



Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation

**Ocean Partnership for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation
– Models for Innovation and Reform: Bay of Bengal Project (TF 018233)**

**Regional Dialogue on “Management of Highly Migratory Fish Species
in the Bay of Bengal”**

23 November 2017; Kochi, India

Tuna Fishery Status and Future Management Plans for Indian Ocean¹

ABSTRACT

The tuna fish stocks of the Indian Ocean (IO) are a valuable renewable resource which are exploited by the fishing fleets of some 40 countries, both IO and Distant Water Fishing Nations. Total landings from IO have increased from less than 50,000 tonnes (1950) to over 1.7 million tonnes (2014), making this the second largest region in tuna fishing after the Central and Western Pacific. Current landings (approximately 981,000 tonnes) of the principal market tunas (yellowfin, skipjack, albacore, bigeye) represent 20 percent of global production (valued at some USD 2 billion, first sale value). The latest assessment of the status of these tunas from the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, show that except for yellowfin, the stocks are neither overfished or that overfishing is taking place.

In this context, the presentation examines a set of key issues relevant to the development of tuna fisheries management plans in the future – including the challenges of managing highly migratory fish stocks, the role of fisheries management organizations, the relationship between fisheries management and international markets, and the extent to which 'best practice' in fisheries management can also be applied from other fisheries.

¹ Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation, Chennai – 600 018, Tamil Nadu, India.
Email: info@bobpigo.org; Website: www.bobpigo.org, www.oppbob.org