



# **A review on Billfish fishery resources in Sri Lanka**

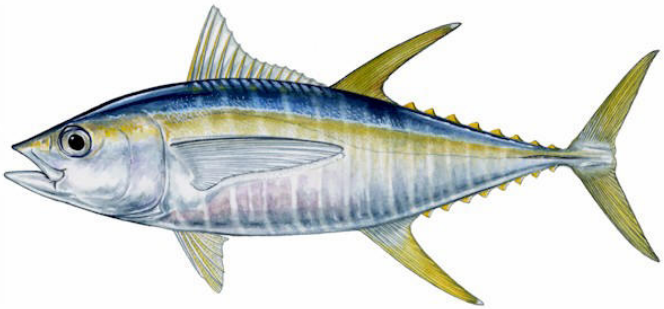
**Sisira Haputhantri**

**Rekha Maldeniya**

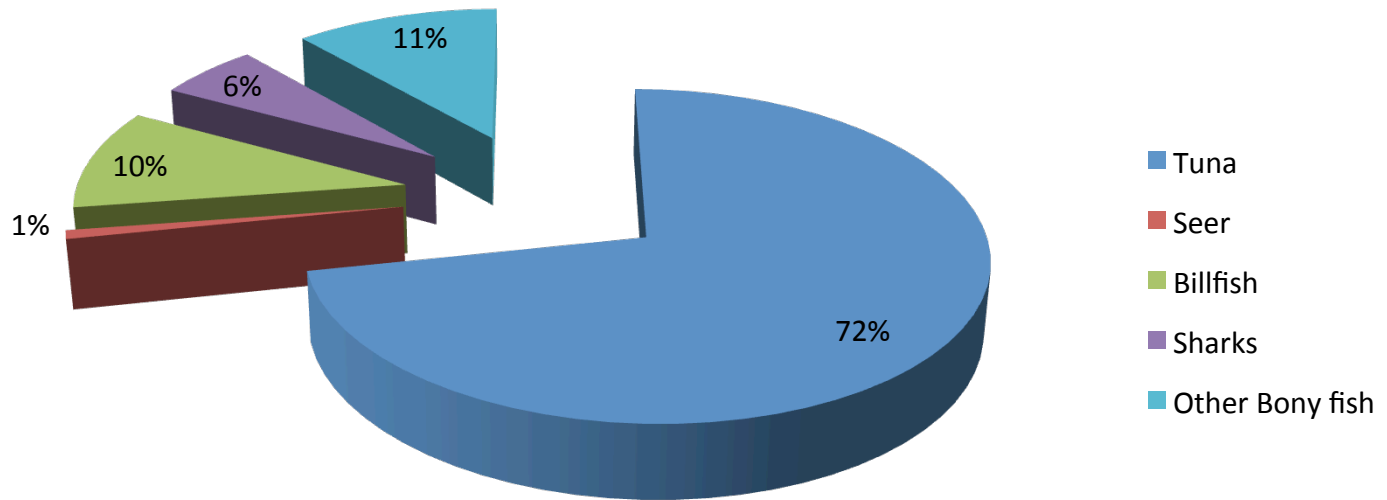
**Marine Biological Resources Division,  
National Aquatic Resources Research and Development  
Agency (NARA),  
Colombo 15,  
Sri Lanka**

# Large pelagic fishery

- Large pelagic fishery plays an important role to the fisheries sector as it contributes more than 35% of the total fish production
- Tuna and tuna-like species



# Relative contribution



# Billfish

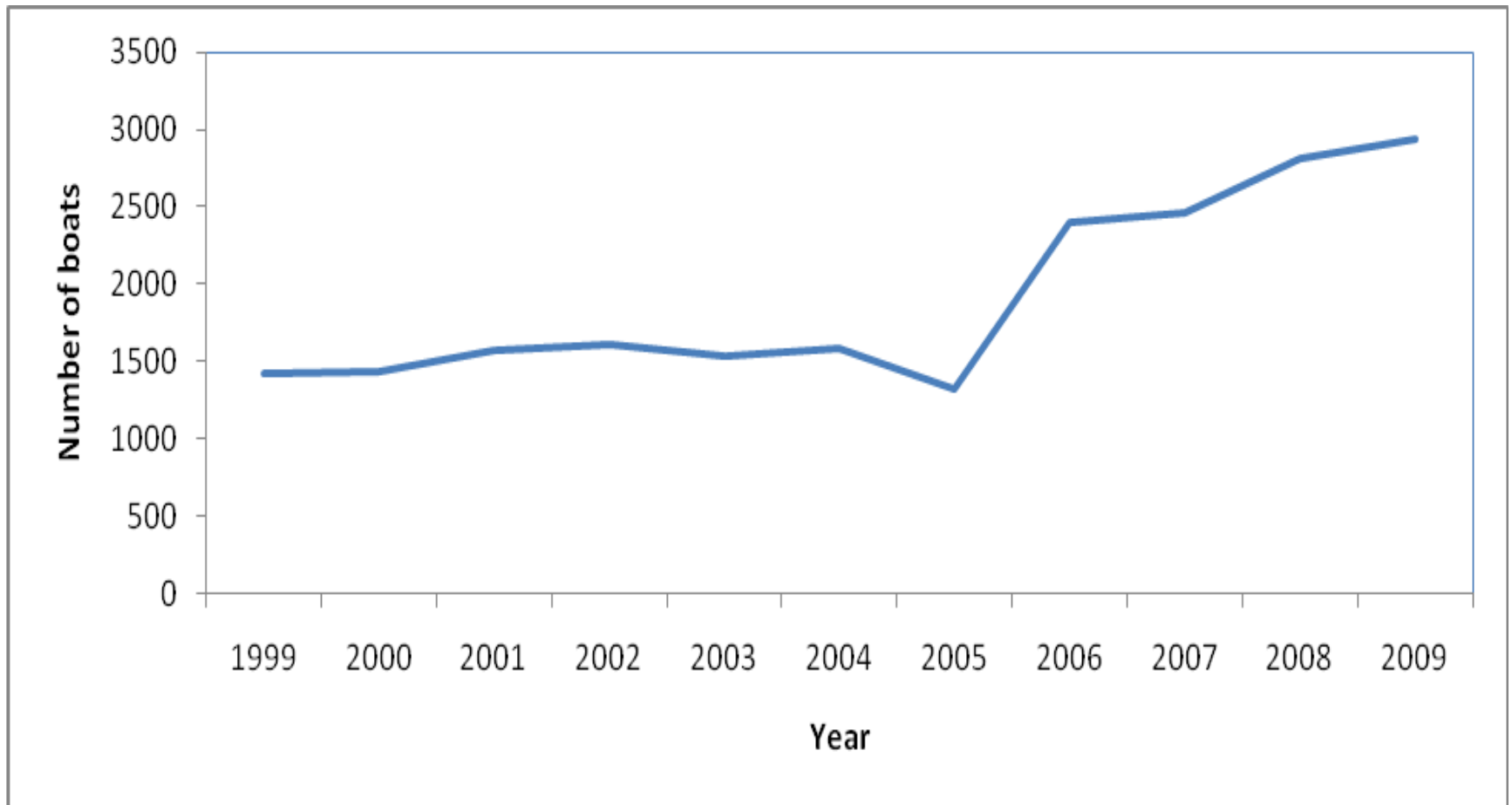
- Three species of marlins
  - Indo-Pacific Blue Marlin (*Makaira mazara*)
  - Black Marlin (*Makaira indica*)
  - Striped Marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*)
- Indo-Pacific Sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*)
- Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)



# Billfish fish production

- Third largest group of fish reported in large pelagic fish production
- Billfish production 12 440 Mt (2010)
- Billfish are not targeted
- They are very common in offshore gillnet and longline catches
- Around 65% of the total catch come from offshore fishing vessels

# Operating multiday fishing crafts in Sri Lanka (1999 – 2009)



# Types of multiday fishing vessels operate for tuna and tuna like species



# Fresh-tuna long liners



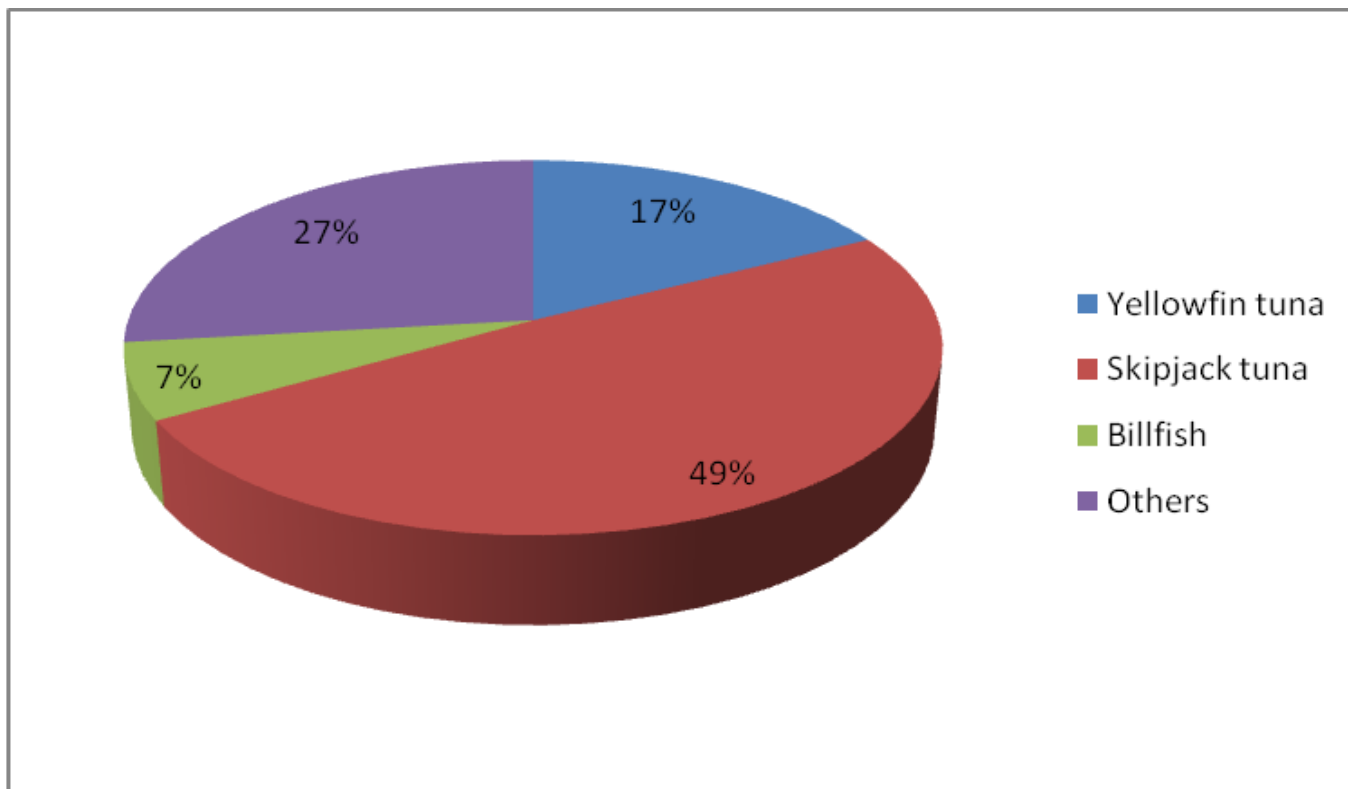
Inboard engine, fish storage facility, freezing facility, gear hauler, GPS, echo-sounder/fish finder, radio communication



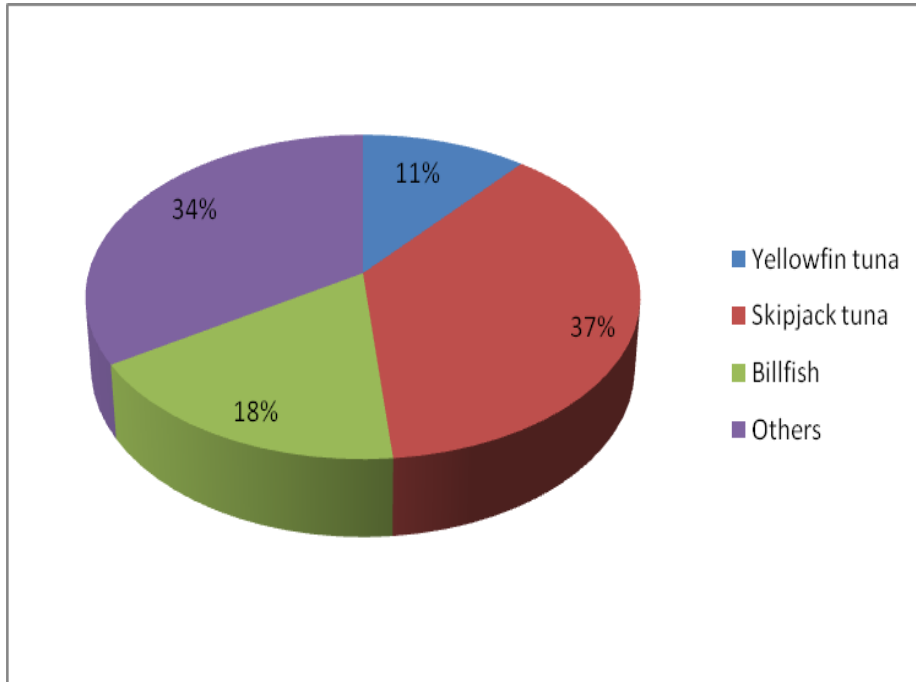
# Fishing gear

(Gillnet , longline and gillnet-longline combination)

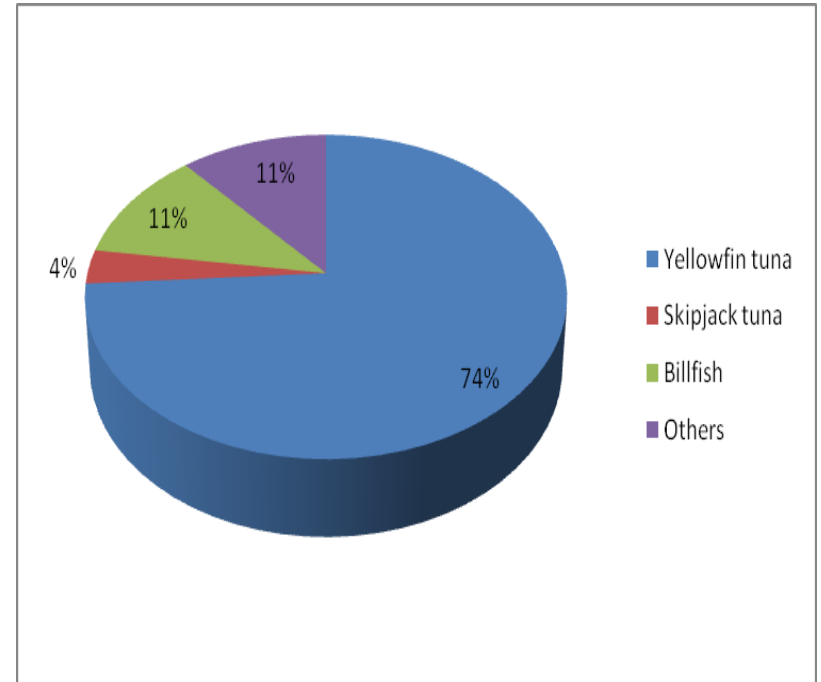
(a) Gillnet



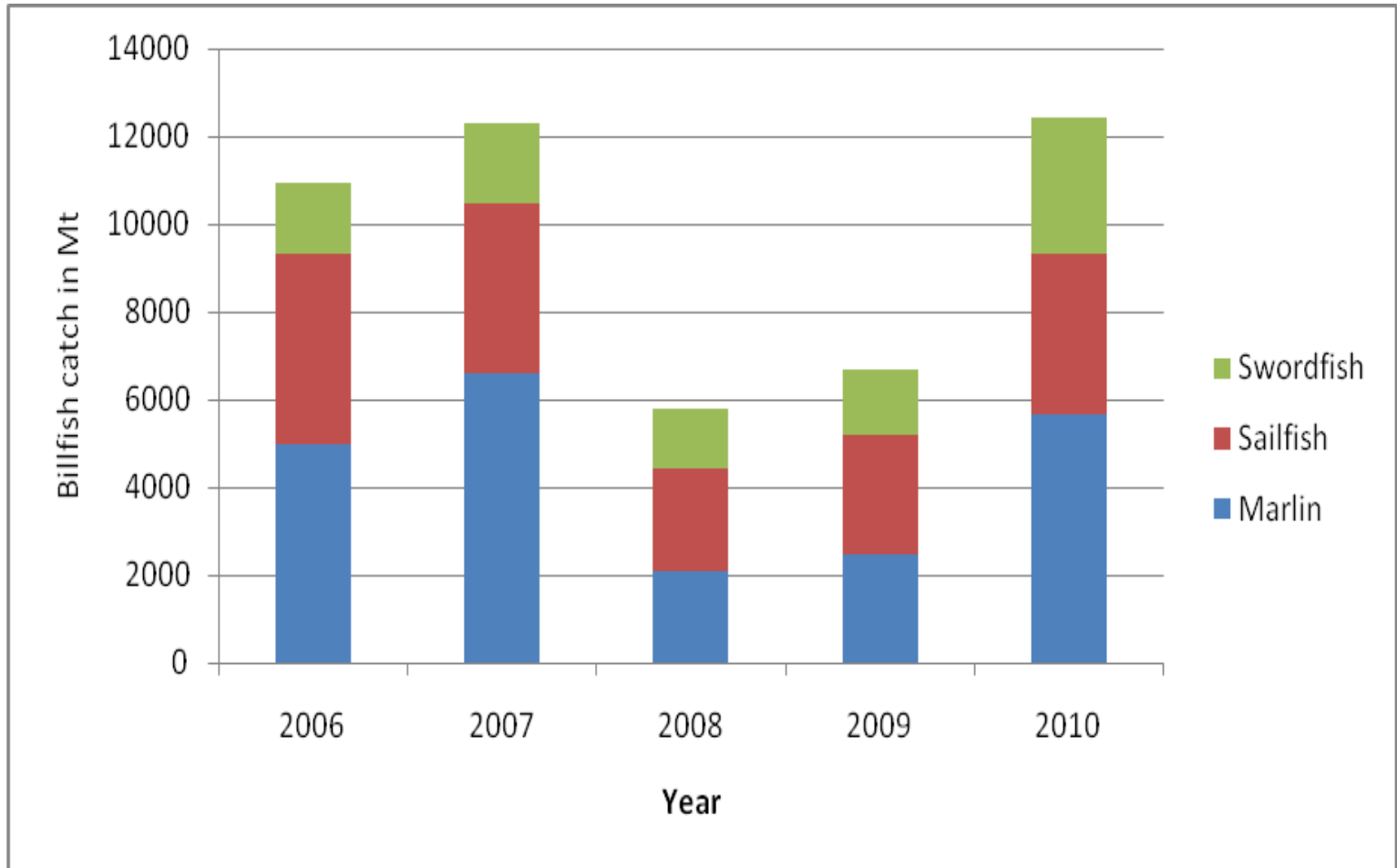
(b) Gillnet/longline



(c) Longline



# Billfish catch: 2006 -2010



# Conclusion

- Billfish are not targeted fish either in coastal or offshore fisheries in Sri Lanka
- Relative contribution of billfish to the tuna fishery is significant
- Play an important role as an export commodity too
- Gillnet/longline gear combination is important to catch billfish



**THANK YOU**