longlines. The Secretariat has been using different sources to estimate the catches of these vessels (sampling programmes, foreign tuna vessels activity, vessel record), although the series are still considered incomplete.

Around 15% of the catches in the IOTC NC database have been recorded under unclassified gears in recent years. This uncertainty is mostly attributable to artisanal fleets operating in coastal countries unable to produce detailed statistics or not reporting the information to IOTC. Indonesia (75% of the total catches reported under unclassified gears come from this country), India (15%) and Yemen are the major contributors in this respect.

The levels of aggregation are very different between and within the different species groups:

**Billfish:** The species within this group are mostly caught by longlines and, to a lesser extent, gillnets. While aggregation does not represent a problem as regards the gears used it does at the species level. About half the catches of these species have been reported aggregated. Sri Lanka (32% of the total catches of billfish reported under species aggregates come from this country), India (19%) and Pakistan have been reporting high catches of billfish under species aggregates in recent years. The aggregation concerns mainly species other than the swordfish which is easily identified, mostly caught by industrial fleets and has a high market value. Catches, besides those from non-reporting fleets, are thus well known for this species.

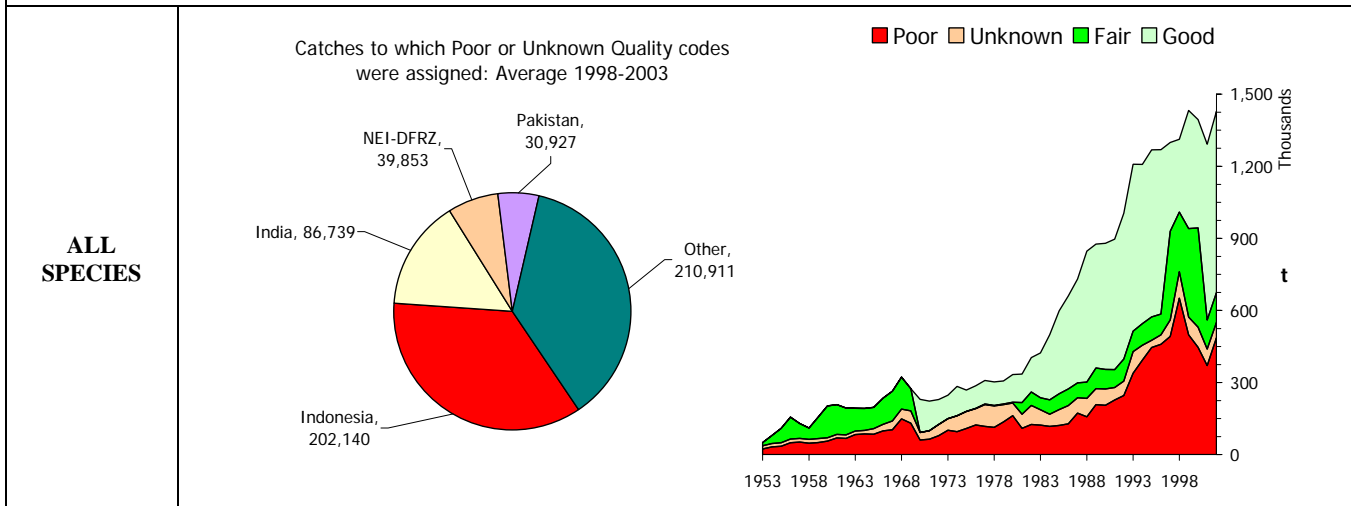
**Neritic tunas:** Species and gear aggregation are widespread within this group. Current levels of aggregation have been close to 60% and 30% as regards species and gears, respectively. Indonesia, India and Thailand are the major contributors in this respect. The high levels of aggregation are thought to be mainly due to no or incomplete reporting from the countries, since several among them are known to have been routinely collecting the statistics.

**Temperate and Tropical tunas:** Most of the catches of the six species under these groups come from industrial fleets and, therefore, gear and species aggregation are quite low. Nevertheless, the rising number of non-reporting fleets operating in the Indian Ocean in recent years is increasing the amount of catches that have to be estimated by the Secretariat. Indonesia is the mayor contributor to this uncertainty, especially regarding the tropical tuna species (some 85% of the total catches of tropical tuna species reported under gear or species aggregates come from this country).

	<p><i>Figures 17-20: Amount of catch reported at the species level and aggregated</i></p>	<p><i>Figure 21-24: Amount of catch reported at the gear level and aggregated</i></p>
<p><b>BILLFISH</b></p> <p>Swordfish (SWO)                      Striped marlin (MLS)                      Black Marlin (BLM)                      Indo-Pacific blue Marlin (BLZ)                      Indo-Pacific sailfish (SFA)                      Short-billed spearfish (SSP)</p>	<p> <span style="color: green;">█</span> Catches available at the species level (species breakdown provided by the reporting country)  <span style="color: orange;">█</span> Catches available at the species level (species breakdown estimated by IOTC)  <span style="color: red;">█</span> Catches Aggregated                 </p>	<p> <span style="color: green;">█</span> Catches available at the gear level (PS, BB, LL, GILL, LINE)  <span style="color: red;">█</span> Catches under gear aggregates (UNCL)                 </p>
<p><b>NERITIC TUNAS</b></p> <p>Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (COM)                      Indo-Pacific king mackerel (GUT)                      Streaked seerfish (STS)                      Wahoo (WAH)                      Bullet tuna (BLT)                      Frigate tuna (FRI)                      Kawakawa (KAW)                      Longtail tuna (LOT)</p>		
<p><b>TEMPERATE TUNAS</b></p> <p>Southern bluefin tuna (SBF)                      Northern bluefin tuna (BFT)                      Albacore (ALB)</p>		
<p><b>TROPICAL TUNAS</b></p> <p>Yellowfin tuna (YFT)                      Bigeye tuna (BET)                      Skipjack tuna (SKJ)</p>		

**BOX 5: DATA QUALITY**

Figure 25: Presumed quality of the data in the IOTC nominal catches database and main fleets for which catches are thought inaccurate or uncertain in recent years.



The following quality codes were assigned to the records in the IOTC databases:

- **4 (Good):** The catches recorded in a given stratum are presumed to represent the actual catches occurred in that stratum. This refers to all data available from countries having data collection and processing systems with known ability to produce good catch estimates and to the data estimated by the Secretariat from sources thought to be reliable. No inconsistencies in the data were found during the verification and validation processes run at the Secretariat or communicated from the reporting source.
- **3 (Fair):** This refers to data coming from the same sources as above but for which minor inconsistencies were found during validation and verification or communicated from the reporting source. These inconsistencies referred were not thought to affect the catches recorded in the strata concerned substantially.
- **2 (Unknown):** It is not known whether the catches recorded in a given stratum represent the actual catches occurred in that stratum as insufficient or no information was provided by the reporting source about how the estimates were obtained.
- **1 (Poor):** The catches recorded in a given stratum are thought inaccurate as major inconsistencies were found during validation and verification or many assumptions had to be made in the estimates.

The assignment of quality codes was done in spite of gear or species aggregation, thus only considering whether the catches reported in each strata were accurate or not (e.g. good quality could be assigned to catches recorded under species and/or gear aggregates).

Sharp increases in the catches recorded as poor quality have been noted since the mid-eighties. This uncertainty comes mostly from:

**Indonesia (IDN):** Although the current estimates are possibly more accurate regarding the total catches, the catches at the species level are still thought uncertain.

**Non-reporting DWFNs (NEI-DFRZ, NEI-ICE and NEI-SUN):** catches estimated by the Secretariat using the number of vessels which were reported active each year and mean catches and species breakdowns from fleets thought to operate in a similar way. The IOTC sampling programmes are proving helpful to reduce the uncertainty of the catches estimated for fresh-tuna longline fleets (NEI-ICE). The amount of information available for non-reporting deep-freezing longliners (NEI-DFRZ) and purse seiners (NEI-SUN) is still very low.

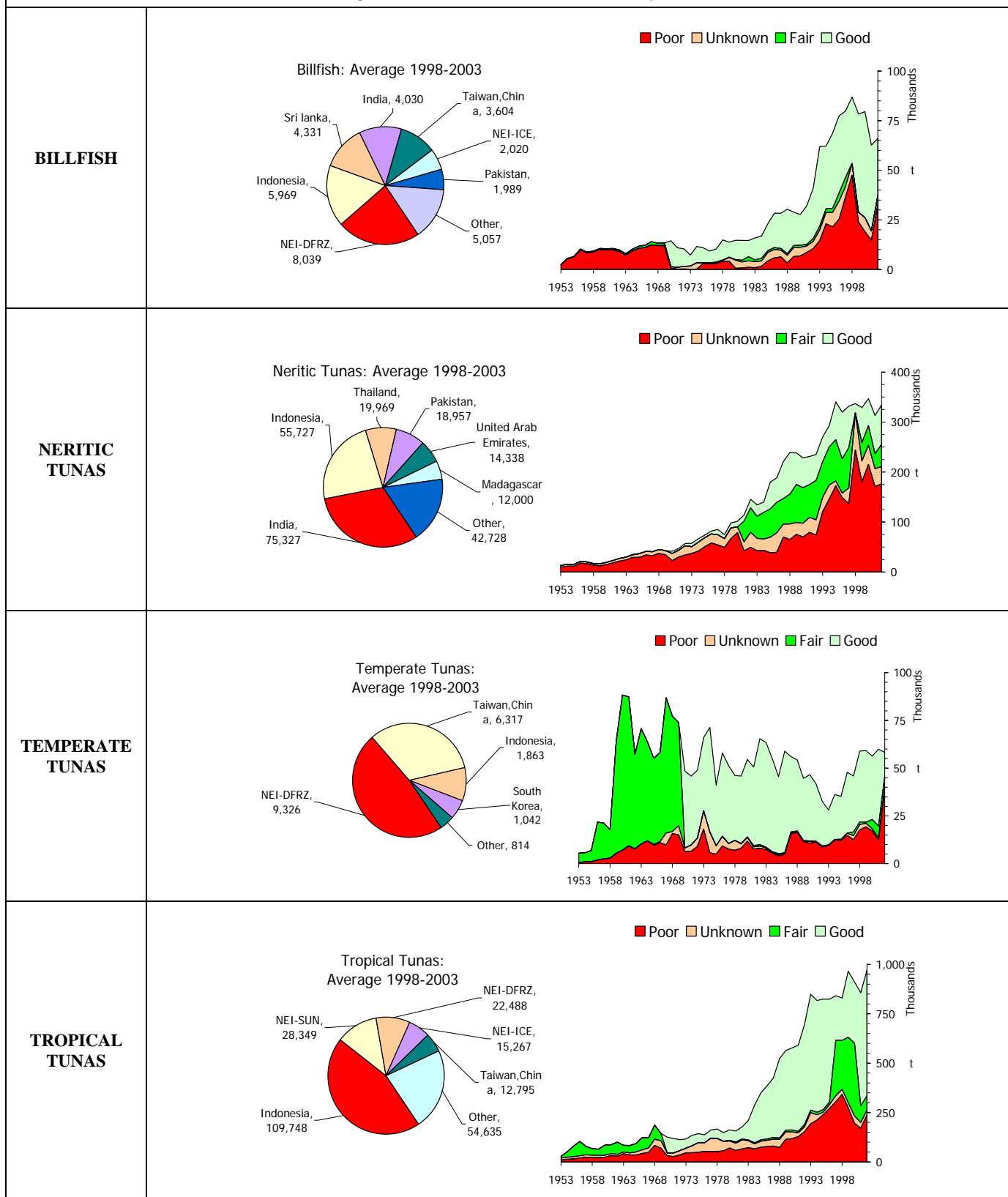
**Pakistan (PAK), Sri Lanka (LKA) and India (IND):** The either unreliable or highly aggregated data available from these countries needed to be re-estimated by the Secretariat, sometimes using information for years far from those which the catches had to be estimated. Thus, gear and/or species breakdowns were estimated assuming fisheries were not changing over time. The risk from these assumptions increases with the gap in time between the new catches and the year when catches were used as basis for the estimate.

The amount of catches with a poor quality code is of concern, especially for **billfish** and **neritic tunas**. Poor quality catches amount to more than half the total catches in recent years for these categories. The fleets that contributed mostly to this uncertainty are from **India, Indonesia** and **Thailand**, for the neritic tunas, and **NEI-DFRZ, Indonesia** and **Sri Lanka**, for billfish.

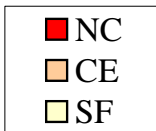
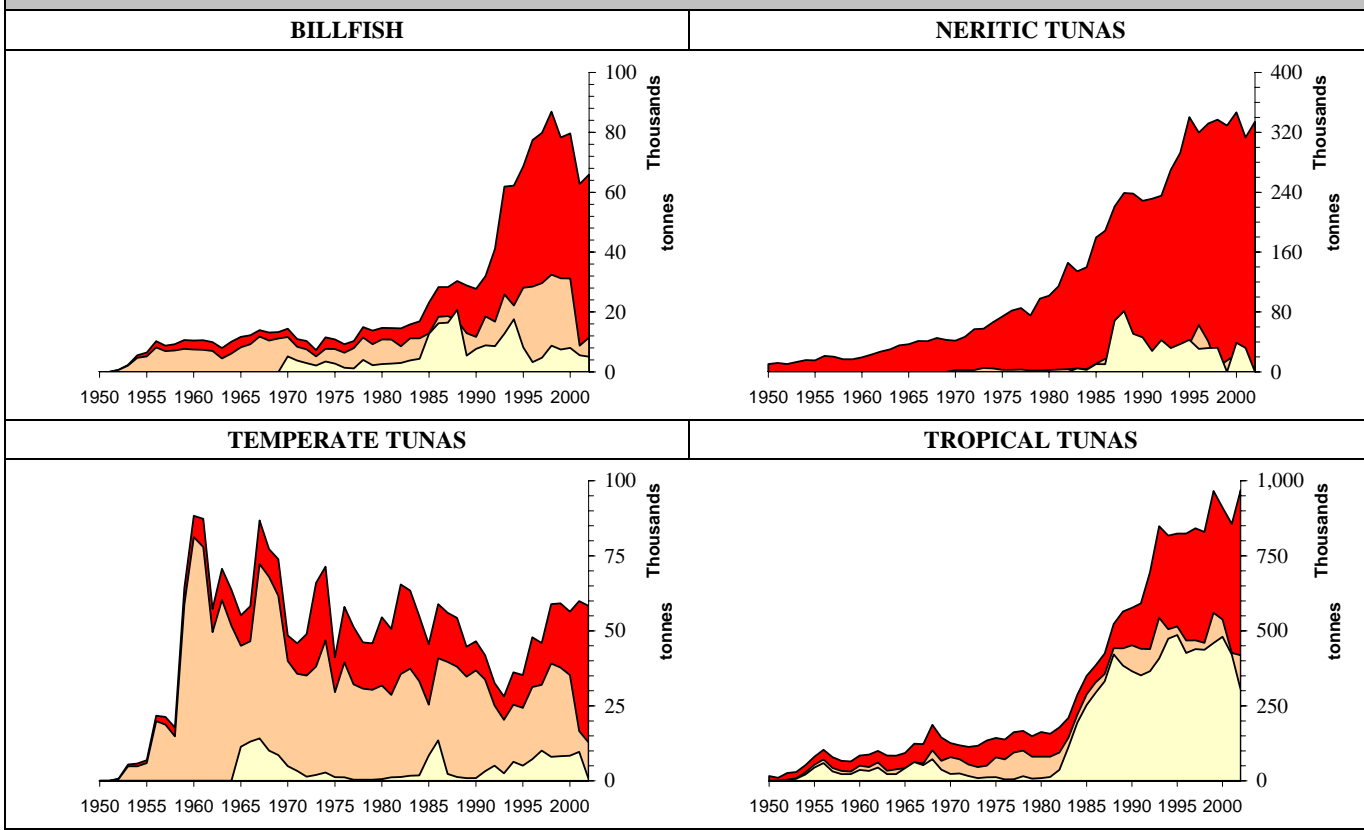
Although less affected than the others, the quality of the catches of **tropical** and **temperate tuna** species have been worsening in recent years. The increasing trend in the number of longline vessels from **Indonesia** and longline and purse seine vessels from non-reporting DWFNs is again the reason for these uncertain catches.



Figures 26-29: Presumed quality of the data in the IOTC nominal catches database and main fleets which catches are thought inaccurate or uncertain in recent years.



**BOX 6 : DATA COMPLETENESS**



*Figures 30-33: Proportion of the total catches (NC) for which the catch and effort (CE) and size frequency (SF) records in the IOTC databases are available for the species groups managed by IOTC*

The Charts above and in the next page are optimistic views about the proportion of the total catches for which records in the IOTC catch and effort and size frequency databases are available. Catch and Effort (CE) and/or size frequency (SF) records were presumed fully representative of the total catches (NC) per species, country and year whenever one or more records were found in the Catch and Effort and/or Size Frequency databases for that species, gear, year and country.

In spite of this approach, the situation is of concern for some species groups and fisheries:

**BILLFISH:** Recent coverage rates amount to about 35% and 10% of catch and effort and size frequency data, respectively. The low rates are due to:

- Non-reporting of statistics for important **longline fisheries** operating in the Indian Ocean: Fresh tuna longliners from **Taiwan, China** and **Indonesia** and deep-freezing longliners (DWFNs) operating under several flags (mainly **Belize, Honduras, Equatorial Guinea** and **Panama**)
- Lack of size frequency statistics for deep-freezing longliners from **Taiwan, China**, the Republic of **Korea** and **Philippines**.

The lack of the data above concerns swordfish mostly and, to a lesser extent, all marlin species.

- Lack of catch and effort and size frequency data from **artisanal fisheries**, especially **gillnets** and **troll lines**. The Indo-Pacific sailfish and, to a lesser extent, the black and Indo-Pacific blue marlins are the species most affected.

The lack of Catch and Effort data for longliners of **Taiwan, China** in 2001 and 2002 is the reason for the drop in coverage during these years. This is of great concern considering that most of the catches of the species come from this fleet and other vessels belonging to owners of **Taiwan, China** that operate under flags of non-reporting countries.

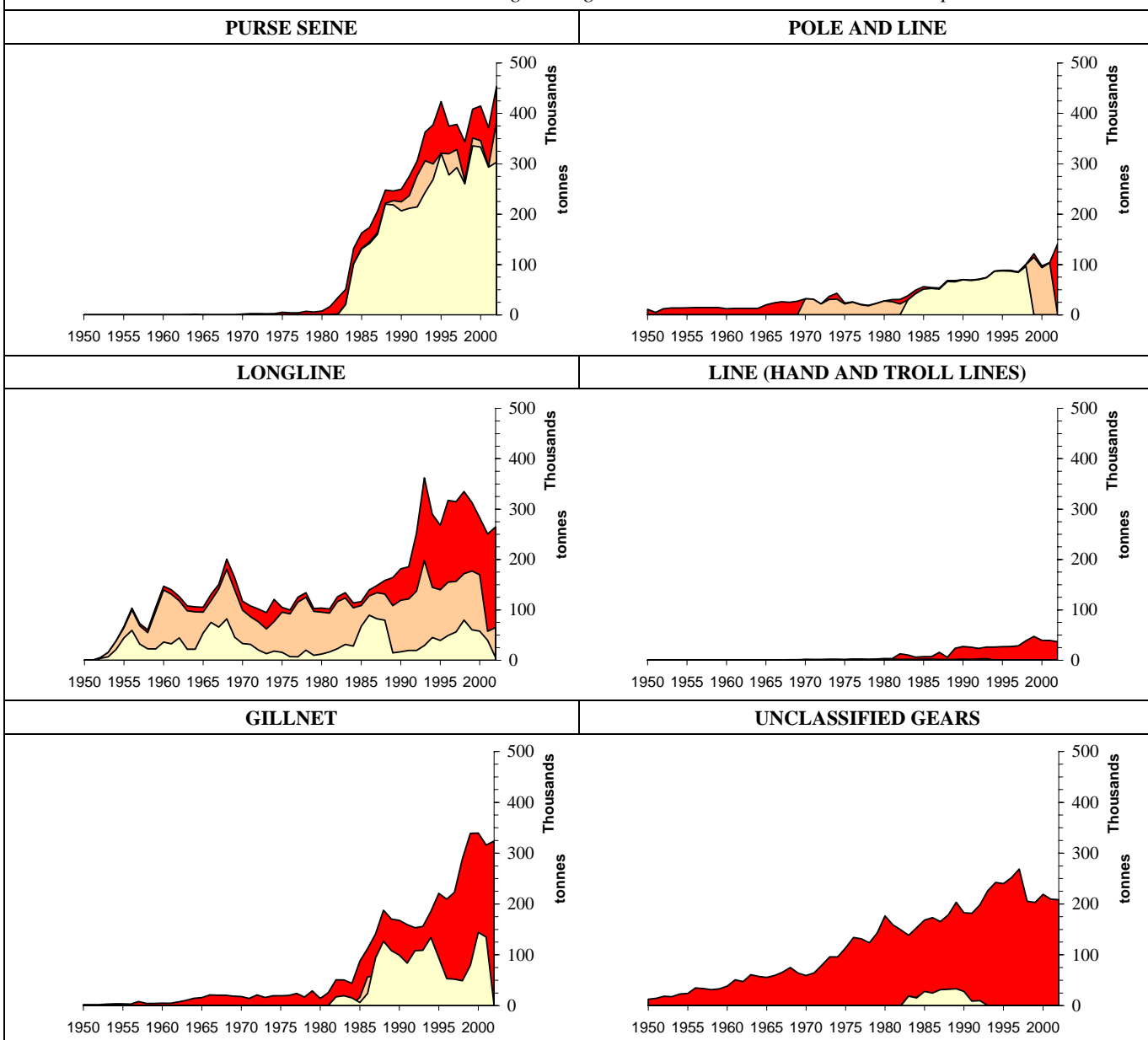
**NERITIC TUNAS:** These species, caught mostly by artisanal gears, have been either badly monitored or not reported in detail. Recent coverage rates are around the 10% for both catch and effort and size frequency statistics. No or scarce catch and effort and size frequency statistics are available at IOTC from **India, Iran, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates** and, up to recent years, **Oman** and **Thailand**. Catch

and effort records and size samples are, however, collected in all these countries.

**TEMPERATE TUNAS:** Current levels of coverage are around the 15% regarding size data. Catch and effort data are however quite complete until 2000. The lack of catch and effort and size frequency statistics since 2000 and 1989, respectively, from **Taiwan,China** is of high concern.

**TROPICAL TUNAS:** The coverage rates for both the catch and effort and size frequency data have been worsening since the mid-eighties. This is due to the increase in the number non-reporting fleets operating in the Indian Ocean, mainly fresh tuna longliners from **Indonesia**, longliners (both fresh and deep-freezing) and purse seiners (ex-Soviet) from DWFNs and, recently, **Taiwan,China**.

*Figures 34-39: Proportion of the total catches (NC) which the catch and effort (CE) and size frequency (SF) records in the IOTC databases are available according to the gears under which the statistics were reported.*



**NOTE:** Catch and Effort (CE) and/or size frequency (SF) records were presumed fully representative of the total catches (NC) per species, country and year whenever one or more records were found in the Catch and Effort and/or Size Frequency databases for that species, gear, year and country.

The completeness of catch and effort and size frequency data is also changing depending on the gear: while **pole and line** and **purse seines** are well covered since the mid-eighties; this is not the case with all other gears, especially **gillnets** and **lines**, both having very low coverage rates. The statistics for **longliners** have been worsening since the mid-eighties, with coverage rates of 50% (catch and effort) and 25% (size frequency) in 2000 and much lower after that year, due to the lack of data from **Taiwan,China**.

Finally, the amount of catches reported under **unclassified gears**, around 200,000 t in recent years, is of concern. The catches come usually from artisanal fisheries, mainly gillnets and lines.

**BOX 7: AVAILABILITY OF CATCHES OF SPECIES OTHER THAN IOTC TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES AND DISCARDS FROM INDUSTRIAL FLEETS OPERATING IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE**

Gear	Fleet	Av98/02	NTAD	SKH	TUX	DISCARDS
Longline	Taiwan,China	105,219	377	1,216	103,625	NO
	Indonesia	65,770	0	1,636	64,134	NO
	NEI-Deep-freezing	40,389	169	367	39,853	NO
	Japan	39,829	0	0	39,829	NO
	NEI-Fresh Tuna	17,565	63	152	17,350	NO
	Spain	9,136	0	6,767	2,368	NO
	China	5,279	0	57	5,222	NO
	Korea, Republic of	4,288	0	18	4,270	NO
	Australia	2,778	1	45	2,732	YES
	France-Reunion	2,569	75	64	2,430	NO
	Philippines	2,381	20	30	2,331	NO
	Seychelles	2,288	53	52	2,183	NO
	Other	4,054	117	944	2,993	NO
	TOTAL LL	301,545	875	11,348	289,322	
Purse seine	Spain	134,582	0	0	134,582	NO
	France	78,446	0	0	78,446	YES
	NEI-European	60,748	0	0	60,748	NO
	Seychelles	33,488	0	0	33,488	NO
	NEI-Ex-Soviet Union	28,379	0	0	28,379	NO
	Thailand	16,675	0	0	16,675	NO
	Other	46,159	26	4	46,130	NO
	TOTAL PS	398,477	26	4	398,447	
	TOTAL	700,021	900	11,352	687,769	

Table 11: Average catches of tuna and tuna-like species (TUX) for the period 1998-2002 and amounts of sharks (SKH) and other non-tuna or tuna-like species (NTAD) from the IOTC NC database

The reporting of catches of sharks and species other than those covered in the IOTC Agreement has been scarce and uneven over time. It is currently impossible to know to what extent the catches of these species are underestimated due to the lack of reliable data.

The reporting of discards has also been very low. Furthermore, when reported, the discards never represented the total amount and no indication on what proportion of the total catches was covered, being impossible to estimate their totals. These discards might involve considerable amounts of undersized tuna species, especially in purse seine fisheries exploiting schools associated to fish aggregating devices (FADs).

This underreporting concerns more industrial fisheries, mainly longline and purse seine, than artisanal fisheries, where the amount of discards is thought negligible.

Species aggregation is, besides underreporting, an important problem concerning the reporting of these data, with some 60% of the catches available reported under species aggregates.

The implementation of observer programs in industrial fleets might help to reduce the uncertainties regarding the catches of these species.

Gear	SppGroup	Total	Aggregated	Disaggregated
Longline	NTAD	4,373	3,979	394
	SKH	56,740	19,299	37,441
Purse seine	NTAD	129	115	14
	SKH			
TOTAL		61,242	23,393	37,849

Table 12: Average catches of sharks (SKH) and other non-tuna or tuna-like species (NTAD) recorded under species aggregates (Aggregated) or at the species level (Disaggregated) in the IOTC NC database for the period 1998-2002

Species	ScientName	AvCatch	Longline	Purse seine	Baitboat	Gillnet	Line	Other
Sharks various nei	<i>Selachimorpha (Pleurotremata)</i>	46,527	3,767	4		28,360	205	14,192
Other non tuna-like fishes nei	<i>Fishes non Scombroidei</i>	17,549	112	23	10,546	2,781	3,673	415
Non targeted, associated and dependent species		17,382	683			16,698		0
Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	8,685	6,754			1,931	0	
Silky shark	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	5,086	5			5,081		
Rays, stingrays, mantas nei	<i>Rajiformes</i>	2,384	0			2,384		
Indian mackerel	<i>Rastrelliger kanaqurta</i>	1,305				43		1,262
Oceanic whitetip shark	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	1,125	20			1,105		
Requiem sharks nei	<i>Carcharhinidae</i>	933	59			874		
Striped bonito	<i>Sarda orientalis</i>	862		3	0	488	59	312
Thresher sharks nei	<i>Alopias spp.</i>	785	30			755		
Shortfin mako	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	714	665			49	0	
Hammerhead sharks nei	<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>	695	2			693	0	
Dogtooth tuna	<i>Gymnosarda unicolor</i>	664	0		365	5	292	1
Sharks mackerel, porbeagles nei	<i>Lamnidae</i>	551				546	5	
Common dolphinfish	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	198	78				119	
Dolphins nei	<i>Delphinidae</i>	95				95		
Mackerels Indian, nei	<i>Rastrelliger spp.</i>	37	0		11	0	24	2
Smooth-hound	<i>Mustelus mustelus</i>	20	20				0	
Longfin mako	<i>Isurus paucus</i>	13	13					
Tope shark	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	9	3				5	
Blue mackerel	<i>Scomber australasicus</i>	8			7			1
Smooth hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	6	6					
Unknown		4						4
Copper shark	<i>Carcharhinus brachyurus</i>	3	3				0	
Sharks nei other than oceanic whitetip shark and blue shark		2	2					
Blacktip reef shark	<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>	1						1
Porbeagle	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	1	1					
Butterfly kingfish	<i>Gasterochisma melampus</i>	0	0					
Dogfishes nei	<i>Squalus spp.</i>	0	0					
Dusky shark	<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	0					0	
Broadnose sevengill shark	<i>Notorhynchus cepedianus</i>	0	0				0	
Tiger shark	<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>	0	0					

**Table 13: Species other than tuna and tuna-like for which catches are available in the IOTC NC database and average catches reported for the last five years**