Swordfish Sustainability Fact Sheet

Latin Name	*Xiphias gladius*
FAO Name	Swordfish
Area of Catch	Indian Ocean (FAO 57 & FAO 71)
Regulatory Agencies	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) is a highly migratory open ocean fish that is found in many oceanic regions including tropical, temperate, and occasionally cold waters. The high reproductive capacity of the swordfish is noted by estimates that females carry from 1 million to 29 million eggs during spawning season. In warm equatorial waters, spawning occurs year-round which means fish reproduction remains abundant in much of the Indian Ocean. Swordfish have a high growth rate, reach maturity at a moderate age and have a moderate lifespan of 9 years (Sea Choice). The World Conservation Union (IUCN) currently lists the conservation status of swordfish as "Data Deficient." In other words, there is inadequate information to directly assess the risk of extinction for the swordfish stock. According to South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI), Indian Ocean Swordfish populations are not considered over-fished at present. Due to the prolific nature of this species, their populations are considered resilient to fishing pressure with the ability to recover swiftly should overfishing occur. The fully rebuilt North Atlantic stock is illustrative of this species' fecundity and ability to support fishing pressure.

Cannon Fish Swordfish is caught using manageable long line and hand line or pole-caught methods in the warm tropical Indian Ocean. Each shipment of frozen swordfish is imported by Cannon Fish Company from fishing vessels regulated by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Each shipment of swordfish is declared and certified by the IOTC as maintaining standards in accordance with the maximum sustainable yield for that fish stock.

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