



SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY

SEYCHELLES TUNA BULLETIN

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Prepared By SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY

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The Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) was incorporated in August 1984 by the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act. This body was formed in view of the need to develop the fishing industry to its fullest potential. It is a parastatal organization with autonomous legal and financial status, supervised by a board of directors appointed by the President.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for policy directives in fisheries related matters, and SFA is the executive arm of the government in all fisheries activities. Responsibilities include: assessment and management of the fishery resources, assist in conducting negotiations with foreign fishing fleets, coordination and support of fishing cooperatives and owner/operators, management of the fishing port, development of gear technology, and coordination of manpower training in the fishery sector. SFA is organized essentially into the Resource Management Division, the Research Division and the Fishing Port Division.

This volume on catch statistics of purse seiners and longliners fishing tuna in the Western Indian Ocean was compiled by the Research and Resource Management Divisions.



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SUMMARY: OCTOBER - DECEMBER

The number of purse seiners active in the western Indian Ocean averaged 41 during the fourth quarter compared to 49 vessels during the same period last year. Fishing activity was high during the first half of the year with a record of 54 vessels present in February and March.

The overall fishing results for the year were not as good as those previously recorded in the last three years. Catch rates averaged 16MT/day compared to 18MT/day in 1989 and 22MT/day in 1988, attaining a similar level to results of 1986. This was due to poor fishing conditions during January to May causing several vessels to leave the Indian Ocean in June. However this situation changed as catch rates improved during the second half of the year, with exceptionally high yellowfin catches for this period. The overall catches for the year showed increased proportions of yellowfin at 46% with a corresponding decline in skipjack (52%) compared to 31% and 67% respectively in 1989.

The cumulative catch by purse seiners in the Western Indian Ocean based on logbooks received by 31st December, now stands at 193,000 MT for 1990. It is expected that the annual catch for 1990 will almost reach the level of 1989, when 227,000 MT were recorded.

During 1990 fishing agreements with the European Community and the Soviet Fishing Company (SOVRYFLOT) were renewed for a two year period. Seven additional purse-seiners (six Spanish, one French) were operating under private licenses.

RESUME : OCTOBRE - DECEMBRE.

Le nombre moyen de senneurs en pêche dans l'océan Indien occidental était de 41 durant le quatrième trimestre au lieu de 49 pour la même période de l'année précédente. La pêcherie a été particulièrement active au cours du premier semestre atteignant même le niveau record de 54 navires en février et en mars.

Les rendements des pêches sur l'ensemble de l'année n'ont pas été aussi élevés que ceux des trois années précédentes. Ces rendements moyens s'établissent à 16 MT/jour contre 18 MT/jour en 1989 et 22 MT/jour en 1988, soit à un niveau comparable à celui de 1986. Ceci est le résultat des mauvaises pêches réalisées de janvier à mai, ce qui a d'ailleurs entraîné le départ de plusieurs navires de l'océan Indien en juin. Toutefois, au cours de la deuxième partie de l'année, la situation s'améliora avec des captures d'albacores particulièrement élevées pour cette période. Les prises totales de l'année laissent apparaître une proportion plus élevée d'albacore soit 46 % avec une diminution correspondante du listao (52 %) contre respectivement 31 % et 67 % en 1989.

En 1990, selon les données des fiches de pêche reçues au 31 décembre, les prises cumulées des senneurs de l'océan Indien occidental atteignent 193.000 MT. On s'attend à ce que les prises totales annuelles pour 1990 s'établissent à un niveau proche de celui atteint en 1989 quand 227.000 MT furent enregistrées.

En 1990, les accords de pêche avec la Communauté Européenne et la compagnie de pêche soviétique (SOVRYLOT) ont été renouvelés pour une période de deux ans. Sept senneurs supplémentaires (six espagnols, un français) ont opéré sous licences privées.

RESUMEN: OCTUBRE - DICIEMBRE

La media de cerqueros operativos al Oeste del Oceano Indico fue de 41 a lo largo del cuarto trimestre, comparado con los 49 presentes durante el mismo periodo del ano pasado. La actividad pesquera fue incrementandose durante la primera mitad del ano, alcanzando el record de 54 buques presentes en los meses de Febrero y Marzo.

La media de cuota de captura total para el ano no ha resultado tan positiva como la obtenida para los ultimos tres. Esta, es de 16MT/dia y contrasta con las 18TM/dia de 1989, las 22TM/dia de 1988 y resultados parecidos para 1986. La causa de esta disminucion viene producida por los pobres resultados registrados desde Enero a Mayo, que forzaron, a que varios buques abandonaran el caladero en Junio. Sin embargo, esta situacion cambio, al hacerlo tambien las medias de captura en la segunda mitad del ano, registrandose apresamientos excepcionalmente elevados de rabil en este intervalo. Los resultados finales muestran un incremento en las proporciones de rabil, 46%, con el consiguiente descenso en las de listado; 52%, si las comparamos con el 31% y 67% respectivamente del ano pasado.

La cantidad total de captura registrada hasta ahora, desde el comienzo del ano, y basandonos en la informacion aportada por los cuadernos de pesca entregados desde el 31 de Diciembre, alcanza las 193,000 MT. Se habia esperado que las cantidades totales de captura para 1990, se encontraran al mismo nivel que las obtenidas durante 1989, cuando se registraron 227,000 MT.

Durante 1990 los acuerdos de pesca con la Comunidad Economica Europea y la Compania de Pesca Sovietica (SOVRYFLOT) fueron renovados para un periodo de dos anos. Siete pesqueros mas (seis espanoles y uno frances) estan operando bajo licencias privadas.

PURSE SKINERS

Table 1 shows monthly catch and effort statistics from January 1989 to December 1990 for all purse seiners combined; Table 2 shows statistics for the French fleet, and Table 3 presents statistics for Spanish vessels.

Total catch for each trip has been taken from records of transshipment whenever complete unloading occurred in the Seychelles; otherwise total catch has been estimated from logbooks containing daily catch statistics. The species composition has been estimated from logbooks. Since transshipment records and vessel logbooks both give unreliable estimates for the lesser-caught species, bigeye and albacore, these species are not reported separately, but are included in estimates of the total catch. Catches have been estimated in wet weight rather than dry weight.

In the statistical tables "vessels covered" refer to those vessels for which a logbook has been received containing at least one day fishing during the month; "days fished" refer to days spent at sea, less days drifting due to mechanical breakdown or other work stoppages; days spent drifting by flotsam while awaiting a set are included in "days fished". Historical data are periodically revised; statistics in the present volume supersede those published previously.

Catch rates which were unusually low during January to May recovered in the second half of the year. December was the best fishing month (23MT/day) with excellent yellowfin catches (83% of the total catch) taken to the East of the Seychelles EEZ.

The mean catch of yellowfin for the second half of 1990 (June to December) was above average resulting in a good overall catch for the year. Yellowfin catches at the beginning of the year were however unusually low, when as usual during this period purse seiners fished to the East of Seychelles. The skipjack season in the Mozambique Channel (April - May) also gave disappointing results.

The Spanish fleet which in the previous year targeted skipjack (69% skipjack and 29% yellowfin) showed higher proportions of yellowfin in their catch this year (55% skipjack, 44% yellowfin). These results were rather similar to those of the French fleet which had a catch composition of 53% yellowfin and 45% skipjack. This would indicate a change in fishing pattern by the Spanish fleet which were increasingly employing drifting FAD's (Fish Aggregating Devices). The catch composition for the Japanese seiners which fish almost exclusively on drifting FAD's showed high proportion of skipjack (73%) as expected.

The fishing pattern was somewhat similar to the norm set in previous years. The fleet which was concentrated to the East of the Seychelles EEZ during January/February started to shift southward to the Mozambique Channel in March. In May some vessels moved northwards and by June they were mostly active to the north west of the EEZ, moving eastward in October.

Transshipment statistics are presented in Table 4. The data are taken from receipts of the stevedoring company (which are countersigned by representatives of the purse seiners and carrier vessels). Since the date of unloading is used, rather than the date fish were caught, the monthly totals in Table 4 will differ from those of Table 1.

The total catch transhipped by purse seiners in Port Victoria in 1990 amounted to 165,700 MT representing a drop of 22% compared to last year. This decline in transshipment activity was due to vessels transshipping mostly in Antsiranana from April to May and reduced fishing success during the period up to May. A few vessels also transhipped outside Victoria in December. The transhipped catch was comprised of 47% yellowfin and 52% skipjack and small quantities of bigeye and albacore.

During the fourth quarter the number of vessels active varied from 44 to 46, compared to 47 to 50 during the same period last year. During this period two French, one Spanish, three Soviets and one Japanese seiner left the region, whereas six seiners (one Spanish, three Soviets and two Japanese) re-joined the fishery. In December 44 vessels were in operation, comprising of 21 Spanish, 14 French, 2 Mauritian, 1 Panamanian, 3 Soviets and 3 Japanese.

From logbooks received up to 31st December 1990 only one vessel caught over 8,000 tonnes of tuna, whereas three vessels caught over 6,000 tonnes and another ten vessels over 5,000 tonnes.

LONGLINERS

Table 7 gives the number of longliners licensed to fish in the Seychelles EEZ and transshipment activity from 1989 to 1990. In this volume, transshipment statistics for longliners have been revised with statistics gathered by the port authorities covering each longliner calling in the Seychelles. In the table, the row labelled "Total" refers to the number of vessel-months licensed and the number of calls for the year, whereas the row labelled "Vessels" refers to the number of vessels licensed or calling.

Seychelles Fishing Authority issues licenses to longliners on a monthly basis. Only South Korean longliners were licensed prior to 1987; Japanese longliners which though regularly transhipped in the Seychelles while in transit between Japan and the southern Indian Ocean, only began fishing operations in 1987. Since then, the number of licensed Japanese longliners increased significantly, primarily as a result of an Agreement signed between Seychelles and Japanese Fishing Companies. Taiwanese longliners occasionally tranship in Port Victoria and for the first time this year 16 Taiwanese vessels were licensed.

Licensing activity by longliners declined during 1990, totalling 248 vessel-months (125 individual vessels) compared to 273 vessels-months (128 individual vessels) in 1989. Licenses were issued to Korean (67%), Japanese (25%) Taiwanese (8%) and Mauritian (1%) longliners.

The total transshipment for longliners in 1990 (34 Korean, six Japanese and one Taiwanese) amounted to 5,159 tonnes, comprising mostly of yellowfin, bigeye, marlin and sharks. This represents a considerable decrease of 40% compared to transshipment figures for 1989.

Table 1. Catch Statistics For Purse Seiners in the Western Indian Ocean.

(Units: catch MT, percentage in brackets, catch rate MT/day)

MONTH	VESSELS ACTIVE	VESSELS COVERED	DAYS FISHED	CATCH RATE	YELLOWFIN	SKIPJACK	TOTAL	CUMUL TOTAL
Jan/89	49	47	873	20.47	9767 (55)	7599 (43)	17874	17874
Feb	49	47	1076	21.71	10955 (47)	12006 (51)	23358	41231
Mar	47	45	923	36.76	11864 (35)	21755 (64)	33930	75162
Apr	46	45	915	25.35	6674 (29)	15948 (69)	23194	98356
May	45	42	936	13.05	2923 (24)	9200 (75)	12216	110572
Jun	44	41	1017	13.66	6312 (45)	7467 (54)	13896	124468
Jul	46	45	1010	10.74	1332 (12)	9379 (86)	10850	135318
Aug	46	46	1077	12.61	3007 (22)	10270 (76)	13584	148902
Sep	49	49	1121	24.70	5035 (18)	22407 (81)	27694	176596
Oct	49	49	1068	25.92	6472 (23)	21187 (75)	28198	204794
Nov	50	50	1188	10.01	2860 (24)	9879 (75)	11891	216685
Dec	47	47	1218	8.27	3939 (39)	5917 (59)	10069	226754
Total			12442	18.22	71142 (31)	152014 (67)	226754	
Jan/90	49	49	1290	10.92	7209 (51)	6652 (47)	14092	14092
Feb	54	53	1177	16.45	13263 (69)	5978 (31)	19362	33454
Mar	54	53	1326	15.32	8475 (42)	11549 (57)	20312	53766
Apr	53	51	1097	13.15	3349 (23)	10963 (76)	14429	68195
May	51	48	1029	7.19	1235 (17)	6117 (83)	7403	75598
Jun	39	39	906	12.84	9655 (83)	1798 (15)	11631	87229
Jul	42	42	918	16.50	11508 (76)	3087 (20)	15147	102376
Aug	43	43	1013	13.51	2892 (21)	10566 (77)	13683	116059
Sep	47	46	1025	21.24	3255 (14)	19326 (84)	23050	139108
Oct	45	43	1068	21.54	7657 (53)	15127 (66)	23008	162116
Nov	46	40	819	13.90	3294 (29)	7676 (67)	11388	173503
Dec	44	36	652	23.28	17165 (87)	2446 (12)	19837	193340
Total			12580	15.37	88559 (46)	101286 (52)	119340	

Table 2. Catch Statistics For French Purse Seiners.
(Units: catch MT, percentage in brackets, catch rate MT/day)

MONTH	VESSELS ACTIVE	VESSELS COVERED	DAYS FISHED	CATCH RATE	YELLOWFIN	SKIPJACK	TOTAL	CUMUL TOTAL
Jan/89	20	20	358	21.26	4755 (62)	2690 (35)	7611	7611
Feb	20	20	451	17.44	5381 (68)	2366 (30)	7865	15476
Mar	20	20	411	35.14	5590 (39)	8586 (59)	14444	29919
Apr	20	20	436	21.39	3079 (33)	6161 (66)	9325	39244
May	19	19	411	13.75	1571 (28)	4048 (72)	5650	44894
Jun	18	18	399	10.19	1808 (44)	2257 (56)	4064	48959
Jul	18	18	393	8.14	221 (7)	2941 (92)	3199	52158
Aug	16	16	410	10.28	917 (22)	3252 (77)	4213	56371
Sep	19	19	412	27.42	2166 (19)	9129 (81)	11296	67667
Oct	19	19	420	24.72	2525 (24)	7769 (75)	10384	78051
Nov	19	19	441	6.10	552 (21)	2117 (79)	2692	80743
Dec	19	19	492	6.84	724 (22)	2612 (78)	3365	84108
Total			5034	16.71	29290 (35)	53925 (64)	84108	
Jan/90	20	20	537	9.53	3042 (59)	2000 (39)	5117	5117
Feb	20	20	460	16.41	5340 (71)	2137 (28)	7547	12665
Mar	19	19	458	16.68	6281 (82)	1267 (17)	7638	20302
Apr	19	19	424	11.42	2353 (49)	2444 (50)	4842	25144
May	18	18	328	8.04	159 (6)	2464 (93)	2637	27780
Jun	14	14	324	11.74	3227 (85)	547 (14)	3802	31583
Jul	14	14	282	15.58	3930 (89)	211 (5)	4394	35977
Aug	13	13	310	11.57	765 (21)	2761 (77)	3587	39564
Sep	15	15	390	21.74	1159 (14)	7017 (83)	8480	48045
Oct	16	16	404	21.71	1557 (18)	7167 (82)	8770	56814
Nov	16	16	369	18.38	2524 (37)	4070 (60)	6784	63598
Dec	14	14	338	28.92	8659 (89)	1026 (10)	9776	73374
Total			4624	15.87	38994 (53)	33112 (45)	73374	

Table 3. Catch Statistics For Spanish Purse Seiners, Including Txori Aundi.

(Units: catch MT, percentage in brackets, catch rate MT/day)

MONTH	VESSELS ACTIVE	VESSELS COVERED	DAYS FISHED	CATCH RATE	YELLOWFIN	SKIPJACK	TOTAL	CUMUL TOTAL
Jan/89	21	21	375	22.15	4496 (54)	3576 (43)	8305	8305
Feb	21	21	478	25.71	3902 (31)	8270 (67)	12290	20595
Mar	21	21	435	41.02	5863 (33)	11939 (67)	17846	38440
Apr	20	20	398	32.91	3445 (26)	9163 (70)	13096	51537
May	20	19	434	12.97	1159 (21)	4407 (78)	5628	57165
Jun	19	19	512	18.80	4429 (46)	5079 (53)	9626	66790
Jul	20	20	480	14.59	946 (14)	5978 (85)	7004	73795
Aug	23	23	491	15.75	1703 (22)	5817 (75)	7733	81528
Sep	24	24	575	24.73	2463 (17)	11659 (82)	14217	95745
Oct	24	24	528	29.98	3585 (23)	11919 (75)	15830	111575
Nov	24	24	584	13.92	1846 (23)	6212 (76)	8130	119705
Dec	22	22	576	9.75	2862 (51)	2601 (46)	5617	125322
Total			5866	21.36	36601 (29)	86619 (69)	125322	
Jan/90	21	21	565	11.10	3752 (60)	2488 (40)	6273	6273
Feb	21	21	492	19.98	7285 (74)	2542 (26)	9829	16102
Mar	21	21	548	18.80	1358 (13)	8787 (85)	10300	26402
Apr	21	21	427	17.87	526 (7)	7079 (93)	7631	34033
May	19	19	477	8.75	932 (22)	3228 (77)	4172	38205
Jun	19	19	444	15.59	6209 (90)	607 (9)	6924	45129
Jul	19	19	463	20.46	7258 (77)	1947 (21)	9475	54604
Aug	21	21	483	18.47	1837 (21)	6934 (78)	8923	63527
Sep	23	23	520	25.57	1767 (13)	11485 (86)	13296	76823
Oct	22	22	557	23.33	5830 (45)	7062 (54)	12997	89820
Nov	21	19	387	11.36	718 (16)	3496 (88)	4397	94218
Dec	22	16	393	22.34	8036 (92)	741 (8)	8779	102997
Total			5756	17.89	45507 (44)	56396 (55)	102997	

Table 4. Transshipment Statistics. (Units: MT)

MONTH	PURSE SEINERS	YELLOWFIN	SKIPJACK	BIGEYE	ALBACORE	TOTAL	CUMUL TOTAL
Jan/89	37	12566	12247	97	0	24910	24910
Feb	34	11157	6481	204	13	17855	42765
Mar	41	11078	18494	139	1	29712	72477
Apr	36	7625	16348	378	0	24351	96828
May	15	2025	5276	171	0	7472	104300
Jun	19	2937	6090	2	0	9029	113329
Jul	30	3150	7921	4	0	11075	124404
Aug	24	1669	11199	0	0	12888	137292
Sep	32	2895	16658	48	0	19801	157093
Oct	39	4850	23882	86	0	28818	185911
Nov	31	3447	13422	3	0	16872	202783
Dec	34	2500	6836	62	0	9398	212181
Total		65919	145054	1194	14	212181	
Jan/90	30	4838	6960	41	0	11739	11739
Feb	35	8598	6571	66	0	15235	26974
Mar	30	10914	6932	81	0	17827	44801
Apr	19	4372	4796	172	0	9340	54141
May	6	267	1247	1	4	1519	55660
Jun	18	3347	2795	106	0	6248	61908
Jul	29	12105	3364	337	104	15910	77818
Aug	27	7091	5377	354	44	12866	90684
Sep	28	4200	13134	56	0	17390	108074
Oct	32	5282	17063	21	0	22366	130440
Nov	33	7385	14452	180	0	22017	152457
Dec	25	9567	3643	34	2	13246	165703
Total		77966	86134	1449	154	165703	

Table 5. Purse Seiners Active in the Western Indian Ocean,
By Country of Registration.

MONTH	FRANCE	SPAIN	MAURITIUS	PANAMA	USSR	JAPAN	TOTAL
Jan/89	20	20	3	1	4	1	49
Feb	20	20	3	1	4	1	49
Mar	20	20	3	1	3	-	47
Apr	20	19	3	1	3	-	46
May	19	19	3	1	3	-	45
Jun	18	18	3	1	4	-	44
Jul	18	19	3	1	4	1	46
Aug	16	22	2	1	3	2	46
Sep	19	23	2	1	2	2	49
Oct	19	23	2	1	1	3	49
Nov	19	23	2	1	2	3	50
Dec	19	22	2	-	1	3	47
Jan/90	20	21	2	-	2	4	49
Feb	20	21	1	-	8	4	54
Mar	19	21	2	-	8	4	54
Apr	19	21	2	-	8	3	53
May	18	19	2	-	9	3	51
Jun	14	18	2	1	1	3	39
Jul	14	18	2	1	4	3	42
Aug	13	20	2	1	4	3	43
Sep	15	22	2	1	4	3	47
Oct	16	21	2	1	3	2	45
Nov	16	20	2	1	3	4	46
Dec	14	21	2	1	3	3	44

Table 6. Purse Seiners Active In the Western Indian Ocean.

SEINER	FLAG	GRT	1990													
			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
30	AVEL VIZ	France	768													
2	DRENNEC		1200													
49	ROSPICQ		1146													
27	TRESCAD		1146													
6	ARMEN		775													
5	TREVIGNON II		1146													
31	KERMADEC		1146													
3	PENDROC		1200													
45	CAP ST PAUL		768													
12	BAYOTA		1146													
53	CHRISTOPHE COLOMB		851													
1	KERSANTH		1200													
4	KERIGUELEN		1146													
48	GLENAN		929													
29	MAGELLAN		851													
44	PRINCE DE JOINVILLE		851													
46	BOUGAINVILLE		875													
9	GEYRED		603													
7	SANTA MARTA		777													
8	ILE TRISTAN		783													
83	GAMBESA		760													
22	JUAN RAMON EGANA	Spain	1536													
15	NARANJO/KAI ALAI		1145													
18	TXORI URDIN		833													
74	ALAMADRADA TRES		1308													
14	EDUKABI ALAI		1365													
36	ALBACORA DIECESEUS		1475													
70	ALBACORA DOCE		1475													
33	ALBACORA ONCE		1479													
17	PLAYA DE NOJA		972													
19	TXORI EDER		833													
55	ALBACORA CATORCE		1475													
16	TXORI ZURI		1333													
71	ALBACORA SEIS		1345													
34	ALBACORA CUATRO		1585													
24	ATERFE ALAI		988													
20	ALACRAN		1333													
35	ALBACORA QUINCE		1475													
42	MONTEFRISA SIETE		1350													
57	MAR DE SERGIO		1829													
86	INTER TUNA UNO		1490													
76	MONTE LAPI		1095													
78	MONTEALEGRE		1095													
88	FELIPE RUANO		1498													
89	INTER TUNA DOS		1475													
56	TZARO		1520													
25	TXORI AUNDI	Panama	1370													
54	LADY SUSHIL I	Mauritius	535													
63	LADY SUSHIL II		1039													
64	TRIDAKNA	USSR	2635													
73	TIONA		2634													
66	IVAN BURZOV		2635													
65	RODINA		2635													
81	UVAROVSK		2635													
82	UZHOVSK		2635													
84	TORKHUS		2635													
85	ZELIYANSKY		2635													
87	GORYANEGOVSK		2334													
80	TOMI MARU 61	Japan	498													
79	HAYABUSA MARU 6		1009													
68	NIPPON MARU		1780													
77	FUKUICHI MARU 63		500													
90	FUKUICHI MARU 83		1015													

