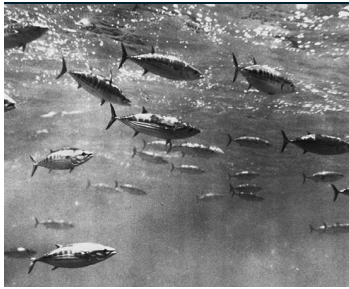


## 4 | Active Harvest Strategy

# Indian Ocean Skipjack Tuna



### Management Authority:

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

### Adoption Year:

2016

### Management Objectives:

- Maintain stock at levels that can produce MSY, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors
- Use HCR to maintain stock at or above the target and well above the limit

### Reference Points:

- **Target/Threshold Reference Point:**  $40\%B_0$
- **Limit Reference Point:**  $20\%B_0$
- **Safety Reference Point:**  $10\%B_0$

\* $B_0$  = stock size that would exist in the absence of fishing

### Harvest Strategy:

The current HCR is slated to be expanded to a fully specified harvest strategy in 2023 or 2024.

### Harvest control rule specifications:

- **Type:** Model-based
- **Management cycle:** 3 years
- **Data Inputs:** Stock assessment estimates of current spawning stock biomass ( $B_{curr}$ ); unfished stock biomass ( $B_0$ ); equilibrium exploitation rate ( $E_{targ}$ ) associated with sustaining the stock at  $B_{targ}$
- **Management output:** Quota
- **Harvest control rule:** Reduces catch linearly from the threshold level ( $0.4B_0$ ) to the safety level ( $0.1B_0$ ); zero catch below safety level, except for subsistence fisheries
- **Other:**
  - Maximum catch limit: 900,000t
  - Maximum quota change: +/- 30%

### Outcome:

Based on the 2020 stock assessment, the stock is currently not overfished or experiencing overfishing. Current spawning stock biomass is estimated to be at  $0.45B_0$ , above the target reference point. However, because there is no allocation key, the HCR-associated TAC has been exceeded by up to 30% in every year since adoption. Overages are expected to continue until the quota is allocated. Regardless, the TAC was increased by almost 10% to 513,572 t for the 2021-2023 period as the skipjack stock continues to be productive regardless of these overages, likely due to favorable environmental conditions.

### Link to relevant policy document or update:

[Resolution 16/02 on Harvest Control Rules for Skipjack Tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence \(https://iotc.org/cmm/resolution-1602-harvest-control-rules-skipjack-tuna-iotc-area-competence\)](https://iotc.org/cmm/resolution-1602-harvest-control-rules-skipjack-tuna-iotc-area-competence)