

## SIZE AND FISHING GROUND OF WAHOO (*Acanthocybium solandri* Cuvier, 1832) FROM CATCH DATA OF TUNA LONGLINE OPERATED IN INDIAN OCEAN

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### ABSTRACT

Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri* Cuvier, 1832) is a member of the Scombrid family, is a pelagic (open ocean) species found worldwide in tropical and warm-temperate seas. It is fished throughout its range by artisanal, recreational, and commercial. Wahoo is one of the by-product species of the tuna long line fleets operate in Indian Ocean. This paper describes status of wahoo resource caught by tuna long line in Indian Ocean based at Benoa-Bali. Data obtained from onboard observer program on the tuna long liner based at Benoa-Bali during 2005-2010. Total of 85 trips of onboard observation were carried out with the total long line sets (one set per day) were 2873 times. The data covered the horizontal and vertical position of tuna long line hooks caught the wahoo, hook rate and fish size distribution. Data of horizontal fishing positions (coordinates) gained from the global positioning system available in the tuna long liners. The depth of the long line gear in the waters and temperature of waters were measured by mini-loggers TDR type SP2T-1200, brand: NKE Micrel. Hook rate of wahoo is calculated using the Klawe (1986) method. Result of research showed that the wahoos caught by tuna long lines based at Benoa spread horizontally between 1°31'-33° 40'S and 77°18'-117°53'E and spread vertically between the depth of 75.2- 285.7 m. From 85 tuna long line fishing trips, only about 50% of 85 tuna long line fishing trips caught wahoo with hook rate ranged 0.947-1.399 per 1000 hooks/setting. Size distribution of wahoo ranged 70-180cm with modus ranged 101-110cm.

**Keyword:** Wahoo, tuna long line, indian ocean

### INTRODUCTION

Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri* Cuvier, 1832) is known as Pacific kingfish, tiger fish, ocean barracuda, Malata kingfish, queenfish, kingfish. Fishermen in Hawaii called as *ono* and *peto* by fishermen in Karibia. Indonesian fishermen in general called wahoo as *tengiri*, and tuna long line fishermen in Benoa-Bali called as *nyunglas*. Collette & Nauen (1983) described the short description of wahoo as follows, number of dorsal spines (D.XXII-XXVII.12-16), no anal spines, anal soft rays (A.12-14), vertebrae 62 - 64. Mouth large with strong, triangular, compressed and finely serrate teeth. Snout about as long as the rest of head. Posterior part of maxilla completely concealed under pre-orbital bone. Gill rakers absent. Inter-pelvic process small and bifid. Swim bladder present. Body covered with small scales. No anterior corselet developed. The back is iridescent bluish green; the sides silvery with 24 to 30 cobalt blue vertical bars which extend to below the lateral line.

Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri* Cuvier, 1832), a member of the Scombrid family, a pelagic (open ocean) species found worldwide in tropical and warm-

temperate seas. The wahoo is highly migratory species, widely distributed throughout tropical and subtropical oceans (Collette & Nauen, 1983; Garber *et al.*, 2005; *Mc Bride et al.*, 2008). Roullot & Venkatasami, (1986) mentioned that sports fishermen used troll around FAD reported good catches of tuna, dolfinfish and wahoo. The major non-tuna catch of what could be considered as the three small-scale fisheries in the region targeting tuna (i.e. those in Cape Verde, Morocco and South Africa) show great differences between the countries. Mostly wahoo in Cape Verde mostly Sarda in Morocco, and almost no non-tuna catch by the small-scale tuna fishery in South Africa (Gillet, 2011). In Indonesia wahoo primarily harvested as bycatch in the troll line, drift gillnet, and tuna long line and purse seine fisheries. This paper describes status of wahoo resource caught by tuna long line in Indian Ocean based at Benoa-Bali.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data analyzed were obtained from *onboard observer program* on commercial tuna long line fleets based at Benoa-Bali in the period August 2005 to October 2010. Mostly tuna longlines technology

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based at Benoa are using monofilament line that was first introduced into Indonesia by Taiwanese in 1990s. The principal parts of tuna long line consist of a continuous monofilament main line, with floats and branch lines commonly made of smaller gauge monofilament. Numbers of branch line (hook) in between floats were 12 with interval of each branch lines were 50 m. The lengths of each branch lines are 25-30 meter. The deepest hooks usually reach 400 m with target species yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), whereas wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) was one species caught as by-product. Total of 85 trips were carried out with the total long line sets (one set per day) of 2873 times. The tuna long line equipped with

radio beacons, radar reflectors, and strobe lights are more likely to be used in marking the gear.

The depth of the long line gear in the waters and temperature of waters were measured by 6 miniloggers TDR type SP2T-1200, brand: NKE Micrel. The minilogger provide information on depth and water temperature, capable to record water depth up to 1200 m and the water temperature -5 to 35°C. The miniloggers attached in the end of branch lines (closed to the hooks). The setting configuration of minilogger was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> branch lines respectively on each basket (Figure 1). With this minilogger setting configuration, each depth range would be covered and recorded.

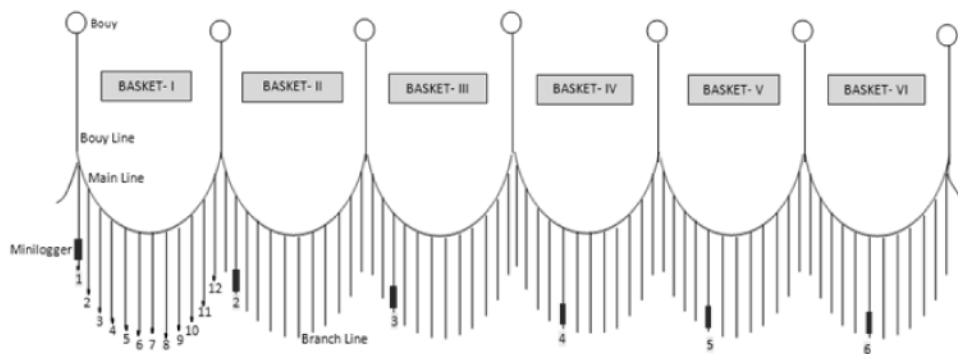


Figure 1. The setting configuration of the minilogger on the branch line of tuna long line during research.

Identification fish species refer to Collete & Nauen (1983), Compagno (1999), Sainsbury *et al.* (1985) and Sommer *et al.* (1996). The hook rate was calculated by using the equation of Klawe (1986) as follows:

$$HR = \frac{JI}{JP} \times A \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

where: HR = hook rate.  
 JI = number of fish caught.  
 JP = number of hook sets.  
 A = 1000.

**RESULTS**

**Horizotal and Vertival Distribution**

Horizontal distribution of wahoo can be described base on result of *onboard observer program* in 2005-2010. The wahoo caught by tuna long line based at

Benoa was between 1°31' S -33° 40'S and 77°18'E - 117°53'E. In 2005-2006, tuna long line based at Benoa-Bali caught wahoo on 12° S -16°S and 107° E-116°E. In 2007, wahoo caught by tuna long line on the area 11° S -34°S and 97° E -115°E. In 2008, area where wahoos were caught 1° S -15°S and 76° E -116° E, whereas in 2009 wahoo caught on the area 1°S-14°S and 96°E-117°E. In 2010 wahoo caught in area 1° S -13°S and 96°E-120°E (Figure 2).

The information on vertical distribution of wahoo was identified through the depth of hook which caught the wahoo. The longline fishing experiment appears as a relevant methodology to achieve this goal (Bach *et al.*, 2003). Installation the *minilogger* on the branch line of tuna long line has been widely used to obtain the information of vertical distribution as used in this research. Result of research show that the wahoo caught by tuna long line spreads between the depths ranged 75- 286 m and mostly caught at depths ranged 100-150 m (Figure 3).

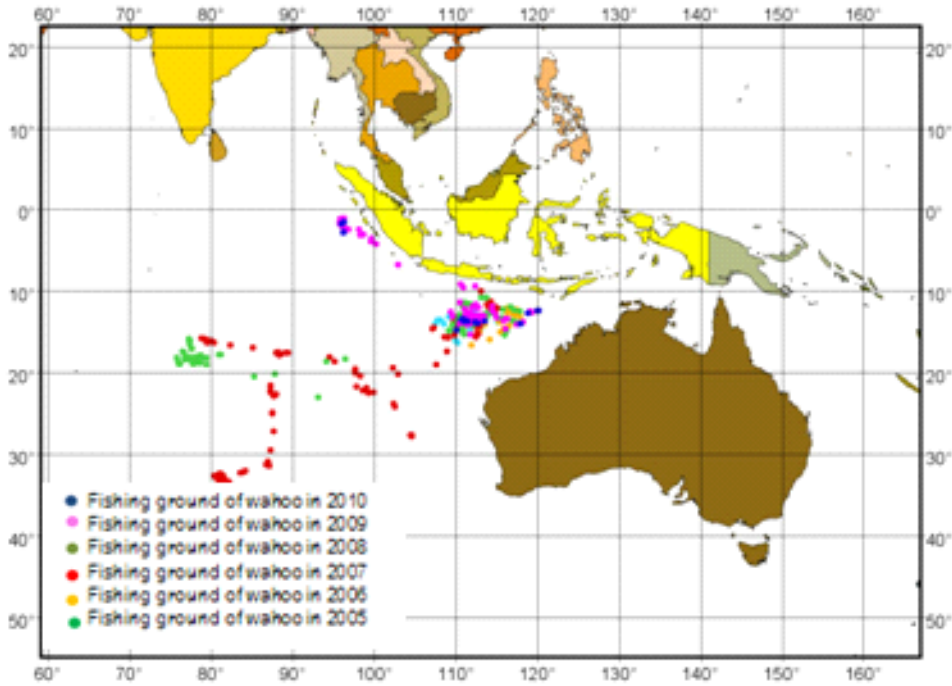


Figure 2. Position of wahoo caught by tuna long line during onboard observer program (2005-2010) which also describes the potential of horizontal distribution of Wahoo.

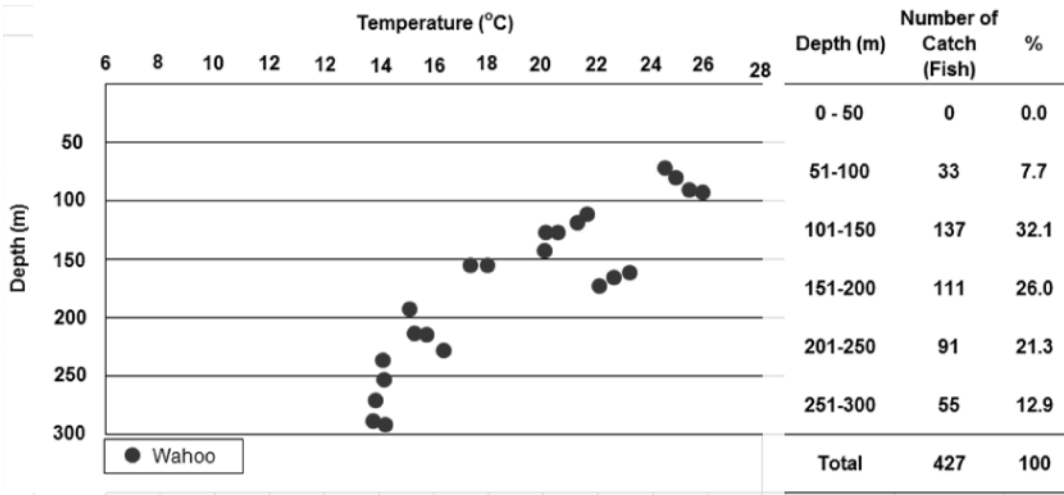


Figure 3. Depth range that caught by tuna long line during onboard observer program (2005-2010) which also describes the potential of vertical distribution of Wahoo.

Wahoo is a pelagic, highly migratory species of the family scombridae which broadly distributed throughout tropical and subtropical oceans (Collette and Nauen 1983; Garberetal. 2005; Mc Bride *et al.*, 2008). Little information is available on wahoo movement, although their availability change seasonally and the average size different in the various latitude. Wahoo may also migrate seasonally away from the equator following oceanic temperature patterns (Iverson & Yoshida, 1957).

Previous study by Nakano *et al.* (1997) noted that the catch rate of wahoo in the long line fishery varies at different depth and further argued that wahoo was surface oriented i.e. < 160 meters depth. It is reinforced by evidence the most of wahoo caught by long lines predominantly in the surface (Nakano *et al.* 1997; Beverly *et al.*, 2009). Sepulveda *et al.* (2011) noted that depths layer of wahoo is up to 253 m, but in this study recorded that the maximum depth layer of wahoo recorded up to 285.7 m. NMFS (2001) noted

that the distribution of wahoo is associate with warm, productive oceanic fronts, especially when these fronts are near coastal shelves and banks.

**Hook Rate**

From 85 tuna long line fishing trips, only 42 fishing trips those caught wahoo with total number of catch of wahoo was 463 fishes Hook rate ranged 0.947-1.399 per 1.000 hooks/setting (Table1, Figure 4). The hook rate is higher compared to the hook rate of wahoo on the tuna long line operated in Pacific Ocean as reported by Kim *et al.* (2007) that the hook rate on the tuna long line operated in Pacific Ocean was 0.446 per 1.000 hooks. The other previous research noted that only 12 wahoo were caught during 5,500 hours of surface trolling in the open sea, more than 60 miles from coastal (Murphy & Ikehara 1955: 14). This species is known to travel solitarily or in small schools of two to twenty fish (Iverson and Yoshida 1957), and is attracted to banks, pinnacles and islands, as well as flotsam drifting in the open ocean (NMFS 2001). That condition allegedly as one of the reasons the hook rate of wahoo on the tuna long line was very low.

Table 1. Hook rate of wahoo on the tuna long line year 2006-2010 based on onboard observer program.

Year	Number of Hooks	Catch of Wahoo (Fish)	Hook Rate (Fish/1000 hooks)
2005	14145	15	1.060
2006	25854	25	0.966
2007	121877	122	1.001
2008	150746	211	1.399
2009	72823	69	0.947
2010	20769	21	1.011

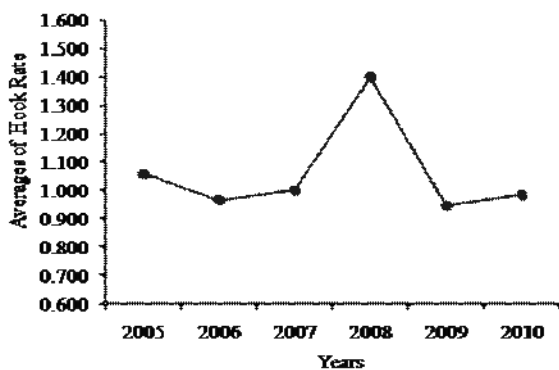


Figure 4. Hook rates fluktuation of wahoo on the tuna long line fisheries based at Benoa in 2006-2010.

**Fish Size**

The data of size (fork length-FL) of wahoo caught tuna long line tabulated by year in Table 2. In 2006, the size ranged 72-180 cm, in 2007 ranged 65-145 cm, in 2008 ranged 71-163, in 2009 ranged 70-156cm and in 2010 ranged 109-140 cm. The overall (unsexed) shows that the modus of the size of wahoo was 101-110 cm as delineated on Figure 5.

Table 2. Size of wahoo caught tuna long line based in Benoa during year 2006-2010.

Years	Number of sample (fish)	Fork length (cm)	
		Min	Max
2006	21	72	180
2007	17	65	145
2008	33	71	163
2009	48	70	156
2010	18	109	140

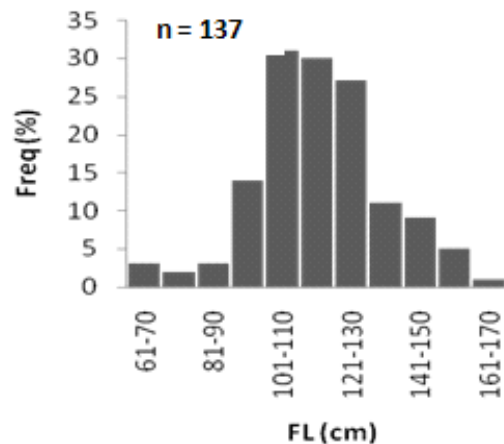


Figure 5. Size distribution of wahoo caught tuna long line based at Benoa in 2006-2010.

Sommer *et al.* (1996) noted that maximum total length (TL) of wahoo was 250 cm (unsexed), length at first maturity  $L_m$  ranged 85-105 cm and the modus at 99.3 cm and according to Collette (1995) the common fork length was 170 cm (unsexed). Refer to this fact, the wahoo caught by tuna long line in Indian Ocean based in Benoa mostly were adult fish. This evidence is also indicates the tuna long line was selective fishing gear for wahoo.

## CONCLUSION

From above description can be concluded as follows, the wahoo caught by tuna long line based at Benoa was between 1°31' S -33° 40'S and 77°18'E - 117°53'E and spreads between the depth of 75.2-285.7 m. The hook rate ranged 0.947-1.399 per 1000 hooks/setting and mostly were adult fish.

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