



The South African Tuna Pole Trip report

RV Tyler's Tide

IOTC Registration No. :

ICCAT Registration No. :

07/01/2022 to 12/01/2022

Observer: Siphelo Macozoma

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Trip Summary

The South African flagged tuna pole and line fishing vessel (*RV Tyler's Time*) vessel registration HTB 351 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 Macozom 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 west of Dozen Island in the Western Cap, South Africa. The fishing occurred over 4 days from the 08/01/2022 to the 11/01/2022.

The vessel sailed from Hout Bay harbour on the 07/01/2022 at 20:00, and started fishing on the following day on the 08/01/2022 to 11/01/2022 (over 4 days), and the vessel returned to Hout Bay harbor immediately after the last attempt to make a catch. The vessel docked on the 12/01/2022 at about 06:30 Boarding time was 18:30 on the 07/01/2022 and disembark at 08:43 on the 12/01/2022. 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 six poles and six gaffs for 12 men. Six poles were fitted with hook and artificial squid-like bait and additional man was responsible for the chum (sprinkling bait in the water during the fishing activity). The vessel was equipped with acoustic sonar used to detect the fish. Stern were fitted with three trolling lines also called strikes baited with artificial squid-like bait and the starboard side was fitted with 10-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 the 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 5 to 10 minutes, with a total of 28 stops or attempts were conducted for the entire trip. Pilchard (*Sardinops sagax*) was used as a chumming bait, while artificial squid was used on poles and strikes. All fishing attempts were 100% observed. There were no days lost.

The retained species was *T. alalunga*, and the catch weight was confirmed by the vessel captain using eye estimates. There were no other species retained.

The 58 *T. alalunga* were measured for fork length (F.L) and no further samples were taken.

The chumming bait attracted seabirds to feed on bait, this was noted as a major attraction for seabirds and that led to a number of seabirds hovering over the vessel. Fortunately, for the entire trip, there were no seabirds or marine mammals caught or entangled on the fishing gear.

About 13 vessels also targeting tuna were sighted in the area. The identifiable vessels were; Django, Equinox, Braveheart, Western explorer, Oregon, Langeberg, Nicky-b, Hotline, Taryn-amy, Ab-shapiro and Oceana topaz. There were no illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) vessel sighted in the area.

A. Trip Summary

Table 1.1: Trip summary

BOARDING				DISEMBARKATION			
Date	07/01/2022	Time (GMT)	20:00	Date	12/01/2022	Time (GMT)	08:43
Location		Hout Bay (-34.0562 S, 18.3401 E)		Location		Hout Bay (-34.0562 S, 18.3401 E)	

B. Vessel Details

Table 1.2: Vessel details

Vessel name:	Tyler's Tide	Call sign:	ZS7669
Port of registration:	Hout Bay	Flag State:	South Africa
Owner:	Tylers tide PTY LTD	Charterer:	None
Vessel type:	Tuna pole	Fishing gear:	Tuna pole
Size (GRT):	24.44 ton	Length (LOA):	13.9

C. Electronic Equipment

Table 1.3: Electronics equipment

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT	
On-board acoustic equipment:	Furuno
Position fixing equipment:	Furuno T2 Touch
Vessel monitoring system (present/absent):	Present
Radar:	Furuno NXT
Communications equipment:	VHF Icom IC-M803, HF Icom M803
Plotters:	Furuno GP39

D. Fishing Operation Summary

Table 1.4: Fishing operations summary

Total number of days in the fishing area	4
Total number of days fished	4
Days lost (weather, breakdown...)	0
Total number of days steaming.	2
Target species	Albacore tuna and tuna like species
Total number of sets.	28
Total number of hooks set	6
Total number of hooks lost	0
Total number of hooks sampled	6
Total number of sets sampled	2
Bait used	Pilchard frozen and artificial squid
Origin of Bait	South Africa
Bait Ratio	80% Pilchard and 20% 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 three 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.

Table 1.5: Gear Description

Gear Description					
Poles 1	Material		Gaff	Material	
	Average Length (m)			Average Length (m)	
	Number	6		Number	6
	Average Nylon Length (m)				

Poles 2	Material		Hooks	Barb present	Yes	No
	Average Length (m)			Brand		
	Number			Size		

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

F. Retained Catch Details

Table 1.6: Catch Details

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Species	Square number (1°x1°)		Processing code	Processed number
January 2022	ALB	33	17	RD	233
January 2022	ALB	33	16	RD	137

Processing Details

A whole fish was retained.

Table 1.7: Retained fish

Species	Processing Code	Comments
ALB	RD	Whole fish was retained in its round form.

Fish Discards

All the catch was retained and 100% of the albacore tuna species was caught by the vessel.

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 was a total of 58 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)	Carca ss retained
ALB	58	58	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 albacore was measured for fork length using a tape measurement. No further samples taken.

H. Summary of Meteorological Details

The sea was calm and flat on first day, with light clouds and very light wind. On the second day the south westerly light breeze and ripples and just below 0,5 meters from south west. Weather was anticipated to change in few days.

I. Summary of Fishing Strategy

The vessel used trolling lines, poles and acoustic sonar to detect the fish. Birds diving and water ripples were also used to detect the fish from the distance. 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 depredation	No percentage of catch per species were damaged
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 (from 5 to 10 birds) and sometime no visibility of seabirds in some sets for at least 2 to 3 minutes of each set. Hence there was no proper mechanism at disposal.

Table 2.5: Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures	Comment (YES/NO/FIGURES)
Did the vessel operate south of 25°S?	?
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
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Seabirds	07/01/2022 - 12/01/2022	0	0	Dead: 0 Released alive: 0	No birds caught
Marine Mammals	07/01/2022 - 12/01/2022	0	0	Dead: 0 Released alive: 0	No marine mammals caught
Sea Turtles	07/01/2022 - 12/01/2022	0	0	Dead: 0 Released alive: 0	No sea turtles caught
Sharks	07/01/2022 - 12/01/2022	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	Not recorded yet?
Cardboard & Papers	Not recorded yet?
Plastic	Not recorded yet?
Fishing gear	Not recorded yet?
Oil	Not recorded yet?
Glass	Not recorded yet?

N. Vessel Sightings

There were 13 vessels also targeting tuna sighted in the area and only 11 names were recorded.

Table 2.9: Vessel Sightings

Vessel Name	Type of Vessel (fishery, factory ship, carrier, e.t.c)	Vessel position (Lat, Long)	Vessel Activity	Comment
Django	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Equinox	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Braveheart	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Western explorer	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Oregon	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Langeberg	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	

Nicky-b	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Hotline	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Taryn-amy	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Ab shapiro	Fishery	Not recorded	Fishing the Albacore tuna	
Oceana topaz	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;
- Albacore fish caught was wrapped with a plastic and packed/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.
