



TUNA POLE OBSERVER TRIP REPORT

Observer name :	Mzamo Maqeba
Nationality :	South African
IOTC Certification No. :	IOTCRSA046
Vessel name :	Easy Rider
ICCAT Registration No. :	
Vessel type :	Tuna pole
Trip started :	11/03/2021
Trip ended :	14/03/2021

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Furuno omni pulse

Present

VHF Icom IC-M330, HF Icom M802

Furuni GP33

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1. TRIP SUMMARY

The South African flagged tuna pole and line fishing vessel Easy Rider (the vessel) registration number DTC 15491A was engaged in the fishing activity as per the fisheries improvement plan (FIP) a project managed by WWF South Africa (WWF-SA) and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). The south African observer onboard Mzamo Maqeba (an observer) was deployed on the vessel to collect scientific and compliance data. The vessel was targeting tuna and tuna like species. Fishing occurred about 100 miles west of Paternoster, Western Cape. The fishing occurred over 2 days on the 12/03/2021 and 12/03/2021.

The vessel sailed from Hout Bay harbour on the 11/03/2021 at around 16:10 and started fishing the following day on the 12/03/2021 to 13/03/2021 (2 days) and the vessel returned to Hout Bay harbour immediately after the last attempt to make a catch. The vessel landed on the 14/03/2021 at about 04:55

The tuna pole vessel gear was composed of a maximum of 6 poles and 6 gaffs for 12 men. The 6 poles are fitted with hook and artificial bait. An 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. The stern was fitted with 3 trolling lines also called strikes baited with artificial bait. The starboard side was fitted with 10-meter water pipe with small holes punched (water sprinkler). The fishing activity started when the fish was detected on the strikes or on the sonar. 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 10 minutes. A total of 17 stops or attempts were conducted for the entire trip. The vessel used pilchard (*Sardinops spp*) as a chumming bait, while artificial squid was used on poles and trikes. All fishing attempts were 100% observed. There were no days lost.

The retained species was longfin tuna also known as albacore (*Thunnus alulanga*) 5300 kg. and the catch was confirmed by the vessel captain using eye estimates. There were no other species retained.

The 36 albacore species measurements taken were recorded for fork length (fl) and no further samples were taken.

The chumming bait attracted seabirds to feed on bait, this was noted as a major attraction for seabirds. This led to an entanglement of seabirds and some were caught on the poles. The following species caught were released alive and in good condition. About 6 great shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) and 1 white-chinned petrel (*Procelleria aequinoctialis*). No further by-catch.

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, oceana topaz. There were no illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) vessel sighted in the area.

Operational issue:

There were no operations issues encountered by the observer. Vessel personnel were immensely helpful and collaborated with an observer in carrying the duties.

Observer tasks:

An observer tasks was carried in terms of Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP), section 16.1 to 16.10 of permit conditions for tuna pole in South African observer programme as well as ICCAT resolution 16-14 to collect fisheries research and compliance data.

Observer logbooks/forms

The electronic access database, laptop, sampling equipment and data sheets were made available for observer sampling.

Scientific Observer and vessel details

Observer name:	Mzamo Mqeba	Nationality:	South African
Controlling organization:	Imvelo Blue Environmental Consultancy	Contact address: 31 Sir Walter Street, Avalon Park, Kuilsriver Tel: +27 (0) 79 082 8471 info@imveloblueenviro.com	+27 74 129 6030 mzamom@gmail.com

BOARDING				DISEMBARKATION			
Date	11/03/2021	Time	13:20	Date	14/03/2021	Time (GMT)	08:27
Location	Hout Bay			Location	Hout Bay		

Comments

The vessel sailed from Hout Bay and returned back to Hout Bay after completing the trip.

○ Vessel details

Vessel name:	Easy Rider	Call sign:	ZS4731
Port of registration:	Cape Town	Flag State:	South Africa
Owner:	Sam Brown	Charterer:	Nick Marnitz
Vessel type:	Tuna pole	Fishing gear:	TP
Size (GRT):	25 tons	Length (LOA):	14.095
Blast freezer capacity:	18 tons	Hold capacity:(m3)	18 tons

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

On-board acoustic equipment:	Furuno omni pulse
Position fixing equipment:	Furuno T2 Touch
Vessel monitoring system (present/absent):	present
Radar:	Furuno NXT
Communications equipment:	VHF Icom IC-M330, HF Icom M802
Plotters:	Furuni GP33
Comments The vessel is fitted with Furuno omni pulse acoustic sounder that scans 360 degrees below the vessel to detect the fish.	

Cruise Itinerary

Port of departure	Hout Bay
Date of departure	11/03/2021
Arrival on fishing ground (Date)	12/03/2021
Start fishing (Date)	12/03/2021
End fishing (Date)	13/03/2021
Departure from fishing grounds (Date)	13/03/2021
Port of return	Hout Bay
Date of return	14/03/2021

Comments

The vessel sailed from Hout Bay harbour on the 11/03/2021 at around 16:10 and started fishing on the 12/03/2021 and ended the fishing on the 13/03/2021 and left the fishing ground immediately and arrived in Hout Bay on the 14/03/2021 at 04:55

Fishing Operations

○ Summary

Total number of days in the fishing area	2
Total number of days fished	2
Days lost (weather, breakdown...)	0
Total number of days steaming.	2
Target species	Tuna and tuna like species
Total number of sets.	2
Total number of hooks set	6
Total number of hooks lost	none
Total number of hooks sampled	6
Total number of sets sampled	2
Bait used	Pilchard frozen and artificial squid
Bait Ratio	100%

Comments

The vessel used pilchard as live bait and used it to bait the fishing ground. The hooks fitted on trolling lines and poles was baited with artificial squid.

○ 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 a artificial bait and placed astern of the vessel. The vessel was further equipped with gaffs to assist lifting the fish onto the fishing vessel.

○ Retained Catch Details (all species) per calendar months

Year	Month	Species	Square number (1°x1°)		Processing code	Processed weight (kg)
2021	3	ALB	-32	16	RD	900
2021	3	ALB	-32	17	RD	4400

Comments

The was one species caught and fish retained. Total of 5300kg albacore species retained.

- **Processing Details**

Species	Processing Code	Comments
ALB	RD	Whole fish was retained

Comments

Albacore fish caught was kept whole unprocessed.

- **Fish discards**

Year	Month	Species	Square number (1°x1°)		Number or Weight (kg)	Reason
2021	3	PRO	-32	17		Protected species by permit conditions
2021	3	PUG	-32	17		Protected species by permit conditions

Comments

The sea birds caught were released alive and unharmed and are protected by permit conditions.

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.

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.

Summary of incidental catches

○ Mitigation Measures

There are no official mitigation measures for the fishery. The vessel used long bamboo sticks from time to time to scare the seabirds away when they get too close to the vessel. This method did not seem to be effective on the diving seabirds.

○ Seabirds caught

Year	Month	Species	Square number (1°x1°)		Fate
2021	3	white-chinned petrel	-32	17	alive and in good condition
2021	3	great shearwater	-32	17	alive and in good condition

○ Marine Mammals caught

Year	Month	Species	Square number (1°x1°)	Fate	Comments
				Dead: Released alive:	

Comment:

No marine mammals caught.

○ Sea turtles caught

Year	Month	Species	Square number (1°x1°)	Fate	Comments
				Dead: Released alive:	

Comment:

No sea turtles caught.

Sharks Caught

Year	Month	Species	Square number (1°x1°)	Fate	Comments
				Dead: Released alive:	

Comments:

No sharks interactions observed.

○ **Depredation**

Number of sets with observed depredation

0

Percentage of sets with observed depredation

0%

Percentage of catch per species damaged by depredation

0%

Was fish loss attributed to predator but not directly observed?

No

List of predator species observed

None

Comments

There were no species depredated.

○ **Tag Recovery information**

Tag No.	Species	Length (cm)	Length type	Weight (kg)	Weight type	Position of recovery	Finder details	Comments (eg. Full label on tag, tag type)
						Lat: N / S Long: E		

Comment:

There were no tags recoveries

Summary of biological data collected

• **Biological Data Collection summary**

Species	Total No. individuals sampled	No measured	No weighted	No. Sexed	Maturity stage recorded	Otoliths collected	Other (specify)	Carcass retained
ALB	36	36	0	0	0	0	0	0

○ **Biological Sample Storage Location**

Sample type	Species	No. collected	Location to be sent/stored

Comment:

There were biological samples retained.

○ **Tagging information**

Species	Tag type	No. animals tagged	Comments
			There were no tags done.

Lost Fishing Gear

There was no gear lost. All fishing gear was retained onboard.

Vessel Sightings

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, oceana topaz. There were no illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) vessel sighted in the area.

Permit Conditions

The vessel personnel complied with the tuna pole permit conditions.

General Comments

General the vessel personnel was cooperative and were willing to assist whenever the observer needed. The birds caught were handled with great care and caution.