

NATIONAL REPORT OF KENYA ON TUNA FISHERY (2007)

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (FID)

COMPILED BY STEPHEN NDEGWA

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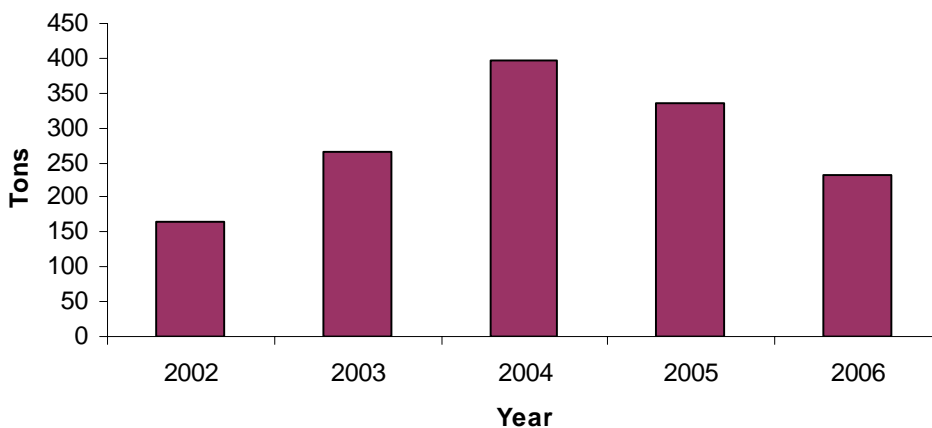
1. GENERAL FISHERY STATISTICS

Tuna fishery in Kenya is exploited by artisanal, recreational and Industrial fisheries.

- **Artisanal Fishery**

The artisanal fleet targets tuna by use of gillnets, handline and Longlines. The three gears are mostly used by the artisanal fishers who exploit up to 10 nm miles when the sea is calm but remain inshore during the South Eastern monsoon winds when the sea is rough. The artisanal tuna catches had been rising up to the year 2004 but for last two years there has been a consistent decline as seen below. The artisanal tuna catches have been aggregated for all species.

Artisanal Tuna catches in Kenya



- **Recreational Fishery**

Three species of tuna are the ones caught mostly by the sports fishermen. 70% of the professional recreational catch is in Malindi and Watamu sports fishing clubs. The two species of tuna caught mostly by the sports fishermen are the yellowfin and the skipjack.

Sports fishing Catch composition

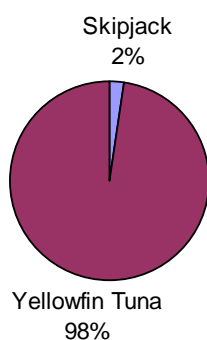


Figure 1: Data Courtesy of FID, IOTC & OFCF

- **Industrial capture**

There is only one Kenyan Registered longliner that started fishing in the middle of 2005. Although tuna is not the main catch, target species are swordfish and sharks. Below is the export by the vessel for the year 2006

Fish	Tons
Swordfish	192.10
Headed & Guttled Sharks	83.30
Headed & Guttled Tuna	28.90
Shark fins	4.70

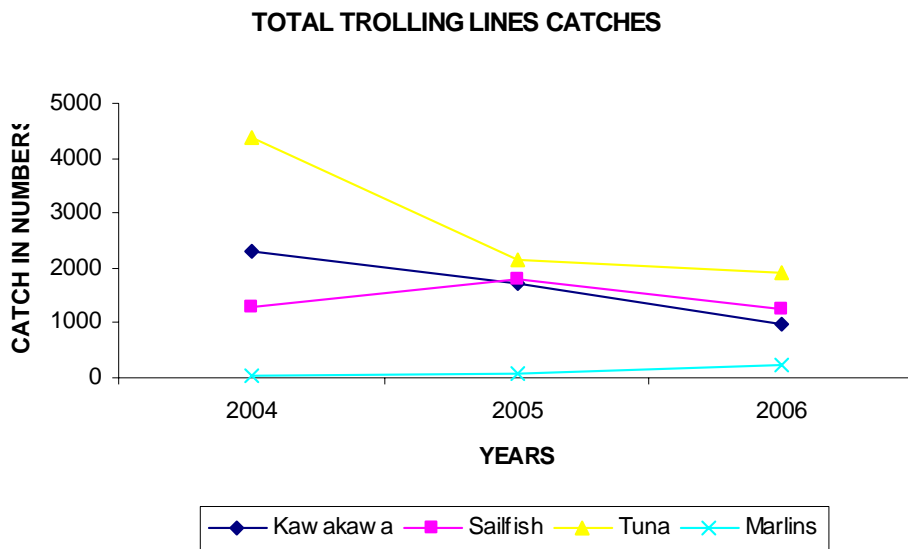
Fleet Structure

The artisanal fishery was made up of 2,368 were fishing crafts of which only 194 are motorized according to the 2006 Marine Frame survey. Most of the rest are propelled either by sail or by paddles and 8% of the fishermen fish for tuna as their main target species.

Although there is only one longliner, foreign fishing vessels have been licenced to fish in the EEZ. 33 purse seiners usually get annual licences while the longliners vary between 30 and 45 with licence validity duration ranging from monthly to annual. Although this number has been consistent over the years, the department is aware that there is a lot of illegal fishing in the waters, especially near the Kenya Somalia boarder. To reduce IUU activities in the EEZ, the Government is in the process of installing a Vessel monitoring system expected to be operational by the end of this year.

Available information on non-target species

The most reliable information is from the recreational fishery. For the past three years, the trolling catches have been as below.



The catch was from two clubs that represent 70% of the professional catch in Kenyan waters. However, there are other clubs and individuals who undertake sports fishing to amateurs. Their catch however is not factored in here.

Changes in The National Data Collection And Processing System

The Department in conjunction with IOTC and OFCF embarked on development of the recreational database. This was necessitated by availability of historical sports fishing data in Malindi and Watamu sports fishing clubs. As a component of activities under the Cooperation project for enhancing the data collection and processing systems for the Tuna resources in the Indian Ocean, the three parties implemented a project for computerization of the historical data from sport fishing clubs. The data is now undergoing cleaning before embarking on its analysis. The department has embarked on collection of historical data from other clubs and made it compulsory for the clubs to collect and provide recreational catches.

Reporting of the catches by the longliners has also been streamlined. Inspection and verification of logsheets is also undertaken on monthly basis. However, due to lack of surveillance, cases of lying can not be ruled out. With the VMS in place, the exercise is expected to be more efficient.

2. Progress in the Implementation of Recommendations of Scientific Committee

Implementation of port sampling programs

In the year 2007, the sampling program for purse seiners landings started at the port of Mombasa. This activity has been hampered by low number of purse seiners calling to port. The sampling staffs have been undergoing practical training whenever the reefers bring fish to the cannery. The program has however been affected by lack of personnel as the department has not employed new staff for the past 10 years.

Collection of Size Frequency data

Collection of length frequency for sports fishing catches at Watamu started this year. Quite an amount of data has been collected although the peak season for this fishery is towards the end of the year. However, this exercise has been affected by lack of commitment by the sports fishermen. To succeed in this the department plans to undertake exercise at Malindi sports fishing club which is nearer to the departmental offices, where our staff can undertake the exercise.

National research programs

Tagging of billfishes.

The billfish foundation has been carrying out the tagging of Sailfish and Marlins caught by the recreational fishermen. The department and Billfish foundation have been supplementing one another in the recovery of the tags of both tuna and billfishes.

Other relevant information.

Most of the research in Kenya is carried out near the shoreline due to lack of a research vessel. This means that researching on the pelagic species such as tuna is difficult. The use of an observer on board the purse seiners and longliners to collect data has been the intention of the Government, but is hampered by the boarding and disembarking logistics as the vessels are always in the deep waters.

The department hopes to embark on a sampling program for artisanal catches so as to disaggregate the catches and also get the gear composition. This exercise is expected to start in the year 2008.

Although most of the tuna caught in Kenya is not processed here, there is processing of tuna to loins by a Mombasa factory. The figure below shows the amount of Tuna landed either for transshipment or for processing into loins.

