National Report of Islamic Republic of Iran
Information on Fisheries, Research & Statistics

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1- Abstract

2- General Fishery Information

Fishing for tunas and tuna like species is one of the most important activities in the Persian Gulf & Oman Sea. 5 Iranian purse- seiners are operating in the western part of the Indian Ocean.

In 2009 a total of 5 purse- seiners and a number of Gillnetters operated in the area. Carrying capacity of most of purse seiners is higher than 1000 t. Gross tonnage. Gillnetter ranges from less than 3 t to more than 50 t.

Iranian total catch in 2009 were as follows:

Yellowfin tuna	22,596 t
Skipjack tuna	44,819 t
Longatail tuna	49,463 t
Kawakawa	17,827 t
Frigate tuna	5,178 t
Istiophoridae	7,976 t
Indo-pacific king mackerel	2,669 t
Narrow- barred Spanish mackerel	7,691 t
Total catch	**158,219 t**

Purse- seine catch in 2009 decreasing a little with respect to 2008. The purse seine catch was 3,846 t, 153,368 t Gillnetters and 1,005 t trolling.

3- Catch and Effort

Table.1.1.Annual catches by gear type and species (tons)

Gear Group	Species Group	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Purse Seine	Bigeye tuna	0	0	1	55	23	
	Longtail tuna	1491	1227	2303	2321	2694	2153
	Skipjack tuna	82	1214	3909	450	0	

	Yellowfin Tuna	11028	7271	8353	2330	2141	1693
Gill net	Frigate tuna	1460	1616	2444	5197	7164	5178
	Kawakawa	11645	11803	12596	15556	20439	17827
	Longtail tuna	18037	17300	22840	25900	31186	47071
	Skipjack tuna	53564	79436	98759	67618	42411	44819
	Yellowfin Tuna	39692	35769	32064	13615	17085	20585
	N. B.spanish mackerel	7079	5936	8339	8860	9975	7279
	I.P. king mackerel	4279	3088	4049	3747	4026	2633
	Indo pacific sailfish	12050	12587	10578	6243	5634	7976
Trolling	Longtail tuna	--	--	--	375	229	239
	Yellowfin Tuna	--	532	305	338	256	318
	I. P.king mackerel	--	228	440	535	317	412
	N. B.spanish mackerel	--	--	--	35	52	36

Table.1.2.Fishing effort (days) by gear type

Gear	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Purse seine				728	675
Gill net	807438	847828	905260	880768	852,396
Trolling	22454	25038	56374	54627	54,102

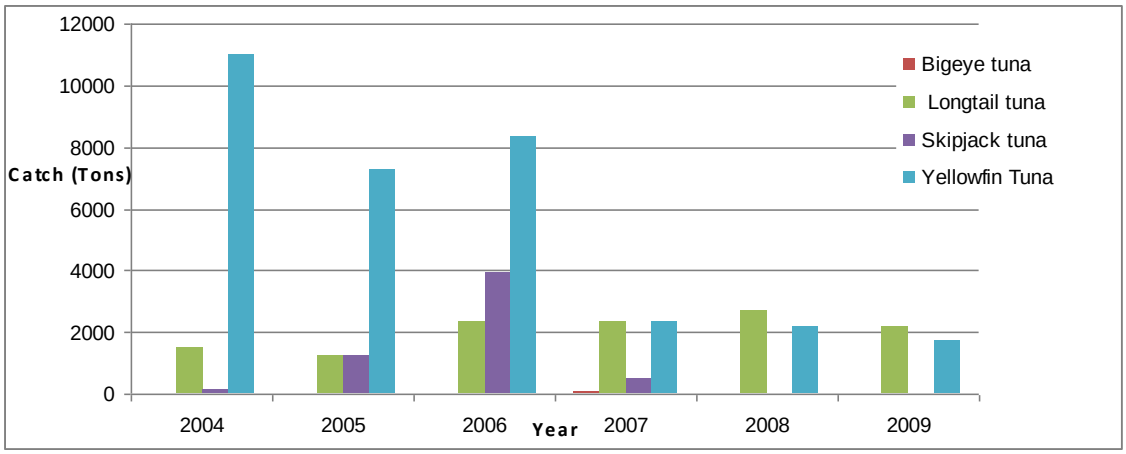

Figure 1.1.Purse seine annual catch, by species

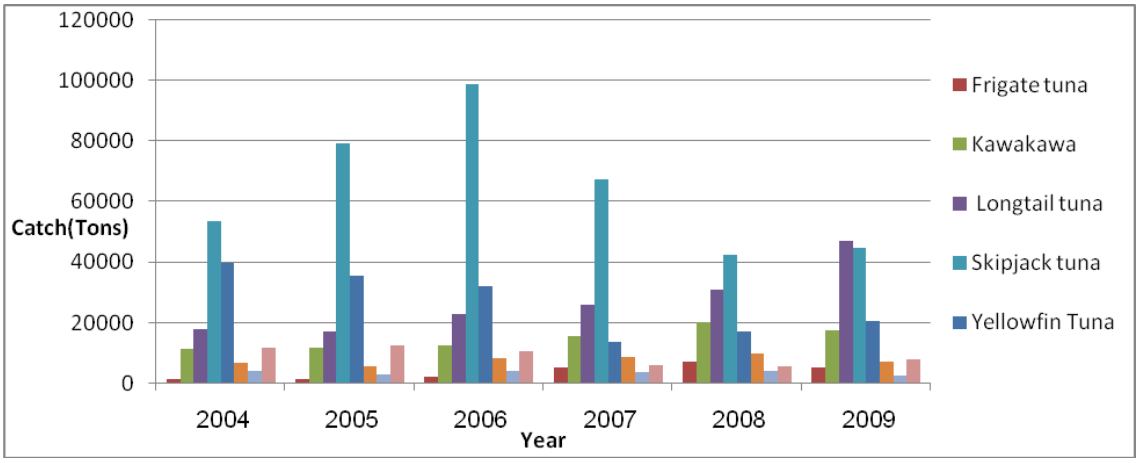

Figure 1.2.Gill net annual catch, by species

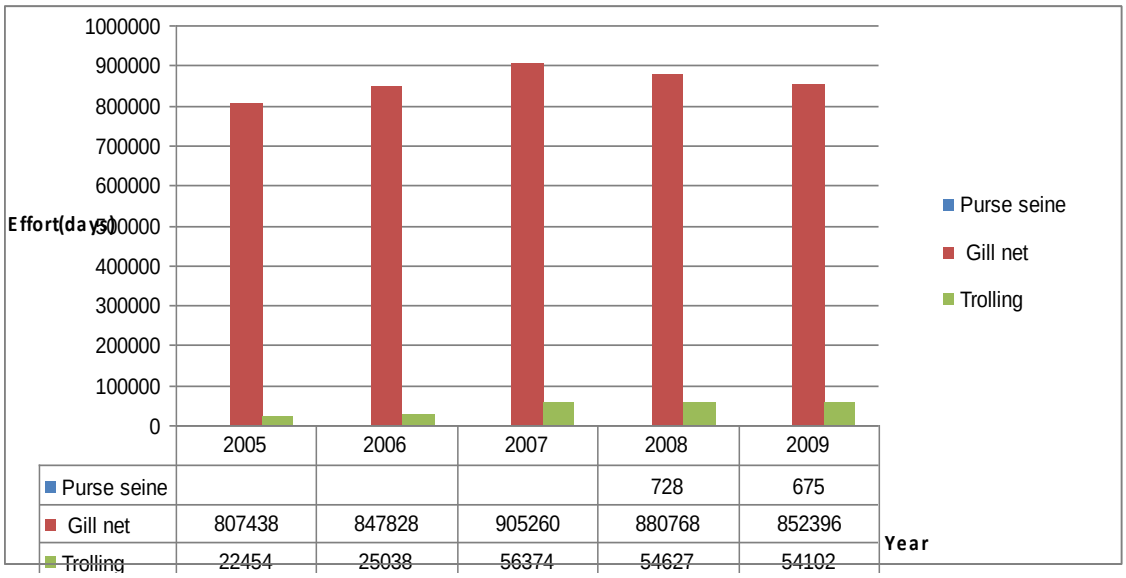

Figure 1.3.Fishing effort by gear (days)

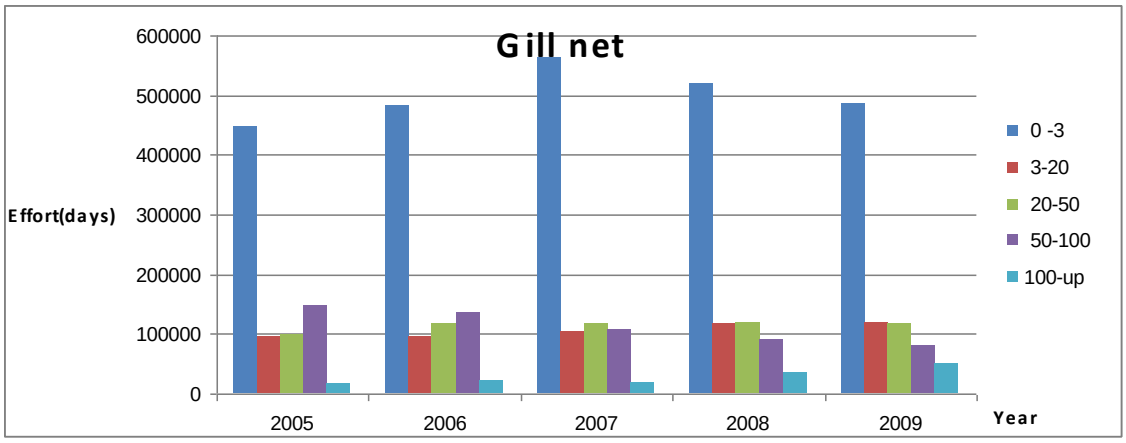

Figure 1.4.Fishing effort by different vessel categories (days)

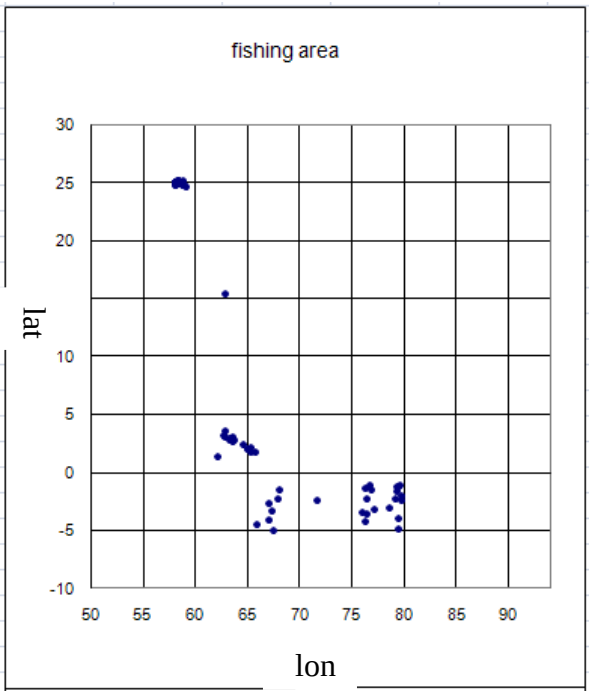

Figure 2-1.Map of distribution of purse seiner fishing effort (Havour 1) -2009

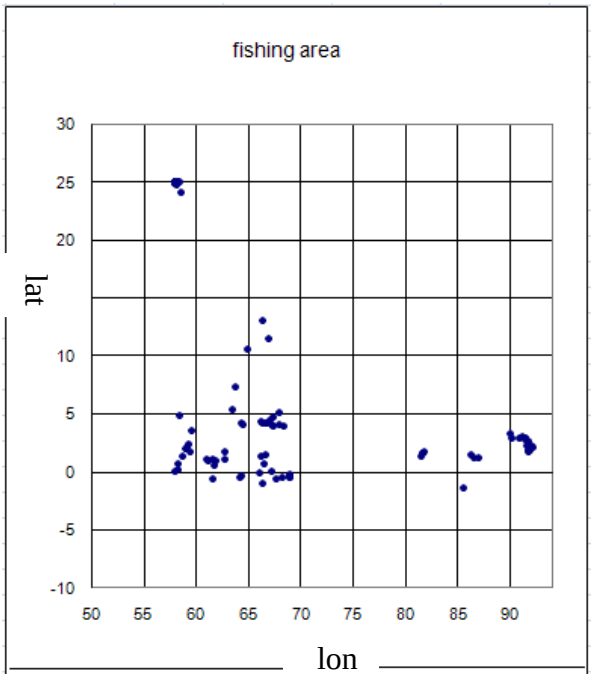

Figure 2-2.Map of distribution of purse seiner fishing effort (Havour 2

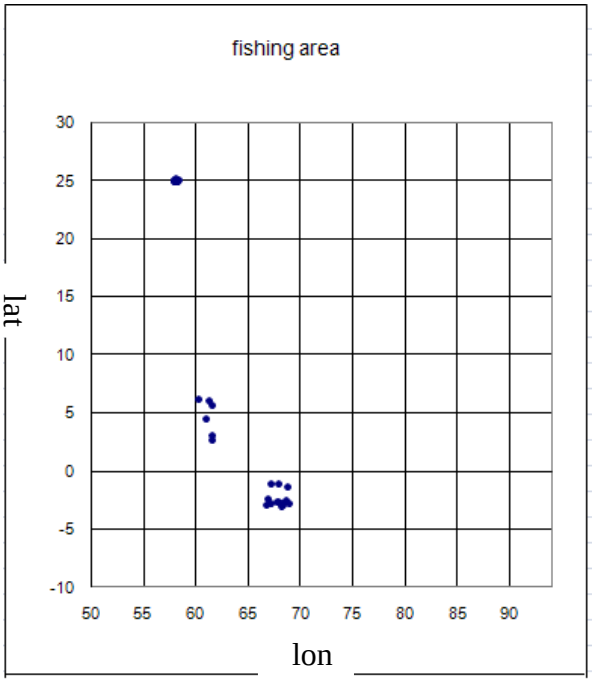

Figure 2-3.Map of distribution of purse seiner fishing effort (Havour 3), 2009

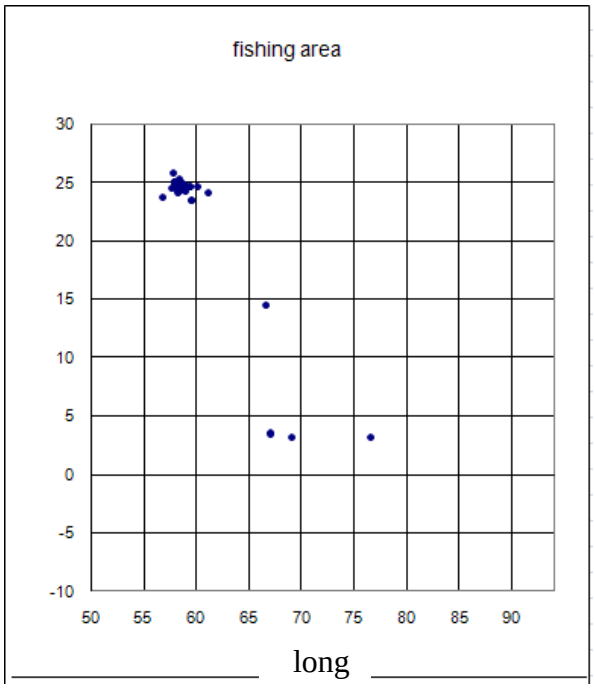

Figure 2-4.Map of distribution of purse seiner fishing effort (Parsian shila), 2009

4- Fleet structure

Table 2: Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence, by gear type and size, for the history of the fleet (2005-2009)

GEAR	Gross tonnage	No. vessels by year				
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Purse seine	1000-2000	6	7	7	7	6
Gill net	0-3	4101	4125	3966	3974	3,828
	3-20	753	733	731	761	753
	20-50	726	715	725	730	667
	50-100	895	805	794	669	534
	100-up	101	130	147	208	278
Trolling		206	214	397	417	426

5- Implementation of Scientific Committee Recommendations

No data are available

6- Ecosystem and Bycatch Issues

No data are available

7- National Data Collection and Processing Systems

a- logbooks will be recorded just for our purse seiners and the data will be checked by the catches unloaded by those vessels at port of discharge.

b- Vessel monitoring system (VMS):

In order to monitoring and control of Iranian fishing vessels, IFO have been developed a plan during past years. Based on this plan IFO is going to implement the system during 2011-2012.

In order to Implement VMS system, IFO is going to equip all the vessels by the online and offline vessel monitoring system. IFO has been equipped 50 vessels by on line VMS system which 10 of them belongs to tuna vessels. Also at this time we equipped 300 vessels by on line system which all of them are active in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea.

Based on the plan during 2011 and 2012 IFO are going to equip all the industrial fishing vessels by online system (satellite) and all the artisanal fishing vessels and boats by off line system. According to the plan some other vessels the purse seiners who are active in the Indian Ocean should be equipped by on line system.

c- Vessel observer's activities:

In order to implement a responsible fishing activities and based on different fishing activities, IFO have had a vessel monitoring system which one of the most important activities is on board observation.

In this way, in addition to in satiation on line devices on Industrial vessels, IFO has had on board observation plan randomly.

During past four years IFO has had 500 days observation on board in average per year. Base on our system, observer has a clear responsibility, which mostly is related with composition and amount of catch, CPUE, place and date of catch, and etc.

d- Port sampling carried out for small-scale fisheries. In this way, 10 % of fishing vessels will be sampled and the sample data will be raised to all active fishing vessels and total catches will be maintained by vessel category, gear type

and species composition, landing place and month. All of the operations will be fulfilled by Iran fish statistic software which is called AMAR software.

8- Research Program

Research activities according to tunas & tuna like species are carried out in every five years program. The latest one was started from 2005 and final report was written in Persian in 2009. Two papers were also written in English. The results contained:

1- to estimate lm 50% of YFT, LOT , SKJ and *scoberomorus commerson*
2- to estimate population dynamic parameters (K, L ,M, F, Z) by species
3- to determine Gut content by species
4- to estimate Gonadosomatic index
5- to estimate sex ratio by species
6- to estimate length weight relationship

Another research activity was included oceanographic surveys by research vessel (Ferdows 1) in 2007 & 2009 in two seasons (spring & autumn) in the Oman Sea.

The results contained:

1- To determine temperature, salinity, density, turbidity, oxygen by CTD.
2- Distribution & biomass of macrobenthoses.