Handline Fishing for Large Yellowfin Tuna Observation Trip Dh. Kudahuvadhoo, Maldives (HL Trip 3)

Report compiled by Ibrahim Saneeh

24 February – 8 March 2021

Data collection by

Ibrahim Saneeh

Vessel information

Captain name: Ibrahim	Captain island: Dh. Kudahuvadhoo	Vessel owner: Abdul Sattar
Vessel name: Aailaa	Registration: P8878A-01-08-M	Storage Capacity: 12+ tonnes (YFT)
Hull type: Fibre	Fishing type: YFT Handlining	Bait fishing type: Day & night with snorkelling
Length: 87.6 feet	Width: 23.6 feet	Engine: Doosun Daewoo 320 HP
Crew no: 15	Gear/s on board: Hand lines: 7	Bait hold size:
Days Observed: 9	Handline Fishing Events: 11	Bait fishing events: 4

Figure 1: FV Aailaa, crew moving ice to storage

Sampling summary

- A total of 9 days of fishing were observed by the team, and all of them were done from fishing boat *'Aailaa'* from Dh. Kudahuvadhoo.

- Out of 9 days the fishers went out 7 days searching and handlining for yellowfin tuna. A total of 11 handlining fishing events were observed; out of these 10 events were done from dolphin associated schools and 1 from an aFAD.

- A total of 116 large yellowfin tuna were caught during the 7 days of handline fishing, totalling to 3848.56kg. Five skipjack tuna were also caught, which were used for crew consumption.

- The fishers sold 67 yellowfin tuna with a combined weight of 2974.56kg to a yellowfin processor (Ensis). Four tuna were rejected by the processor due to low quality. The rejected 4 YFT and 45 yellowfin tuna that were below 18kg weight requirement were sold to local merchants; A total of 874kg were sold.

- Two sailfish with a combined weight of 49kg and one dolphinfish weighting 6.5kg were caught as bycatch during handline fishing. They were retained for consumption or to be sold.

- Four bait fishing events were observed, and the total bait caught for this trip was ~650kg. Eight Barracuda with a combined weight of 9kg were caught as bycatch during bait-fishing.

Figure 2: Crew during a break in fishing

Medium mackerel scads	Medium bigeye scads	Kashimas	Kawakawa & Frigate tuna
271kg	199kg	170kg	10kg