

Oversea Thai Tuna Fishery of Thailand during 2008-2009

Chanthip Bunluedaj and Pattira Lirdwitayaprasit

Deep Sea Fishery Technology Research and Development Institute
Department of Fishery, Paholyothin road Bangkok 10900, THAILAND

Summary

In 2008 and 2009, oversea Thai tuna fishery operated in the Indian Ocean was composed of 2 tuna longliners and 4 tuna purse seiners. Data from their logbooks displayed important information of catch, fishing operation and effort.

Tuna longliners were conducted in the western Indian Ocean. The total catch in 2008 was 265.57 tons with 412 days of fishing effort and CPUE was 16.71 number/1,000 hooks. In 2009, the annual catch was 295.33 tons obtained from 477 days of fishing effort. The CPUE was 14.67 number/1,000 hooks. The main composition of catch in 2008 was yellowfin tuna contrary to that in 2009 which bigeye tuna was mostly caught.

The main fishing ground of tuna purse seiners was the western Indian Ocean. Skipjack tuna occupied the highest percentage of catch composition. An annual catch in 2008 was 9,608 tons taken from 388 hauls and CPUE was 24.76 tons/hauls. In 2009, the fishing effort was 436 hauls resulted in 11,084 tons of total catch and 25.42 tons/haul of CPUE.

Oversea Thai Tuna Longliners

Two tuna longliners were operated in the western Indian Ocean (east coast and southeast of Mauritius during January to December 2008 and 2009. (Figure 1).

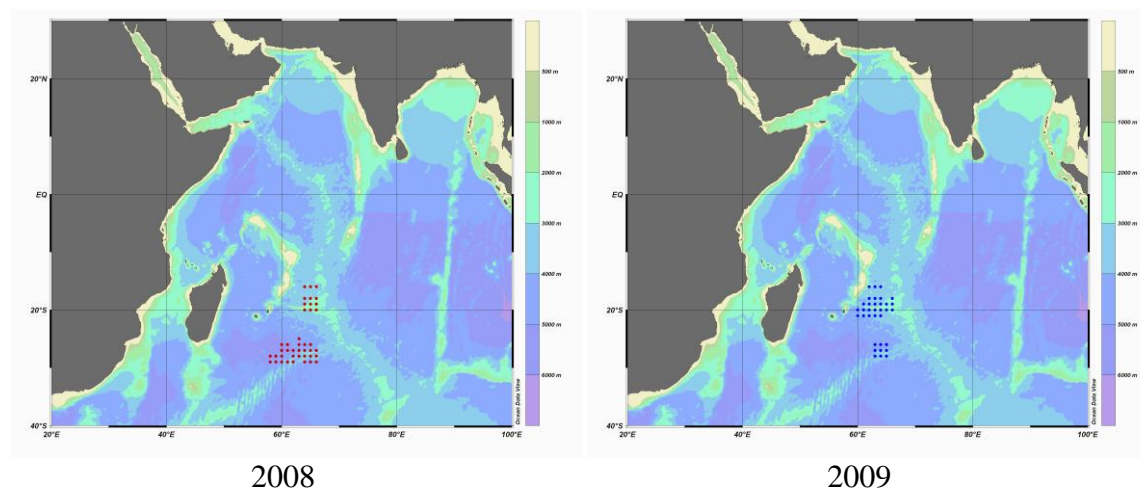


Figure 1 Fishing ground of Thai tuna longliners in 2008 and 2009

An annual catch in 2008 was 265.57 tons which was composed of 40.39% yellowfin tuna, 20.00% bigeye tuna, 17.39% swordfish, 15.64% albacore tuna and 6.57% others (figure 2). The fishing effort was 412 days and CPUE was 16.71 number/1,000 hooks. The average catch rate of yellowfin tuna was highest at 6.75 number/1,000 hooks while bigeye tuna, swordfish, albacore were 3.34, 2.91 and 2.61 number/1,000 hooks respectively. (figure 3)

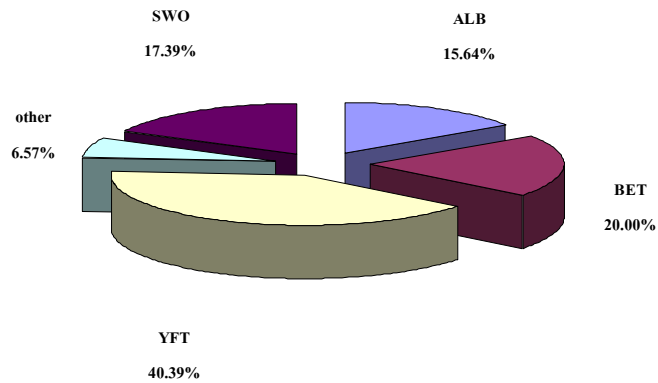


Figure 2 Catch composition from Thai tuna longliners in 2008

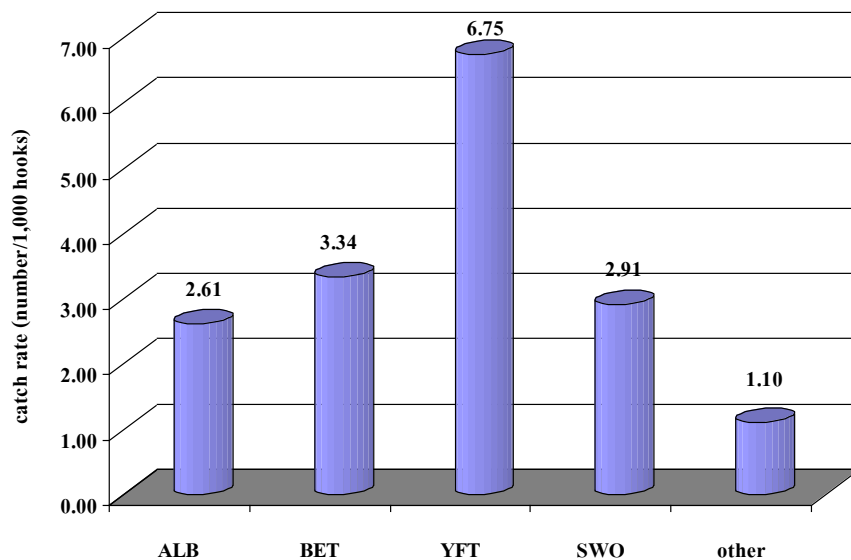


Figure 3 Catch rate from Thai tuna longliners in 2008

In 2009, the catch composition was contrary to that in 2008. Bigeye tuna was mostly caught in this year. The percentage composition of bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, albacore tuna and swordfish were 41.41, 28.84, 16.20 and 13.56% respectively (figure 4). The fishing effort was 477 days and CPUE was 14.67 number/1,000 hooks. The average catch rate of this year revealed that bigeye tuna was caught with highest catch rate of 6.07 number/1,000 hooks when the catch rate of yellowfin tuna, albacore and swordfish were 4.23, 2.38 and 1.99 number/1,000 hooks respectively (figure 5).

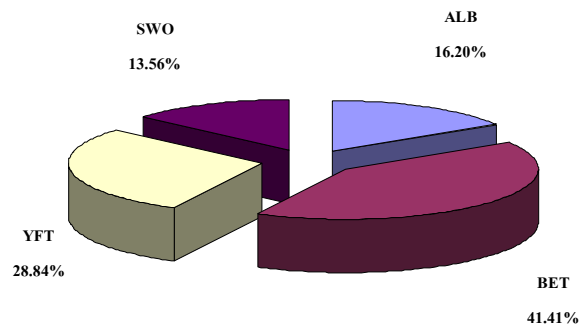


Figure 4 Catch composition from Thai tuna longliners in 2009

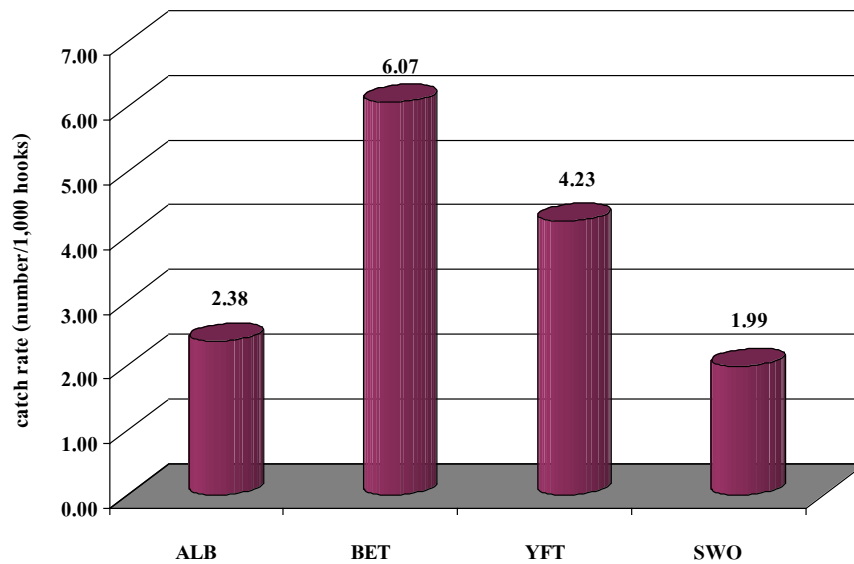


Figure 5 Catch rate from Thai tuna longliners in 2009

Oversea Thai Tuna Purse Seiners

In 2008-2009, a total of four Thai tuna purse seiners were operated in the Indian Ocean. The fishing ground was mainly in the western Indian Ocean (west cost of Maldives and Chagos Archipelagos, western-eastern of Seychelles, eastern of Somalia and eastern of Kenya) (figure 6).

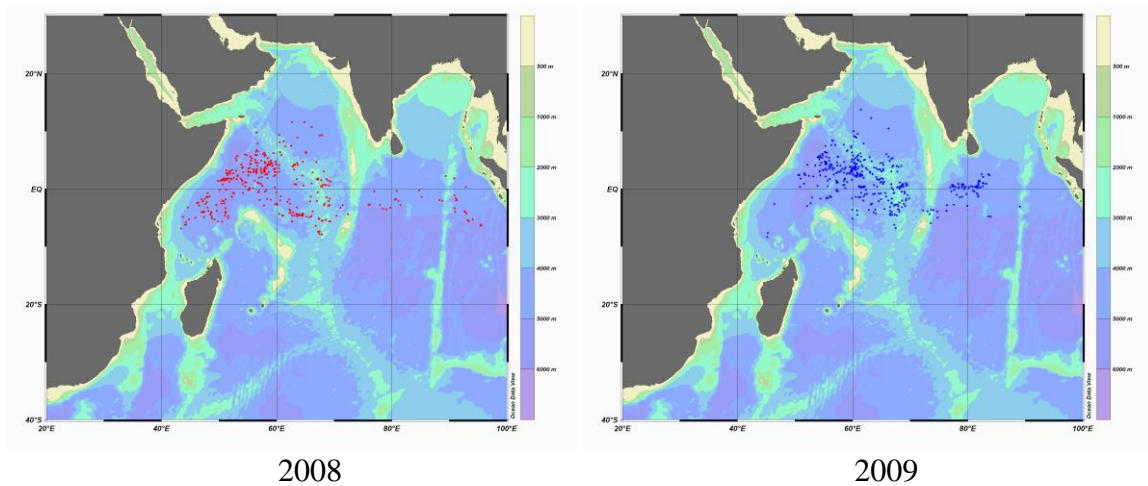
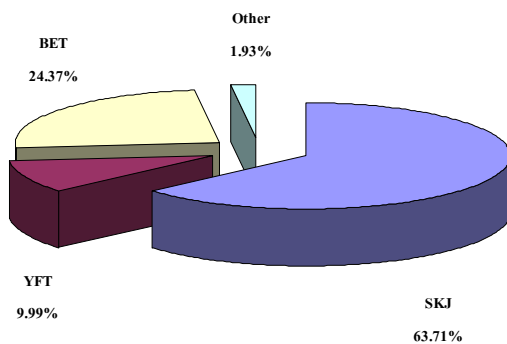
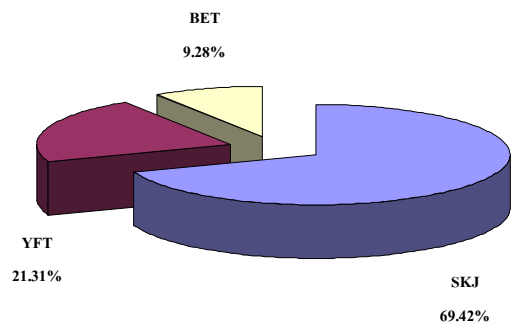


Figure 6 Fishing ground of Thai tuna longliners in 2008 and 2009

In 2008, the total catch from tuna purse seiners was 9,608 tons taken from 388 hauls and CPUE was 24.76 tons/haul. The main fishing ground was the western Indian Ocean. The total catch obtained from this area was 9,317 tons, while the effort was 362 hauls and the CPUE was 25.74 tons/haul. Skipjack tuna occupied the highest composition of catch at 63.71%, followed by bigeye tuna (24.37%) while yellowfin tuna and bonito were caught in small number. There were 26 hauls operated in the eastern Indian Ocean which resulted in 291 tons of catch. The CPUE was 11.19 tons/haul. The percentage of catch composition of skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna were 69.42%, 21.31% and 9.28% respectively (figures 7 and 8).



western Indian Ocean, 2008



eastern Indian Ocean, 2008

Figure 7 Catch composition by Thai tuna purse seiners in 2008

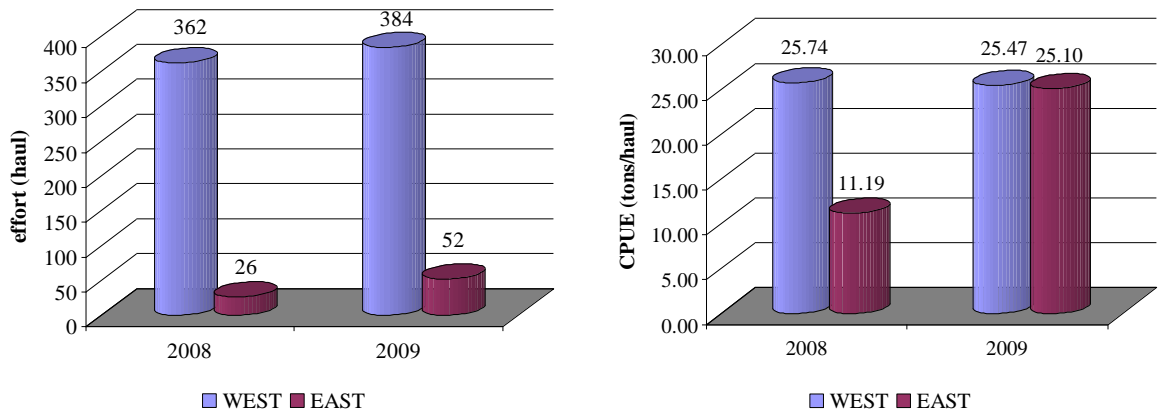


Figure 8 Fishing effort and CPUE by Thai tuna pruse seiners in the western and eastern Indian Ocean in 2008 and 2009

The total catch from tuna purse seiners in 2009 was 11,084 tons with 436 hauls of fishing effort and the CPUE was 25.42 tons/haul. Like the operations in 2008, the western Indian Ocean was the main fishing ground where 384 hauls were conducted. The total catch of this area was 9,779 tons. The CPUE was 25.47 tons/haul. Fifty-two hauls were operated in the eastern Indian Ocean that resulted in 1,305 tons of total catch and 25.10 tons/haul of CPUE. The main composition of catch was skipjack tuna (82.76%) while bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna were 11.72% and 5.52% in catch composition respectively (figure 8 and 9).

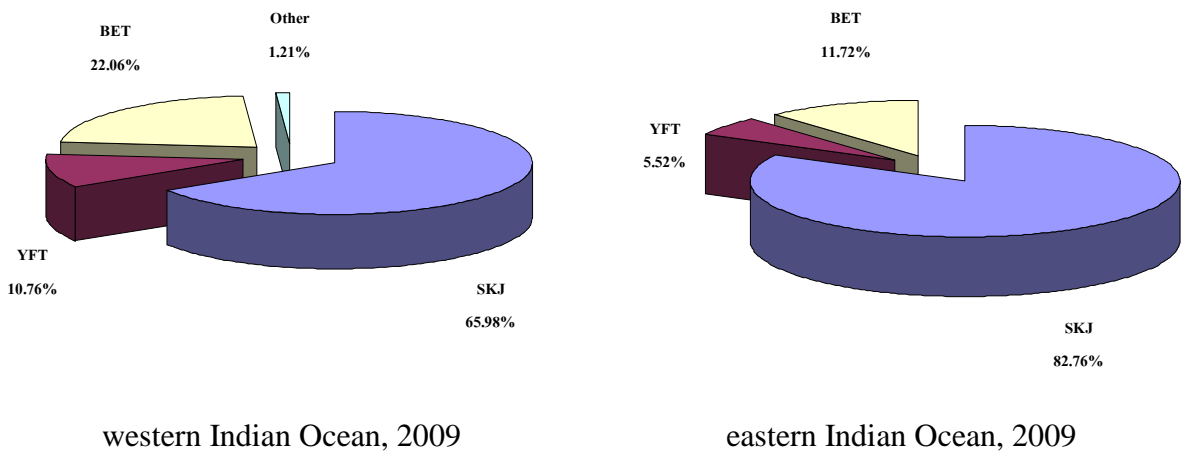


Figure 9 Catch composition by Thai tuna pruse seiners in 2009