Bigeye tuna
Indian Ocean

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Thunnus obesus

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
Bigeye tuna

**COMMON NAMES**
Bigeye tuna

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**
Bigeye tuna of the Indian Ocean constitutes a single panmictic population (Chiang et al., 2008) and the stock is assessed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) considering this unit (IOTC, 2014).

**RELATED LINKS:**
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
The population of bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean is considered healthy and fishing mortality rates are sustainable. Assessments are conducted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Discarding of tropical (Bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin) tunas is prohibited in purse seine fisheries. Fishing pressure (longline and purse seine) has been lowered since 2007. There are interim target and limit reference points in place and the IOTC is working towards a harvest control rule.

National level management regulations for Archipelagic and territorial waters (MKDPRI PER 30/MEN/2012) and the EEZ PER 12/MEN/2012 are the tools covering application of shark, turtle, sea mammals and bird measures.

Indonesia completed its Shark National Plan of Action and Sea Turtle National Plan of Action in 2016, and there is a moratorium on the export the hammerhead and oceanic white tip shark and fins (Decree 59/PERMEN-KP/2014).

**Weaknesses**
The fishery is not regulated by TAC or catch limits. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has been a major issue. Observer coverage rates are very low. Interactions with protected, endangered and threatened species along with sharks occur. There are issues with data reporting. Specifically, industrial longline fisheries from India, pole and line artisinal fisheries from the Maldives, giant fisheries from Iran (before 2012) and Pakistan, giant and byline fisheries from Sri Lanka and artisanal fisheries from Indonesia, Comoros (before 2017) and Madagascar.

Systematic observation and reporting of ETP bycatch in Indonesian handline gear in the Indian Ocean are not available; bycatch information reported by Indonesia to the IOTC is for all longlines combined, including handlines.

This fishery uses FADs, but the number and locations are highly variable and not reported, which prevents assessments of whether they comply with IOTC resolutions on FAD use and what impacts they might have on ETP species and the ecosystem.

It is not possible to assess potential impacts of bycatch in Indonesian handline fishery in the Indian Ocean on ETP populations nor the ecosystem with information currently available.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

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<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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**Stock Health:**

<table>
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<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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**FIPS**
No related FIPS

**MSC**
No related MSC fisheries

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Work with IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties to:
  - Develop and implement comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies with specific timelines for all tuna stocks, including the adoption and implementation of limit and target reference points, harvest control rules, monitoring strategies, operational objectives, performance indicators, and management strategy evaluation.
  - Strengthen compliance processes and make information on non-compliance public and continue to provide evidence of compliance with all IOTC Conservation and Management Measures in a timely manner.
  - Implement a 100% observer coverage requirement for at-sea transshipment activities, as well as other measures that ensure transshipment activity is transparent and well-managed, and that all required data are collected and transmitted to the appropriate bodies in a timely manner.
  - Increase compliance with the mandatory minimum 5% longline
observer coverage rates by identifying and correcting non-compliance.

- Implement a 100% observer coverage requirement – human and/or electronic – within five years for longline fisheries. Adopt a 100% observer coverage requirement for purse seine vessels where it is not already required and require the use of the best-available observer safety equipment, communications and procedures.
- Adopt effective measures for the use of non-entangling FAD designs as a precautionary measure to minimize the entanglement of sharks and other non-target species, and support research on biodegradable materials and transition to their use to mitigate marine debris.
- More effectively implement, and ensure compliance with, existing RFMO bycatch requirements and take additional mitigation action, such as improving monitoring at sea, collecting and sharing operational-level, species-specific data, and adopting stronger compliance measures, including consequences for non-compliance for all gear types.
- Ensure all products are traceable back to legal sources. Verify source information and full chain traceability through traceability desk audits or third party traceability certification. For fisheries without robust traceability systems in place, invest in meaningful improvements to bring the fisheries and supply chain in compliance with best practices.