

## **UK National Report Summary**

No UK-flagged vessels fished for tuna or tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean in 2004/2005 or 2005/2006.

This report summarises catches and catch rates of vessels licensed to fish in the British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos Archipelago) Fishery Conservation Management Zone (FCMZ). The 2004 / 2005 longline season ended with a total estimated catch of 730 t. To date, the total catches recorded from the 2005 / 2006 season are 793 mt. A total of 33 longline vessels fished in the BIOT FCMZ during the 2004 / 2005 fishing season for a total of 656 days, with a total reported catch of 725t, giving a catch rate of 1.10 t/day. In the 2005 / 2006 season to date a total of 24 longline vessels have fished in the BIOT FCMZ for a total of 1034 days with a catch of 793t, giving an overall longline catch rate of 0.767 t/day. This is lower than in previous years as a number of the longliners fishing are of a substantially smaller size class and have substantially lower catch rates. If these smaller longliners are excluded, the catch rate is a more typical 0.923t/day or 0.341 t/1000 hooks.

The total catch for the 2004 / 2005 season by purse seiners was 23535 tonnes. This was taken from a total of 991 days fishing, at an overall catch rate of 23.74 t/day. The species composition during the 2004 / 2005 season was once again dominated by yellowfin tuna, which made up 83.79% of the total catch (17163t), skipjack tuna 14.50% (2971t), bigeye tuna 1.70% (348t), based on catch reports and logbooks where catch composition available.