



The South African Tuna Pole Trip report
Allison

IOTC Registration No. : None

ICCAT Registration No. :

16/11/2023 to 29/11/2023

Observer: SipheloMacozoma

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Trip Summary

The South African flagged tuna pole and line fishing vessel (*Allison*) vessel registration TP22 was engaged in the fishing activity as per the Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) a project managed by WWF South Africa (WWF-SA) and funded Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) Ocean stewardship Fund. The South African observer (Siphelo Macozoma) was deployed on the vessel to collect scientific and compliance data. The vessel was targeting albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) and tuna like species. Fishing occurred at the South Atlantic Ocean, Saldhana, in the Western Cape, South Africa. The fishing took place for over a period of 12 days from the 17/11/2023 and the 28/11/2023. As the weather was smooth and sunny for the course of 3 days, and the fishing was interrupted due to a bad weather, with the average wind speed of 18 knots to 31 knots, and the wind direction coming from the North West and a swell height of 4.5 meters. The vessel remained on the parachute anchor for 3 days (from 20/11/2023 to 23/11/2023) with no fishing activity happening. The vessel steamed from Saldhana to the West of Cape town and continued fishing on the 24/11/2023.

The vessel sailed from Cape Town harbour on the 16/11/2023 at 19:00 and started fishing on the following day on the 16/11/2023 to 28/11/2023 (for 12 days), and the vessel returned to Cape Town harbor immediately after the last attempt to make a catch. The vessel docked on the 29/11/2023 at about 00:30. The electronic access database, laptop, sampling equipment and data sheets were made available to the observer for data sampling purposes.

Tuna pole vessel gear was composed of seven poles and six gaffs for 13 men. Seven poles were fitted with hook and artificial squid-like bait and two additional men were responsible for the chum (sprinkling bait in the water during the fishing activity), One tasked for the live bait and the other tasked for the frozen bait. The vessel was equipped with acoustic sonar used to detect the fish. Stern were fitted with four trolling lines also called strikes baited with artificial squid-like bait and the starboard side was fitted with 16-meter water pipe with small holes punched (water sprinkler). Fishing activity started when the fish was detected on the strikes or on the sonar, and then water sprinkler was used to confuse the fish while poles were used to lure it closer to the vessel starboard side. The fishing activity lasted for an average of 3 to 10 minutes, with a total of 88 stops or attempts were conducted for the entire trip. Frozen Pilchard (*Sardinops sagax*) and live anchovy was used as a chumming bait a, while artificial squid was used on poles and strikes. All fishing attempts were 100% observed. Only 3 days were lost in the entire trip.

The vessel caught and retained a total of 752 *Thunnus alalunga*, 2 *Thunus albacares*, 3 *YellowTale* and 251 *Brama brama*. The vessel was not equipped with a scale, therefore no weight data collected. The maturity and the gender remained unknown as the vessel did not process the catch and collection such data require gonads which can only be available if the fish is cut open. There were no other species retained.

The observer managed to sampled 420 *Thunnusa lalunga* 2 *Thunus albacares*, 3 *YellowTale* and 30 *Brama brama* and they were measured for fork length (F.L) and no further samples were taken.

No sea birds were caught, as the was a low number of sea birds that were sighted during the trip. It was mainly seagulls that fed on the bait, fortunate enough they are not the diving seabirds, so they mostly depended on the bait remained on the surface. Few whales were spotted in the area, and the Seals were spotted but no marine mammals were caught or entangled on the fishing gear.

About 65 vessels also targeting tuna were sighted in the area. The identifiable vessels were; Windhoek, Atlantic hunter, Conquis Tador, Ilda, Bella Da Lunar, Albatros, Hotline, Triton, Tyler's tide, Mpho, Ku-ula, Mane, Ocean Clipper, Easy Rider, Alalunga, Tiger fish, Kariba,

Tamara, Morgan Rose, Langerberg Werkendum, Taryn-amy, Sailfish, Elansberg, S.W Condor, Grey Ghost, Tierkop, Radiant Star, Covi II, Malagas II, Sea Hunter , Predator, Wilmag, Juliette, Southern Cross, Christina, Tiyalina, Endurance, Ocean Topaz, Frenchy Maria, Blue dolphin, Santa Monica, Sneu Berg, Santa Cruz, Chris Trautman, Perle du atlantic, Abe Shapiro, Leah Cruz, Southern Tiger, Prospector, Winning Rich, Gypsy Rose, Black pearl, King fisher, Tomren, SW Petrel, Ocean Hunter, S.W Heron and Ocean Dynamo.

And about 9 trawlers also were sighted in the area. The identifiable trawlers were: Harvest Nandi, Boronia, Harvest Veronica, Harvest Kirstina, Harvest Gavina, Harvest Krotoa, Fessia, Sandile, Harvest Selina.

And about 3 hake long line vessels were sighted. The identifiable vessels were; Abraham-T, Vivian C. There was no illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) vessel sighted in the area.

A. Trip Summary

Table 1.1: Trip summary

BOARDING				DISEMBARKATION			
Date	16/11/2023	Time (GMT)	19:00	Date	29/11/2023	Time (GMT)	00:30
Location		Cape Town (33.9043 S, 18.4301 E)		Location		Cape Town (33.9043 S, 18.4301 E)	

B. Vessel Details

Table 1.2: Vessel details

Vessel name:	Allison	Call sign:	ZR2883
Port of registration:	Cape Town	Flag State:	South Africa
Owner:	Flor D Mar	Charterer:	None
Vessel type:	pole & line	Fishing gear:	Tuna pole
Size (GRT):	40	Length (LOA):	23.96

C. Electronic Equipment

Table 1.3: Electronics equipment

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT	
On-board acoustic equipment:	Furuno 8L
Position fixing equipment:	Furuno Navnet
Vessel monitoring system (present/absent):	Present
Radar:	Furuno Navnet
Communications equipment:	VHF Icom M330, HF Icom M802
Plotters:	Furuno Navnet

D. Fishing Operation Summary

Table 1.4: Fishing operations summary

Total number of days in the fishing area	12
Total number of days fished	9
Days lost (weather, breakdown...)	3
Total number of days steaming.	2
Target species	Albacore tuna and tuna like species
Total number of sets.	88
Total number of hooks set	6
Total number of hooks lost	0
Total number of hooks sampled	6
Total number of sets sampled	88
Bait used	Live Anchovy, Pilchard frozen and artificial squid
Origin of Bait	South Africa
Bait Ratio	20% Pilchard, 20% live Anchovy and 60% Artificial Squid
Total number of Crew members	13

E. Gear Description

The fishing gear only comprised of a set of fishing poles with a short line and hook fitted with artificial bait, a set of four trolling lines baited with an artificial squid-like bait and placed astern of the vessel. The vessel was further equipped with bamboo gaffs and a J-shaped steel attached to it to assist lifting the fish onto the fishing vessel. The vessel also carried Rod and Reel which were never used during this voyage.

Table 1.5: Gear Description

Gear Description					
Poles 1	Material	Bamboo	Gaff	Material	Bamboo

	Average Length (m)	5m		Average Length (m)	3m	
	Number	7		Number	6	
	Average Nylon Length (m)	0.5m				
Poles 2	Material	Bamboo	Hooks	Barb present		No
	Average Length (m)	5m		Brand	Musted	
	Number	5		Size	10/0	

Troll Lines		Used (√)		Yes	No
Length of a troll line – 1 (m)	14	Attached Object		Yes	
Length of a troll line – 2 (m)	15	Attached Object		No	
Length of a troll line – 3 (m)	16	Attached Object		No	
Length of a troll line – 4 (m)	17	Attached Object			
Lure Lines		Used (√)		Yes	No
Lure line bait material		Hooks present (√)		yes	
Average Casting coverage (m)		Was it mitigating Seabirds		no	

F. Retained Catch Details

Table 1.6: Catch Details

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Species	Square number (1°x1°)		Processing code	Processed number
17/11/2023	ALB	33	17	RD	136
18/11/2023	ALB	33	17	RD	67
19/11/2023	ALB	33	17	RD	58
21/11/2023	ALB	33	17	RD	2
23/11/2023	YFT	34	18	GG	1
24/11/2023	ALB	34	17	RD	75
25/11/2023	ALB	34	17	RD	11
25/11/2023	POA	34	17	RD	20
26/11/2023	ALB	34	17	RD	40
26/11/2023	YFT	34	17	GG	1
26/11/2023	POA	34	17	RD	10
27/11/2023	ALB	34	17	RD	26
27/11/2023	YTC	34	17	RD	3

28/11/2023	ALB	34	17	RD	5
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Processing Details

Only *Thunus Albacares* was processed with a Gilled-and-Gutted method code and the rest of the fish caught were retained as whole fish.

Table 1.7: Retained fish

Species	Processing Code	Comments
ALB	RD	Whole fish was retained in its round form.
YFT	GG	Gills and the stomach (Bill off) were removed from the fish
YTC	RD	Whole fish was retained in its round form
PAO	RD	Whole fish was retained in its round form

Fish Discards

The vessel caught and retained *Thunus alalunga*, *Thunus Albacares*, *Brama brama*, and *Yellowtail* and no fish discards observed.

Table 1.8: Fish discards

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Species	Square number (1°x1°)	Number or Weight (kg)	Reason
	0	0	0	There were no discards

Table 1.9: Tags made

Species	Tag type	No. animals tagged	Comments
0	None	0	No tags made.

Table 2.1: Tags recovered

Tag No.	Species	Length (cm)	Length type	Weight (kg)	Weight type	Position of recovery	Finder details	Comments (eg. Full label on tag, tag type)
0	0	None	None	None	None	Lat: N/S Long: E	None	There were no tags recovered

G. Biological Data Summary

Biological Data Collection

There were a total of 450 individuals sampled and measured.

Table 2.2: Species sampled and measured

Species	Total No. individuals sampled	No. measured	No. weighted	No. Sexed	Maturity stage recorded	Otoliths collected	Other (specify)	Carcasses retained
ALB	420	420	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	0	None	0

Biological Sample Storage Location

There were no samples stored.

Table 2.3: Type of Sampling and Storage

Sample type	Species	No. collected	Location to be sent/stored
None	0	0	There were no samples stored.

Biological Sub-sampling Methodologies

The All fish retained on board was measured with fork length using a tape measurement. No further samples taken.

H. Summary of Meteorological Details

The sea was smooth and sunny with an average of 1.5 meter of swell height with a wind-speed average of 7 to 15 knots on the 1st day of fishing, then on the 4th day fishing had to be stopped because of the bad weather with an average wind-speed of 25 knots to 31 knots and a Swell height of 5.5 meters. There was an anticipated bad weather with an average 30 knots to 50 knots that led vessel going off shore on the 28th November 2023.

I. Summary of Fishing Strategy

The vessel used 4 trolling lines, poles and acoustic sonar to detect the fish. The captain also used they used historical and forecast sea surface temperatures to decide the fishing ground. Once the fish was detected and the bait master would be immediately throw live bait. The water will be released, and the pole men and gaffers would be on standby to put sticks in the water.

J. Summary of Depredation

Table 2.4: Summary of Depredation

Depredation	Comment (YES/NO/FIGURES)
Number of sets with observed depredation	No sets were observed
Percentage of sets with observed depredation	No percentage of sets were observed
Percentage of catch per species damaged by	No percentage of catch per species were damaged

depredation	
Was fish loss attributed to predator but not directly observed?	No fish loss attributed to predator
List of predator species observed	No species observed to be depredated

K. Summary of Incidental catches

Mitigation Measures

There are no official mitigation measures for the fishery. The seabirds were not much of a trouble because there was less number of seabirds in many instances (+- 5 birds per stop), hence there was no proper mechanism at disposal. Over the period of 12 days No seabird was caught and no sea mammal was caught.

Table 2.5: Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures	Comment (YES/NO/FIGURES)
Did the vessel operate south of 25°S?	No
List of mitigation measures used	No mitigation measures were applied
If Tori lines were used: Tori was never used	
What was the number of sets on where the Tori lines were deployed?	?
What was the percentage of sets on which Tori lines were deployed?	?
Were the Tori lines constructed according to the guidelines recommended by IOTC?	?

Incidental catches

There were no incidental catches.

Table 2.6: Incidental catches

Species Type	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Species (Scientific name)	Square number (1°x1°)	Fate	Comments
Seabirds	17/11/2023 - 28/11/2023	0	0	Dead:0 Released alive:	No Seabirds caught
Marine Mammals	17/11/2023 - 28/11/2023	0	0	Dead:0 Released alive: 0	No marine mammals caught
Sea Turtles	17/11/2023 - 28/11/2023	0	0	Dead:0 Released alive:0	No sea turtles caught
Sharks	17/11/2023 - 28/11/2023	0	0	Dead:0 Released alive:0	No sharks caught

L. Lost Fishing Gear

There was no gear lost; all fishing gear was retained onboard.

Table 2.7: Lost Fishing Gear

Lost Gear			
Nylon (m)	0	Poles (numbers)	0
Artificial Baits (numbers)	0	Hooks (numbers)	0

M. Waste Generated

Table 2.8: Waste categories generated by the vessel at sea

Waste Category	Action at Sea
Food	Retained on board and kept in a big plastic
Cardboard & Papers	Retained on board and kept in a big plastic
Plastic	Retained on board and kept in a big plastic
Fishing gear	Retained on board
Oil	Retained on board and kept in drums
Glass	Retained on board

N. Vessel Sightings

There were 18 vessels also targeting tuna sighted in the area.

Table 2.9: Vessel Sightings

Vessel Name	Type of Vessel (fishery, factory ship, carrier, e.t.c)	Vessel position (Lat, Long)	Vessel Activity	Comment
Windhoek	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Atlantic Hunter	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Grey Ghost	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Morgan Rose	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Wilmag	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Covi II	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Tierkop	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Hotline	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Santa Monica	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Radiant Star	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Frenchy Maria	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Ocean Topaz	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Sandalene	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Werkendum	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Juliette	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Tiyalina	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Endurance	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Bella da Lunar	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	

Triton	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Ilda	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
S.W Condor	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Mpho	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
S.W Heron	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Tomren	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Ocean Dynamo	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Tiger fish	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Ocean Clipper	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Chris Trautman	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
King Fisher	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Black Pearl	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Easy Rider	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Alalunga	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Conquis Tador	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Elansberg	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Langerberg	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Kariba	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Prospector	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Tamara	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Abe Shapiro	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
South Tiger	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Gypsy Rose	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Leah Cruz	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Perle du Atlantic	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Windhoek	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Taryn-amy	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Sailfish	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Malagas II	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Ku-ula	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Predator	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Mane	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Tyler's tide	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
SW Petrel	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
South Cross	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Zanemali	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	

O. General comments

- General the vessel personnel was cooperative and were willing to assist whenever the observer needed. There were no seabirds caught. No sea-mammals that were caught either;
- The vessel is fitted with Furuno omni pulse acoustic sounder that scans 360 degrees below the vessel to detect the fish;
- Thunus Alalunga fish caught was kept in freezer, whole and unprocessed (whole, live);
- Thunus Albacares fish caught was kept in freezer, gutted-and-gilled(bill off) GG
- Brama brama fish caught was kept in freezer, whole and unprocessed (whole, live);

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- Yellowtail fish caught was kept in freezer, whole and unprocessed (whole, live);
 - There were no fish discards. There fish was caught and kept round(whole, live);
 - The vessel personnel and the officers complied with all the permit conditions.