

Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources¹

National Fisheries Information

Landings by the Trinidad and Tobago fleet of three (3) semi-industrial longlining vessels for the period January- December 1996 are given below in Table 1. Table 2 gives the quantities per species transshipped by thirty (30) foreign flagged semi-industrial and industrial longlining vessels for the same period.

Table 1: Landings of Trinidad and Tobago longliners for the period January- December 1996

Species	Weight (kg)
Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	42 602
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	16 864
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	27 069
Mako	515

Table 2: Quantities transshipped by foreign flagged vessels over the period January- December 1996

Flag	Species	Quantity transshipped (kg)
British Virgin Islands	Big eye tuna	1 401
	Swordfish	3 253
	Yellowfin tuna	7 267
Dominica	Big eye tuna	333
	Swordfish	1 044
Honduras	Big eye tuna	51 236
	Yellowfin tuna	19 012
Korea	Big eye tuna	2820
	Swordfish	11 973
	Yellowfin tuna	18 063
Panama	Big eye tuna	7 646
	Swordfish	17 006
	Yellowfin tuna	21 995

¹ In this report, the term "transshipped" means "destined for export".

¹ St. Clair Circle, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.

Flag	Species	Quantity transshipped (kg)
St Vincent	Big eye tuna	30 565
	Swordfish	54 972
	Yellowfin tuna	74 911
Suriname	Big eye tuna	4 922
	Swordfish	11 936
	Yellowfin tuna	18 028
Taiwan	Big eye tuna	651 160
	Swordfish	16 941
	Yellowfin tuna	244 366
United States	Big eye tuna	8 217
	Swordfish	34 124
	Yellowfin tuna	18 930
Venezuela	Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	326
	Big eye tuna	13 704
	Swordfish	20 130
	Yellowfin tuna	31 205

Research and Statistics

An established and ongoing catch and effort data collection system exists for the artisanal fishery, however, data are unavailable presently due to an extensive system upgrade exercise currently underway. Data collection from semi-industrial/industrial and recreational fishing operations is currently dependent on non-mandatory reporting of landings by vessel operators, therefore, figures may not reflect total landings.

Biological data are collected from the artisanal fishery. Length frequency, maturity and ageing data are collected for 2 mackerels: Serra Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus brasiliensis*) and King mackerel (*S. cavalla*), and 3 sharks: Puppy shark (*Carcharhinus porosus*), Blacktip shark (*C. limbatus*), and Brazilian sharpnose (*Rhizoprionodon lalandii*). Length data are also recorded for Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Albacore (*T. alalunga*) and Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*). Administrative problems have hampered these data collection exercises and are being addressed to allow for adequate coverage.