

**Meeting of the IOTC Bycatch Working Party**

**Report on the Bycatch from a Korean Observer on the  
Korean Tuna Longliner in the Indian Ocean in 2004**

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# Report on the Bycatch from a Korean Observer on the Korean Tuna Longliner in the Indian Ocean in 2004

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## Introduction

Korean government initiated observer program in 2002 for distant-water fisheries including tuna fisheries to meet the recommendations of the international fisheries organization and some relevant regional fisheries bodies and to fulfill the duties as a responsible fishing country. The purposes of observer program are to collect not only catch, effort and length compositions of target species, but other non-target species including bycatch. At its initial stage, the scope of observer program is relatively small but will be gradually expanded to cover all necessary areas of fisheries.

Two out of five trained observers were deployed on two Korean commercial fishing vessels operated in the CCAMLR Convention Area for three months from the late 2002 to the early 2003. In 2004, Two Korean observers deployed on Korean tuna longline and purse seiner in the Pacific, and one on the Korean tuna longliner in the Indian Ocean. A total of 5 Korean observers would be deployed in the Pacific and Indian Oceans in 2005 (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of Korean observers deployed on Korean fishing fleets

Year	Pacific		Indian	CCAMLR area
	Purse seine	Longline	Longline	longline
2002/2003				2
2004	1	1	1	
2005*	1	3	1	

\* to be deployed

This paper provides the summary of bycatch taken by a Korean tuna longliner operating in the Indian Ocean in 2004 ;

1. Area (Figure 1): South western area in the Indian Ocean (34° 30' - 37° 30', 19° 30' - 26° 00')
2. Duration : August 10 – September 17, 2004 (39 days)
3. Fishing vessel : 622 Dong Won (424G/T, 829HP)
4. Number of hooks used per day : 2400 hooks

## Results

A Total of 15 species of bycatch other than tunas were caught during the observation period of 39 days. No non-fish bycatch such as sea turtles and sea birds were caught. Hake was appeared as the dominant species with 35.4 %, followed by escolar with 20.8 %, oilfish with 15.6 %, blue shark with 9.9 %, and mako shark with 8.0 %, respectively (Table 2).

Table 2. List of bycatch species caught by a Korean tuna longliner during the observation period from 10 to September 17, 2004

English name	No. of fish	%
Hake	75	35.4
Escolar	44	20.8
Oilfish	33	15.6
Blue shark	21	9.9
Mako shark	17	8.0
Pelagic thresher shark	4	1.9
Seabream	4	1.9
Bigeye thresher shark	3	1.4
Pomfret	3	1.4
Opah	2	0.9
Rays	2	0.9
Ocean sunfish	1	0.5
Dolphin fish	1	0.5
Pelagic stingray	1	0.5
Other fish	1	0.5
Total (15 species)	212	100

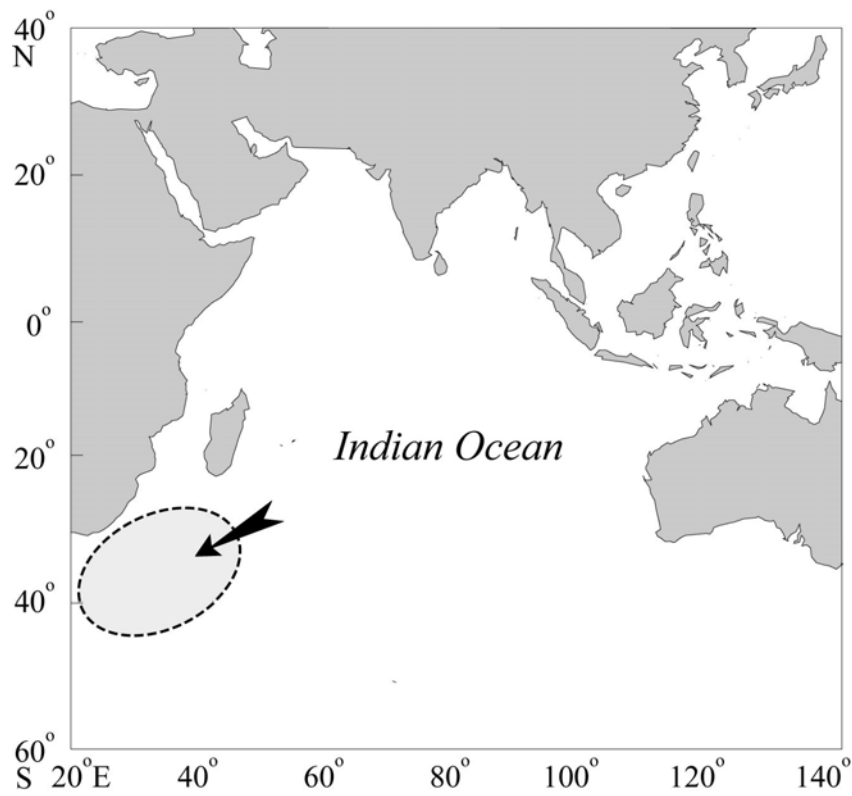


Figure 1. Monitoring area by a Korean observer on the Korean tuna longliner from August 10 to September 17, 2004.