



iotc ctoi

# Recent advances in IOTC: moving forward in the Indian Ocean

Alejandro Anganuzzi  
IOTC Secretariat

# The headlines:

- **The situation of the fishery:**
  - Stable in general
  - Piracy a continuing problem in the western Indian Ocean
  - Declines in fishing effort for some fleets
  
- **The situation of the stocks:**
  - All major stocks are in good shape, except possibly albacore
  
- **Progress in various areas of the IOTC process:**
  - Precautionary approach implementation
  - Continuing debate on the development of a rights-based management approach
  - Stronger monitoring of compliance by the IOTC Members



iotc ctoi

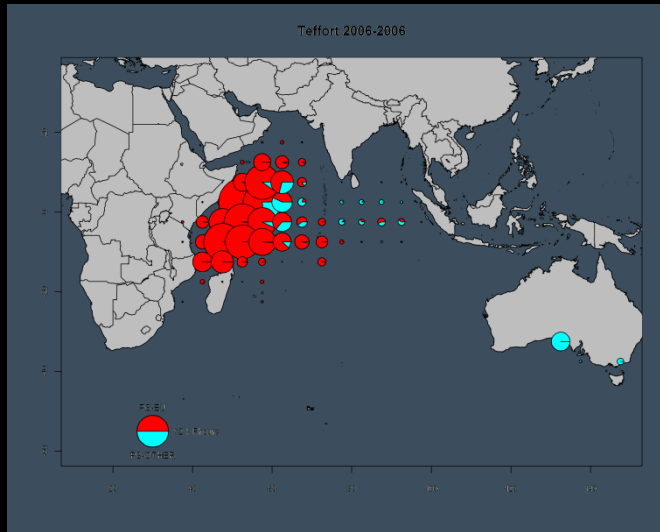
# The situation of the fishery

# The situation of the fishery

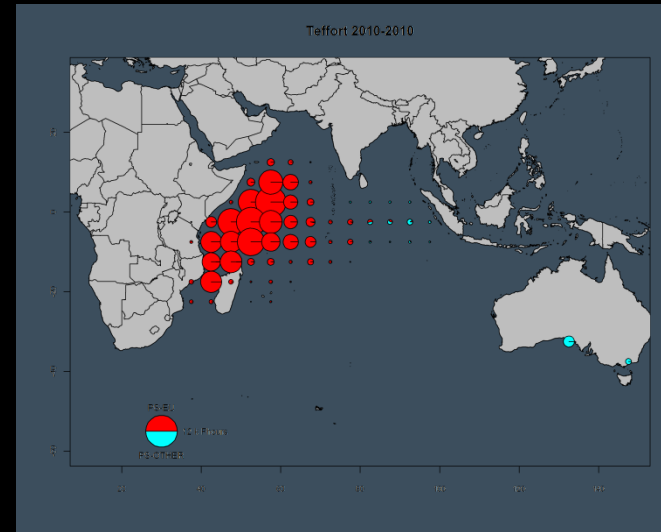
- **Stable in general**, slight improvement in catches for some stocks,
- Indian Ocean still the second most productive ocean
- **Piracy** a continuing problem for high seas and coastal fisheries in the western Indian Ocean
- **Declines in fishing effort** for longline countries
- **Displacement** of effort to coastal areas

# Piracy effects: the displacement of effort

2006

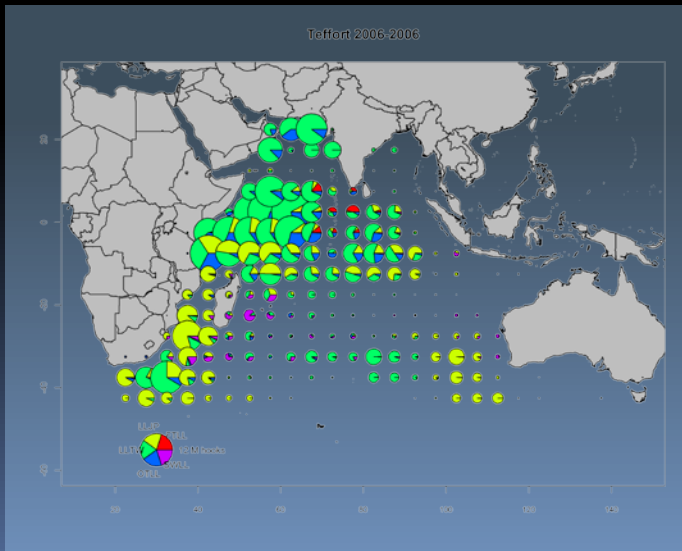


2010

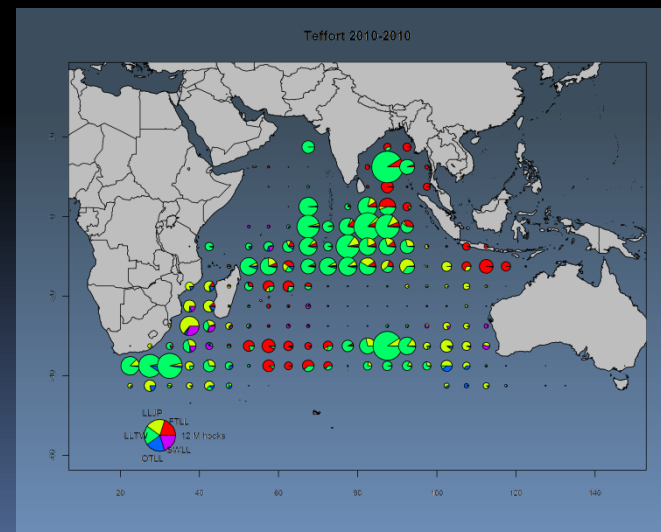


Purse-seine

Teffort 2006-2006



Teffort 2010-2010



Longline



iotc ctoi

# The status of the major IOTC stocks

## Better scientific advice

- The quality and quantity of data, while still a concern, is not an excuse to not make decisions
- **Evolution in analyses**, with tagging data used in the assessment studies to reinforce fishery data
- **More stocks evaluated**, some for the first time (e.g. skipjack) with more explicit account of uncertainty
- **Management strategy evaluation**: a process to incorporate uncertainty in the assessments
- More work needed for **neritic tunas** and **billfish** species

# Summary status of the major stocks

Stock	Status	Fishing intensity	Stock size	Comments
Yellowfin Tuna	Green	16% below	61% above	Status recovered
Skipjack tuna	Green	20% below	256% above	
Bigeye tuna	Green	20% below	20% above	
Albacore tuna	Orange	161% above	11% below	High risk-again in 2012
Swordfish (all IO)	Green	50-30% below	7-60% above	
Swordfish (SWIO)	Yellow	35% below to 20% above	25% below to 44% above	





iotc ctoi

# Recent advances in the IOTC process

# Positive steps on Governance

- **Membership** expanded now to 30 members (Last additions Maldives and Mozambique in 2012)
- Much **better participation from civil society** (last meeting 11 NGOs were represented in IOTC-16)
- Better and more effective **participation of coastal states**
- **Record number of proposals** adopted in April 2012
- Most recommendations of the 2009 **Performance Review** addressed
- **Revision of the IOTC Agreement** remains the most outstanding issue

# Adoption of the Precautionary Approach

- **Precautionary Approach:** Principles formally adopted in April 2012, accompanied by recommended provisional reference points.
- Commitment to a process to develop permanent reference points and **harvest control rules** for future management measures
- It addresses some of the impediments for eco-labelling of Indian Ocean.

# Reinforced monitoring of compliance

- **Effective level of compliance** by member states remains a major challenge
- Strengthened process to monitor and improve compliance in member states by **Compliance Committee**
- **Port States Measures** adopted and in force for more than a year
- **VMS** slowly deploying in fleets of smaller vessels
- **Regional Observer Programme**: slow implementation
- Observer programme monitors **transshipment-at-sea**

# Process to develop management measures

- **Develop a rights-based management approach:**
  - Technical committee to discuss allocation criteria
  - Proposals being discussed to develop mechanisms for allocation of catch limits or quotas
- **Alternative management measures to be considered**
  - Some Members indicate their preference for alternatives
  - Current time-area closures benefits insufficient
- But actions will be needed soon for stocks such as albacore

# Recent ecosystem considerations

- Out of 22 proposals debated in IOTC 16, 8 were to protect species other than tuna
- Adopted measures for seabirds, marine turtles and thresher sharks
- Proposals for cetaceans, whales sharks, hammerhead, oceanic whitetip sharks deferred for consideration in 2013
- FAD management plans to be developed
- Are sharks bycatch ? or species being targeted by several fleets? Who has the responsibility to manage sustainably shark fisheries?



iotc ctoi

**In summary...**

**The IOTC cup is half-full...  
...but still filling up**

**Thank you**