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INDONESIAN TUNA FISHERIES

IN SULAWESI SEA AND WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN WATERS

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For fisheries management purpose, Indonesian marine area is divided into 9 marine fisheries management areas, i.e. (1) Malacca Strait, (2) South China Sea, (3) Java Sea, (4) Makasar Strait and Flores Sea, (5) Banda Sea, (6) Seram Sea and Tomini Bay, (7) Sulawesi Sea and Pacific Ocean, (8) Arafura Sea, and (9) Indian Ocean.

Indonesian fishery is dominated by small scale fisheries. More than 75% of fishing vessels are dominated by non powered boat and outboard motor, and the remaining is inboard motor. Especially for inboard motor, almost 90% have size less than 10 GT.

Catch of tuna and tuna-like fish landed from Sulawesi sea and Pacific Ocean waters contributed around 20 % of total catch of tuna and tuna-like in the Indonesian waters. Those catch was usually caught from territorial waters and IEEZ which the dominant catch recorded skipjack tuna, then followed by yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, and albacore. Catch of eastern little tuna which consist of longtail tuna, kawa-kawa, frigate tuna and bullet tuna. During 2000-2003 the catch of skipjack tuna indicated increased sharply then decreased in 2004. It was slightly different with the catch of tuna and little tuna that indicated increasing during 5 year, even though it was not significantly.

In 2004 total catch of tuna by species as following yellowfin tuna 26,733 MT, Bigeye tuna 7,917 MT, Alabacore 5,254 ton, Skipjack tuna 51,944 ton, Eastern little tuna 15,992 MT.

For catching tuna, there are some dominant fishing gears used by local fishermen: pole and line, hand line, and purse seine. They usually operate those gears in the territorial and IEEZ waters. In 2000 some tuna long liners with size 51-200 GT started to operate in this area and also some of purse seiner with size of 500-1000 GT fish in the same fishing ground.

Preliminary monitoring on tuna fisheries in this area had been conducted in 2005-2006 which selected on some landing sites consisted of Sorong, Bitung, Ternate, Jayapura, and Kendari. This research collaborated with CSIRO-Australia to identify which fishing port or landing sites have to be considered for tuna catch monitoring. It is still need to improve the method of monitoring catch data in this area especially improvement on human resources skill how to collect the accurate data.