

Annual Review of Indonesian SBT Fisheries For the Annual Commission and Compliance Meetings

1. Introduction

The Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) is basically not a target species for Indonesian fishery, but is caught as bycatch of longliners targeting tropical tunas such as yellowfin and bigeye, of which the number has decreased substantially in the recent years, resulted from a government policy to reduce fuel subsidies. The longliner fishing operations themselves tended to move into western rather than southern Indonesian waters, concentrating in the Indonesian archipelago rather than moving beyond EEZ waters of Indonesia in the Indian Ocean.

Along with the latest progress, after Indonesia having accepted to be the new member of the Commission on April 8, 2008, SBT fishery is currently being developed to meet requirements set by the Commission. Among others are initiations of the vessel sticker program, observer on board program and fishing logbook application. Whilst, the existing program such as Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is being strengthened.

This report summarizes catches and fishing activities in 2007 as well as historical data and tuna fishing activities recorded in Indonesia.

2. Operational Constraints on Effort

Under the current circumstance, there are several principle regulations being imposed to regulate fishing operation activities in Indonesian waters including in EEZ and high seas. In this regard, Indonesia fleets management operates licensing system as the basic instrument to control exploitation including reducing pressure on the fishing ground.

Beside the ministerial regulation that regulates license to fishing, several existing regulations of fishing operational management have adapted any measure set by international recognized standard for example obligations to install Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to Indonesian fishing vessels above 30 GT operated in Indonesian EEZ has clearly regulated by the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministerial Decree number 29/2003. Likewise, fishing logbook application and observer on board program have been regulated by the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministerial Regulation number 05/2008.

3. Catch and Effort

The SBT catch was initially a bycatch of longliners targeting tropical tuna fishery such as yellowfin and bigeye. The Indonesian SBT majority caught by longliners based in Benoa Port. In 2007, there are 14 longliners caught SBT more than 100 fish a year. Whilst, other 31 longliners caught SBT between 20 to 100 fish a year and 157 longliners caught SBT between 0 to 19 fish a year.

The total SBT catch in 2007 was recorded at 1,077 Ton. There is no information on discards. The allocation time of SBT quota is counted from January to December every year.

4. Historical Catch and Effort

The historical catch of the ten years data recorded from 1998 to 2007 is shown on Table 1.

Table 1. Ten years historical data of SBT catches in Indonesia

Year	Total (Ton)
1998	1,324
1999	2,504
2000	1,203
2001	1,632
2002	1,691
2003	555
2004	633
2005	1726
2006	598
2007	1077

5. Annual Fleet Size and Distribution

In the year of 2008, there were totally 1,283 longliners equal or above 30 GT authorized by the Central Government and 94 longliners below 30 GT authorized by the Provincial Government operated in the Indian Ocean. From the above number, 693 longliners were registered by tuna longliners associations to the Central Government to catch SBT.

However, the Indonesian government has been put a serious effort on strengthening the development of active fishing vessels database catching SBT in the region and it was expected the more precious figure will be updated and reported accordingly.

6. Historical Fleet Size and Distribution

In 2007, average trip duration was 35 days at sea, and vessels tended to move into western rather than southern Indonesian waters, concentrating in the Indonesian archipelago rather than moving beyond EEZ waters of Indonesia in the Indian Ocean.

7. Fisheries Monitoring

Catch Monitoring

A joint Australian-Indonesian SBT Catch Monitoring Programme commenced in 1992 and has been focused on the main SBT port of Benoa. The cooperation has been extended to the end of 2008.

Further in April 2002, cooperation has occurred between the IOTC, Japan's OFCF and Indonesia to conduct catch monitoring at Jakarta and Cilacap, which completed at the end of 2006. Soon after its completion, from 2007 onward the Indonesian Government took over and funded the continuation of the program.

A research and monitoring station is being established at Benoa, Bali, whose objective, among others, is to monitor Indian Ocean tuna fisheries including SBT. The Indonesian Government funded research on bigeye and yellowfin tuna in 2008, and it is hoped to expand such research to SBT in 2009.

Improvement data and statistical system to include SBT catch data collection has been started since 2004. This improvement was one of the priorities of Indonesian Government to meet requirement set by CCSBT and IOTC.

The latest updated dealing with catch monitoring is the initiation of fishing logbook application for all Indonesian fishing vessels operated in Indonesian waters. Today, piloting program for fishing logbook application have been introduced to be applied by all longliners based in Benoa-Bali started in early of 2008.

Observer Program

Indonesia Observer Program was established either as part of collaborative capacity building project with Australia, started in 2005 scheduled for completion in December 2008 or development of observer program based on Indonesia owned initiative.

Beside 6 scientific observers those have been trained under capacity building project with Australia, Indonesia has also trained 19 observers on board. This initiation of the observer program has been intended for trawl and tuna longliners fisheries.

Along with this development, the ministerial regulation is being drafted concerning observer program, whilst the obligation of any fishing boat to accept the presence of observer in their fishing vessels has been regulated by the Marine and Fisheries Ministerial Regulation number 05/2008.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

Indonesia obligates all vessels above 30 GT to install VMS to operate in Indonesian waters area. This is stated clearly in the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministerial Decree number 29/2003.

Biological Information

Scientific observers developed under collaborative capacity building project with Australia or Indonesia initiative is partly responsible for collecting biological data. Further routine and non routine research survey has been an on-going program conducted by Research Center for Capture Fisheries of Indonesia.

Transshipment

A transshipment activity is allowed under the current regulation (Marine and Fisheries Ministerial Regulation number 05/2008) as long as both vessels (fish catcher and carrier) jointly operated under the same management.

Resolution on IUU Fishing and Establishment of CCSBT Vessel Record

Indonesia is partly initiated the development of regional plan of action on responsible fisheries and combating IUU Fishing. The latest progress is the secretariat of the RPOA implementation was agreed to be officially placed in Jakarta, Indonesia.

CCSBT vessel record is being prepared to included verification with the provincial and local government on the exact number of fishing boats under 30 GT.

8. Other Factors

Import/Export Statistics

Import and export Statistics are taken by Custom and further compiled and published by Center for Data and Statistic (BPS)

Authorized institution for Trade Information System (TIS) is currently under Directorate General of Fisheries Products Processing and Marketing, which legalizes result of laboratory examination of fish exporting products.

Before 2004, the SBT was categorized as a group of tropical tuna in data and statistics collection system. Since 2004, SBT has solely collected to comply with the results of IOTC meetings.

Markets

Since July 2005 to October 2007, there is no Indonesian SBT exported to other countries due to the CCSBT ban. In 2008, Indonesia has exported 23 ton of SBT to Korea.

Mitigation

Indonesia was developed a lot of effort to mitigate non-targeted fish, such as turtle and sharks caught by longliners. The recent introduction is the use of circle hook on longliners to avoid turtle catches. Likewise, in 2008 the National Plan of Action on Shark has been formulated.