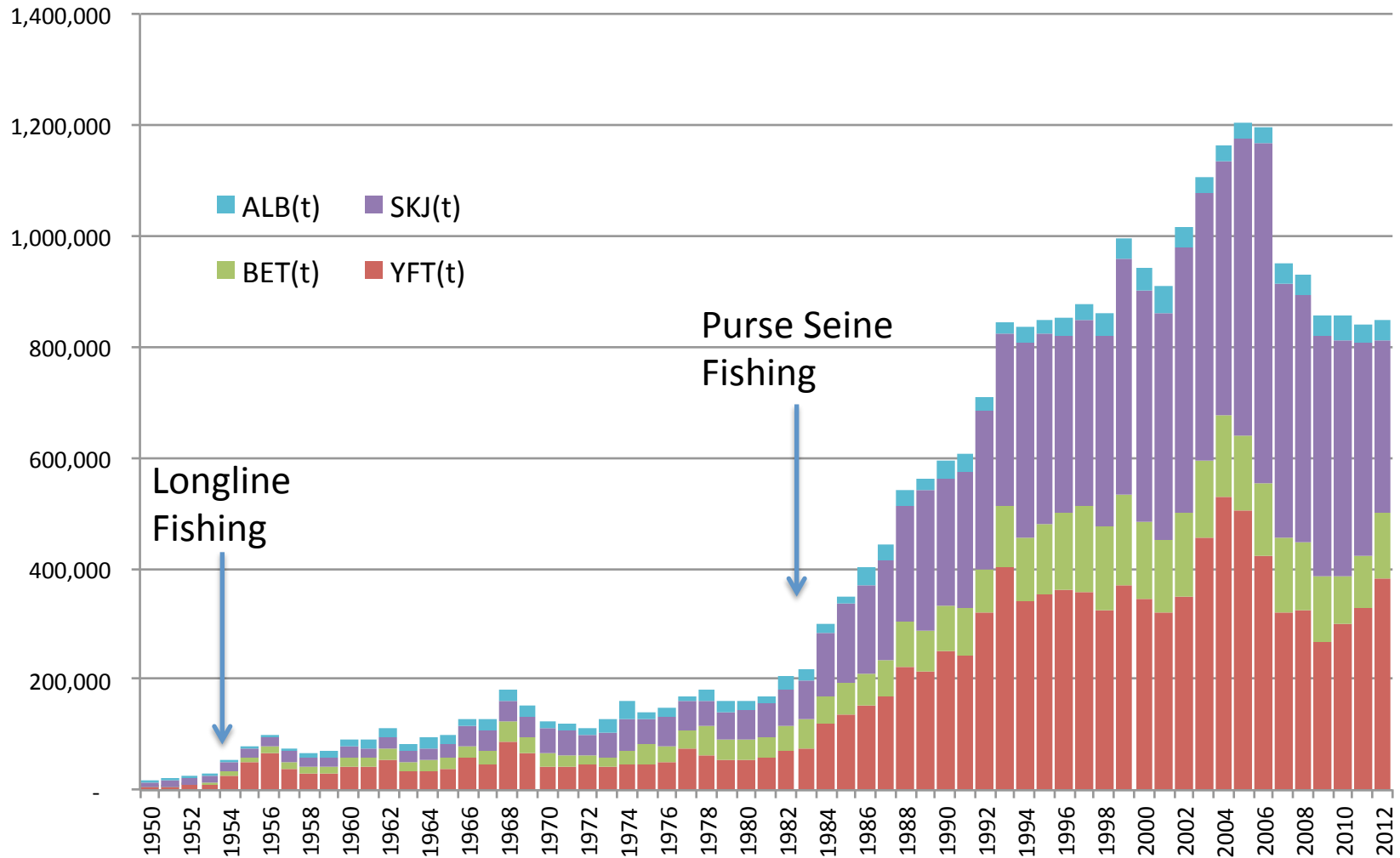


Objectives for Management

Some Perspectives from the ABNJ Workshop in
Sri Lanka, 22-24 April 2014

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
Management Procedures Dialogue Workshop-01
Colombo, Sri Lanka, 31 May 2014

IO catches of 4 major tuna species



Earlier years ...

- Indo Pacific Tuna Development and Management Programme (known as IPTP); from 1982 – 1996 (until the establishment of IOTC)
 - Coastal States' participation was poor, capacity of the coastal states were limited
 - IPTP started the work of compiling tuna catch and effort data in the region
- IOTC was established in March 1996 following the signing of 10th Contracting Party
- Headquarters established in Seychelles; became operational in January 1998
 - Few CPCs lead the IOTC work
 - Coastal States' participation was sub-optimal; relatively low.

All Changed!

- Resolution passed in S14 [in Busan, 2010] - 'For the Conservation and Management of Tropical Tuna Stocks in the IOTC Area of Competence
 - Allowed time-area closer for LL and PS (Feb and Nov); applicable in 2011 and 2012
 - Called for formulation of an allocation (quota) system or any other relevant measures based on Scientific Committee recommendations
 - The Commission shall adopt the allocation system or any other relevant measures for YFT, BET at its plenary session in 2012

All Changed ..

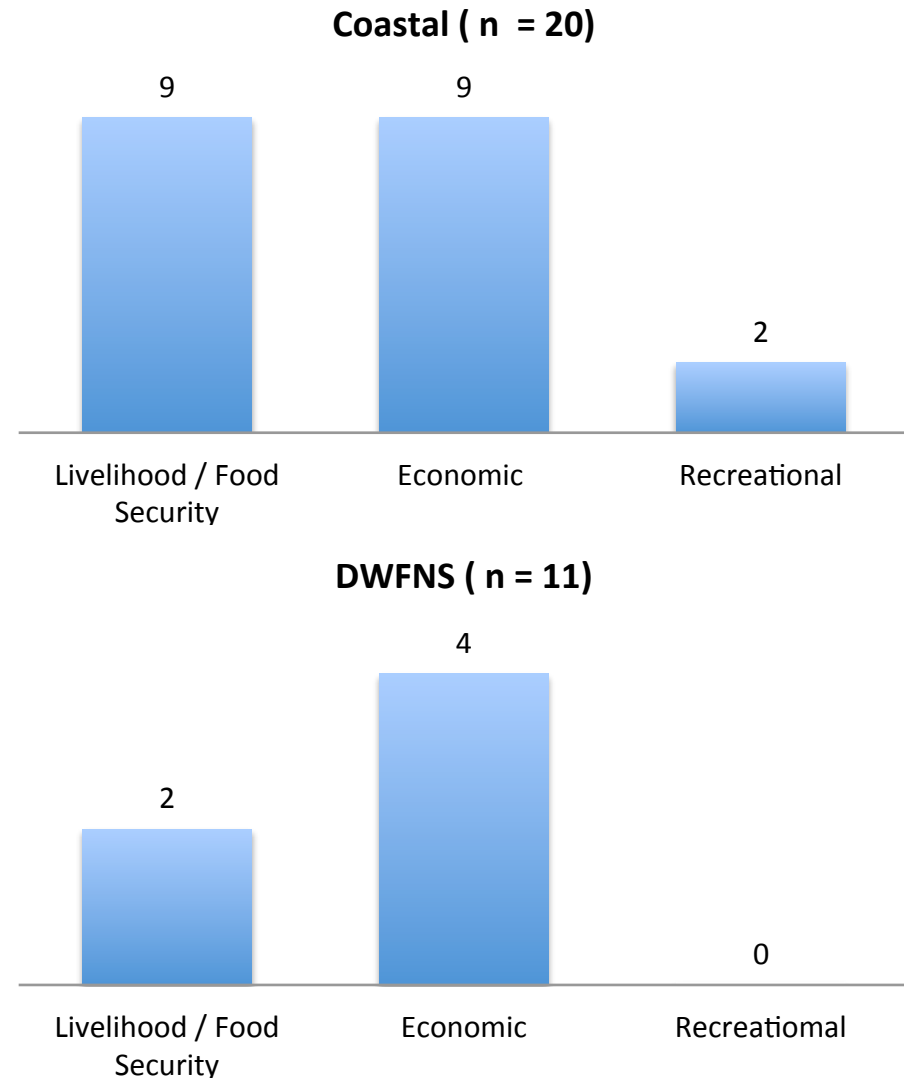
- Adoption of 'On the Implementation of Precautionary Approach' as an IOTC Resolution in S16, 2012, was an important first step towards management of tuna under precautionary fishery management that explicitly considers the inherent risk and uncertainty
- Same year, in S16, recommendations were made on Interim Limit and Target Reference Points for SKJ, BET, SKJ
- In 2013 (in S17) On Interim Target and Limit Reference Points and a Decision Framework was adopted as resolution further legitimizing the work of development of MSE

Aspirations of Coastal States

- Different and varied; therefore real objectives (immediate, medium and long term) are very different among the CPCs
- Maintenance of livelihood and food security is critical
 - Large coastal communities - subsistence and artisanal; commercial sale of harvest (in fresh form) to local communities earning income and providing protein is important
 - Maintenance of directed fishing opportunities are very important
- Securing and maintenance of employment opportunities
 - Sourcing fish for processing and re-export (post-harvest activities)
 - Providing port facilities; transshipment
- Economic
 - Increasing and/or maintenance of revenue through fishing licenses / access fees; joint venture agreements
 - Transshipment services

Fishing Motivations of CPCs

- Total 31 CPCs in the IOTC
 - 20 Coastal
 - 11 DWFNs
- Livelihood / food security and economic objective is equally important in Coastal States
- Economic drivers are more important in DWFNs



Management Objectives in the IOTC Agreement

Article V. OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION

1. The Commission shall promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by this Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks.

The Commission shall promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring through **appropriate management**, the **conservation and optimum utilization of stocks** covered by this Agreement and **encouraging sustainable development of fisheries** based on such stock.

Possible Overarching Objectives

- Maintenance of stock productivity / biological sustainability – identify stock conservation objectives
- Fishery sustainability (all directed) – identify minimum harvesting levels and acceptable variability
- Assurance of access – minimize probability of fishery closures
- Serve consumer needs – there is huge global demand for sustainability caught tuna

Management Objective - Example

- A clearly defined management objective will have;
 - a state Variable - e.g., biomass
 - a time frame – e.g., each year within 15 years
 - probabilistic statement about how desirable it is to achieve the objective
- Example statement translated for use in MP
 - Maintaining spawning stock biomass at or above SSB_{MSY} with a probability of at least 80%

Capacity Building is Critical

- Lack of understanding of what may actually happen is an issue
 - Some are confused as to what might happen; more resolutions might limit fishing opportunities?
 - Additional responsibility on data provisions (catch/effort, fleets), VMS, port state measures?
 - Apprehensive of whether Coastal States can keep up with the responsibilities that may come with this new approach to management.
- Allocation issue – unresolved, now stalled!
 - Following the second the TCAC in Oman, there appears to be no ‘interest’ to revive the process
- But do we want to maintain this status quo?

MSE process critical for the Maldives!

- Maldives is genuinely interested in the long-term sustainability of tuna resources of the IO
 - To that end Maldives has certified its pole-and-line SKJ fishery for MSC and is pushing for certification of the handline fishery
- Committed to fulfilling conditions in the MSC Client Action Plan
 - For common good of the CPCs
 - Making everyone engage in this process of new way of dealing with management of our tuna resources.
- As a direct outcome of the of the Meeting, the Maldives with Mozambique is proposing 'On Enhancing Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers'
 - Create legitimacy of this important work
 - To coordinate all MSE related work by establishing and Science Management Committee under direct Supervision of the Commission

Thank you!