

CCSBT

Republic of South Africa Self-Assessment of Fishing Capacity

Recent History of the South African Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) Fleet

Commercial longlining for tuna in South Africa has been documented since the 1960's with catches reaching ~2000 MT. SBT and Southern Atlantic albacore tuna comprised the bulk of the catch. The fishery ceased to exist after the mid 1960's, as a result of a poor market for low quality SBT and Southern Atlantic albacore tuna landed by South African fishers.

First long-term commercial fishing rights in the tuna longline sector were allocated in 2005. Initially, 18 swordfish-directed rights (18 vessels) and 26 tuna-directed rights (26 vessels) were allocated in 2005. This was increased to 21 swordfish-directed rights (21 vessels) and 29 tuna-directed rights (29 vessels) with the allocation in 2011. Both the tuna longline and swordfish longline have since been merged to form the Large Pelagic Longline (LPL) sector. Previously, the LPL sector mainly targeted swordfish, yellowfin and bigeye, with SBT as by-catch due to its small allocation. South Africa is currently busy allocating new long-term fishing rights in the LPL sector and coupled with the recent increase of South Africa's SBT quota in March 2016 (from 40 t to 150 t), it is envisaged that SBT will be the main target species of the LPL sector.

Table 1. The number of vessels fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna in South Africa (01 February to 31 January).

Fishing Season	Domestic longline fleet	Charter longline fleet
	Number of vessels	Number of vessels
2005	3	11
2006	2	0
2007	8	14
2008	1	9
2009	4	8
2010	9	2
2011	9	11
2012	9	8
2013	11	9

*The vessels indicated above are the ones that caught/landed SBT and the number doesn't include other tuna longline vessels that fished for SBT but didn't caught/land any fish.

Capacity with respect to South Africa's allocation

Fishing rights are allocated in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act (Act No. 18 of 1998). The Fisheries Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (the Department) determines the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of Southern Bluefin Tuna for the Large Pelagic Longline fishery in accordance with South Africa's SBT allocation from the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

In 2005 and 2006, the South Africa's SBT allocation of 40 t was managed on an Olympic system for both the swordfish and tuna longline sectors combined. In 2007 and 2009 the SBT allocation was split thereby allowing the swordfish longline sector to catch 8 t and the tuna longline sector to catch 32 t. Sectors were managed on separate Olympic systems. The management of this sector changed to a quota system in 2009.

South Africa's SBT quota has since 2009, been managed through a system of output controls in terms of the individual quotas. The Department allocates the SBT quota equally amongst the rights holders, with a provision that if a right holder has not been actively fishing before or on 31 May, its SBT allocation will be transferred to those that have been active.

All landings of SBT are monitored by the Fishery Control Officers (FCOs). The quota in the Large Pelagic Longline sector is managed by monitoring electronic landing summaries, catch statistics (logbook) submitted by industry as stipulated in the Permit Conditions and by monitoring observer reports submitted every five days while observers are at sea. Failure to comply may result in penalties ranging from, not issuing catch permits for the following fishing season, fines, revocation, cancellation or suspension of the right.

The Republic of South Africa is of the view that its current management system for the SBT fishery offers a robust means of ensuring that it stays within the bounds of its national allocation without the need for additional measures aimed at restricting vessel capacity.