Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) catch in relation to the Thermal and Chlorophyll-a Fronts during May – July in the Makassar Strait

To cite this article: R Hidayat *et al* 2019 *IOP Conf. Ser.: Earth Environ. Sci.* **253** 012045

View the [article online](#) for updates and enhancements.

You may also like

- **Estimating potential fishing zones for Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) Abundance in Southern Makassar Strait** Rachmat Hidayat, Mukti Zainuddin, Achmat Mallawa *et al.*
- **Effect of oceanographic conditions on skipjack tuna catches from FAD versus free-swimming school fishing in the Makassar Strait** A R S Putri, M Zainuddin, M Musbir *et al.*
- **Comparing skipjack tuna catch and oceanographic conditions at FAD locations in the Gulf of Bone and Makassar Strait** R Hidayat, M Zainuddin, A Mallawa *et al.*

Recent citations

- **The distribution of yellowfin tuna based on sea surface temperature and water depth parameters in the Bone Gulf, Indonesia** Safruddin *et al.*
Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) catch in relation to the Thermal and Chlorophyll-a Fronts during May – July in the Makassar Strait

R Hidayat¹, M Zainuddin², S Safruddin², A Mallawa² and S A Farhum²
¹Department of Fisheries Science, Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries, Graduate School of Hasanuddin University, Makassar 90245, Indonesia
²Department of Fisheries Science, Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries, Hasanuddin University, Makassar 90245, Indonesia

Email: mukti_fishocean@yahoo.co.id

Abstract. Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) is a highly migratory fish that has high economic value and wide market acceptance. This research aimed to analyse the relationship between thermal and chlorophyll-a fronts and skipjack tuna catch in coastal waters around Barru, Makassar Strait, Indonesia. This study used two dataset types, data collected in-situ (fishing positions and skipjack tuna catch), and remotely sensed data (Sea-surface temperature and chlorophyll-a, with spatial and temporal resolutions of 4 km and monthly, respectively). Thermal and chlorophyll-a fronts were estimated using a Single Image Edge Detection (SIED) algorithm, and the distances from each catch data point to the nearest fronts was calculated in ArcGIS 10.5. We then analysed the data using the Generalized Additive Model (GAM) statistical model. The results showed that both fronts were detected in every month (May – July). The optimum distance between the thermal front and catch distributions was in the range of 0 - 50 km and the highest catches occurred at a distance of 0 - 10 km with a horizontal gradient of 0.1 - 0.5°C. Meanwhile the distance between the chlorophyll-a front and catch distribution was in the range of 0 - 50 km and the highest catches occurred at a distance of 10 - 20 km with a horizontal gradient of 0.01 - 0.02 mg m⁻³. We suggest that skipjack tuna distributions in the study area may be positively associated with the thermal and chlorophyll-a fronts.

1. Introduction
The fisheries potential of Fisheries Management Area (FMA) 713 in terms of large pelagic fish, including skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), is estimated at 419,342 tons [1]. The Makassar Strait is part of FMA 713 and is considered one of the best places to catch skipjack tuna. This is because of the high chlorophyll-a and primary productivity of the Makassar Strait, both of which are closely related to the Indonesian Throughflow (ITC) [2]. The pattern of skipjack distribution is greatly influenced by marine environmental factors such as sea surface temperature (SST), chlorophyll-a and sea-level anomalies [3,4].

Hotspots represent key habitat for determining the spatial distribution of skipjack tuna [5]. Skipjack tuna hotspots are also thought to be strongly associated with front, eddy and upwelling dynamics [6,7,8,9]. A front is the boundary between two different water bodies [10]. Chlorophyll-a thermal fronts can be used as indicators in the marine environment [11,7,12]. Information on the state of
oceanographic parameters can be obtained using remote sensing technology [13]. Some studies have used remote sensing technology with regard to the relationship between swordfish fishing and thermal fronts in the North Atlantic [14]. Spatial and temporal dynamics of skipjack tuna have been found to be related to the thermal and chlorophyll fronts around the Seram Sea [15].

2. Research methods

This research was conducted during May - July 2017 in the waters of Barru, Makassar Strait, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. The study focused on the purse seine fishing operations based in Siddo Village, Soppeng Riaja Sub-district, Barru District.

2.1. In-situ and ex-situ data collection

In-situ data were obtained through direct observation by following fishing operations using purse seine vessels operating out of Siddo Village. We collected data from 60 fishing ground points, with coordinates determined using Global Positioning System (GPS). Data collected consisted of fishing positions, skipjack tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis) catch per unit effort (CPUE) per trip, sea surface temperature, and chlorophyll-a. Ex-situ data on sea surface temperature and chlorophyll-a were obtained from high-resolution satellite data of Spectra-Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) aqua with a spatial resolution of 4 km during May to July 2017. In this study we used a monthly temporal resolution.

2.2. Thermal and chlorophyll-a fronts detection with SIED

The input data used for the front detection process were sea-surface temperature and chlorophyll-a derived from satellite imagery. The algorithm used was Single Image Edge Detection (SIED) [16]. The sea surface temperature and chlorophyll-a image data format used was NetCDF (NC). The data were processed using SeaDAS in order to determine the area to be processed. The data were then converted from floating points to raster data using the kriging facility in the spatial analyst tool in ArcGIS 10.2. The data were then changed from raster data to integer format using map algebra in the spatial analyst tools in ArcGIS 10.2. The resulting integer data was then processed using the Marine Geospatial Ecology Tools (MGET) plugin in the ArcGIS toolbox. The plugin automatically determined the line of the front, with a horizontal gradient based on specified temperature and chlorophyll-a levels.

2.3. Statistical analysis using GAM

Temperature and chlorophyll-a data were obtained from satellite imagery using MODIS sensors with spatial resolution of 4 km and monthly temporal resolution, and the data were then further analysed using the R program. The statistical model used was the Generalized Additive Model (GAM) in R (version 3.3.2). GAM is a non-linear model, usually used to understand the interrelationships between observed variables through the identification of positive value ranges. The $\mu_i$ response variable (the number of skipjack tuna captured) and the predictor variable (front distance) can be formulated by the following equation.

$$g(\mu_i) = \alpha + s(\text{front distance}) + \epsilon$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

Where $g$ is the spline fine function, $\mu_i$ is the expected value of the response variable (the number of skipjack catches), $\alpha$ is the constant coefficient model, $s$ is a predictor variable smoothing function and $\epsilon$ is a random error term.

Prior to GAM modelling, dataset exploration first aims to identify the sine and co-linearity data between each explanatory variable. GAM modelling used the mgcv package in R (version 3.3.2). GAM modelling used a Gaussian distribution and the identity link function. The response variable was the catch, while the explanatory variable was the front distance.
3. Result and discussion

3.1. Distribution of Sea Surface Temperature and Chlorophyll-a versus Capture of Skipjack Tuna

3.1.1. Sea Surface Temperature. Sea surface temperature can be used to predict the presence of organisms in aquatic environments, especially fish. The direct effects of temperature on marine life are related to the rate of photosynthesis of plants and animal physiological processes, especially metabolic rates and reproductive cycles [17]. Based on temperature variations, high water temperatures are important factors in determining the migration of fish species [18].

![Figure 1. The distribution of sea surface temperature from May to July 2017 versus skipjack tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis) catch in the Makassar Strait](image)

The optimum temperature range for skipjack tuna is 29.00°C - 31.50°C [19]. The distribution of sea surface temperature in Makassar Strait during May to July 2017 (Figure 1) ranged from 24.89°C - 32.61°C. The average temperature range of fishing grounds in the Makassar Strait was 29.13°C - 30.36°C. The highest catch (620 fish) occurred at a temperature of 29.19°C. Figure 2 shows that skipjack tuna fishing in the Makassar Strait during May - July 2017 took place in waters at temperatures of 29 - 30.5 °C. The highest skipjack catch frequency was at temperatures of 29.5 - 30 °C (22 fishing grounds) and the lowest frequency was at temperatures of 29 - 29.5 °C (18 fishing grounds).
3.1.2. Chlorophyll-a. The high dispersion and concentration of chlorophyll-a are strongly related to ocean water conditions. The concentration of chlorophyll-a varies vertically, and is influenced by oceanographic factors such as SST, wind, currents, and others. These fluctuations can be observed by direct measurement or the use of remote sensing technology. The concentration of chlorophyll-a in water results in distinctive seawater colouration, so that through satellite sensing methods, the pigment concentration can be estimated [20]. Physically, chlorophyll-a concentration distribution can be determined through visual analysis of maps, where the chlorophyll-a concentration is indicated using a colour scale.

![Figure 2](image_url)  
**Figure 2.** Frequency of Skipjack tuna caught during May to July 2017 in Makassar Strait by sea surface temperature.

The chlorophyll-a concentration in the Makassar Strait from May to July 2017 (Figure 3) was in the range 0.12 to 0.94 mg m$^{-3}$. The chlorophyll-a concentration distribution shows that concentration tended to be high in coastal waters, and lower in deep sea waters with a range of 0.12 - 0.57 mg m$^{-3}$. The highest catch was 620 skipjack tuna, at a chlorophyll-a concentration of 0.24 mg m$^{-3}$.

![Figure 3](image_url)  
**Figure 3.** The distribution of chlorophyll-a during May to July 2017 versus skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) catch in the Makassar Strait.
Figure 4. Frequency of Skipjack tuna caught in the Makassar Strait during May to July 2017 at different chlorophyll-a concentrations.

Skipjack tuna fishing in the Makassar Strait during May - July 2017 took place in waters with chlorophyll-a concentrations of 0.2 - 0.6 mg m$^{-3}$. The skipjack tuna catch rate was highest in the range 0.2 - 0.3 mg m$^{-3}$ (29 fishing grounds) and the lowest in the range 0.5 - 0.6 mg m$^{-3}$ (1 fishing ground).

3.2. Thermal and Chlorophyll-a Front Detection

3.2.1. Thermal Fronts. Temperature differences in surface waters will result in the movement of water masses from higher temperatures to lower temperatures [15]. This movement of water masses will lead to a boundary between warm water and cold water so that the front area is one of the oceanographic phenomena that affect the abundance and distribution of fish.

Figure 5. Map of thermal fronts in the Makassar Strait during May to July 2017 detected using the SIED method.

The thermal front detected in June is seen to be in harmony with the distribution of fishing grounds. The resulting front had a horizontal gradient of 0.1 - 0.5°C along the line of the front. The highest catch was in the range of 0 - 10 km, comprising 34.34% of the total catch. From the above diagram, it
can be concluded that the Skipjack tuna catch was relatively higher at fishing grounds closer to the front (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Skipjack tuna catch in the Makassar Strait by distance from a thermal front, based on front detection using the SIED method, during May to July 2017

3.2.2. Chlorophyll-a Fronts. The map of chlorophyll-a fronts detected in the Makassar Strait during May - July 2017 (Figure 7) using the SIED algorithm shows that fronts were present during every month of observation, especially in waters near to the coast. Some fishing grounds were quite close to a front.

Figure 7. Map showing chlorophyll-a fronts detected using the SIED method from May to July 2017 in the Makassar Strait

Chlorophyll-a fronts detected during the period May – July are seen adjacent to fishing grounds. The fronts had horizontal gradients of 0.01 - 0.02 mg m\(^{-3}\) along the line of the front. The catch was highest at a distance of 10 - 20 km from the front, and comprised 33.74% of the total catch (Figure 8).
3.3. Relation of skipjack tuna catch with distance from thermal and chlorophyll-a fronts using GAM

The relationship of skipjack tuna catch with distance from thermal and chlorophyll-a fronts was further tested using a GAM statistical method. The GAM analysis of the relation of skipjack tuna catches during June - September 2017 with distance from thermal and chlorophyll-a fronts based on the SIED method (Figure 9) shows relatively high catch volume between 0 - 10 km for thermal fronts and 10 - 20 km for chlorophyll-a fronts, similar to the results in Figures 6 and 8).

Based on the results of skipjack catch point analysis with respect to thermal and chlorophyll-a fronts, the catch is relatively higher close to the front. This could occur because the areas around a front tend to be fertile, with abundant food for small fish that in turn attract larger pelagic fish [12]. The GAM results (Tables 1 and 2) indicate that the relationship of catch with the distance from a front was significant for thermal fronts (Pr = 0.03107) (Table 1) but not for chlorophyll-a fronts (Pr = 0.4531), however the nonparametric advanced test of the latter showed a significant relationship (Pr = 0.00433) (Table 2). Based on these results (Pr <0.05), it can be concluded that thermal and chlorophyll-a parameters, specifically the distance from thermal and chlorophyll-a fronts, significantly affect skipjack tuna catch volumes in the Makassar Strait.

**Table 1.** The result of GAM model test for thermal Front

| S(Distance) | Df | Sum Sq | Mean Sq | F Value | Pr (>F) |
|-------------|----|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| S(Distance) | 1  | 98741  | 98741   | 4.8969  | 0.03107 * |
| Residuals   | 55 | 1109026| 20164   |         |         |
| Significance level codes : |        | | 0 '***' | 0.001 '***' | 0.01 '*' | 0.05 '.' | 0.1 '' | 1 |

**Table 2.** The result of GAM model test for chlorophyll-a Front

| S(Distance) | Df | Sum Sq | Mean Sq | F Value | Pr (>F) |
|-------------|----|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| S(Distance) | 1  | 12608  | 12608   | 0.571   | 0.4531  |
| Residuals   | 55 | 1214464| 22081   |         |         |
| Nonparametric Anova (Intercept) | |  |  |
| S (Distance) | 3  | 4.8996 | 0.00434 ** |
| Signif. Codes : | 0 '***' | 0.001 '***' | 0.01 '*' | 0.05 '.' | 0.1 '' | 1 |
4. Conclusion
The optimum distance between thermal fronts and fishing grounds was in the range of 0 - 50 km and the highest catches occurred at distances of 0 - 10 km with a horizontal gradient of 0.1 - 0.5°C. Meanwhile, the distance between chlorophyll-a fronts and fishing grounds was in the range of 0 - 50 km and the highest catches occurred at distances of 10 - 20 km with a horizontal gradient of 0.01 - 0.02 mg m⁻³. The distance from both fronts significantly affected the skipjack catch in the Makassar Strait during the study period.

Acknowledgments
This study was funded under the scholarship program of the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia (PMDSU research Grant), a National Competitive Research Grant (PTUPT 2018), and a Regional Competitive Research Grant (BMIS 2018). We also wish to thank the Skipjack Spot Hunter team.

References
[1] Ministry of Marine and Fisheries Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia 2016 Statistics Report DKP of the Republic of Indonesia
[2] Gordon A L 2005 Oceanography of the Indonesian Seas and their throughflow Oceanography 18 14-27
[3] Zainuddin M, Saitoh K and Saitoh S 2008 Albacore tuna fishing ground in relation to oceanographic conditions of northwestern North Pacific using remotely sensed satellite data Fish. Oceanogr. 17 61-73
[4] Mugo R, Saitoh S, Nihira A and Kuroyama T 2010 Habitat characteristics of skipjack tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis) in the western North Pacific: a remote sensing perspective Fish. Oceanogr. 19 382-396
[5] Zainuddin M, Kiyofuji H, Saitoh K and Saitoh S 2006 Using multi-sensor satellite remote sensing and catch data to detect ocean hot spots for albacore (Thunnus alalunga) in the
northwestern North Pacific Deep-Sea Res. II 53 419-431

[6] Lehodey P, Bertignac M, Hampton J, Lewis A and Picaut J 1997 El Niño southern oscillation and tuna in the western Pacific Nature 389 715-718

[7] Polovina J J, Howel E, Kobayashi D R and Seki M P 2001 The transition zone chlorophyll front, a dynamic global feature defining migration and forage habitat for marine resources Prog. Oceanogr. 49 469-483

[8] Zainuddin M, Nelwan A, Farhum S A, Najamuddin, Hajar A M, Kurnia M and Sudirman 2013 Characterizing potential fishing zone of skipjack tuna during the southeast monsoon in Bone Bay – Flores Sea using remotely oceanographic data Int. J. Geosci. 4 259-266

[9] Zainuddin M, Farhum S A, Safruddin, Selamat M B, Sudirman, Nurdin N, Syamsuddin M, Ridwan M, Saiioh S 2017 Detection of pelagic habitat hotspots for skipjack tuna in the Gulf of Bone-Flores Sea, southwestern Coral Triangle tuna, Indonesia PlosOne 12 e0185601 (https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0185601)

[10] Kirby D S, Fiksen O, Hart P J B 2000 A dynamic optimisation model for the behaviour of tunas at ocean fronts Fish. Oceanogr. 9 328-342

[11] Olson D B, Hitchcock G L, Mariano A J, Ashjian C J, Peng G, Nero R W and Podesta 1994 Life on the edge: marine life and fronts Oceanography 7 52-77

[12] Safruddin, Rachmat H and Zainuddin M 2018 Effects of environmental factors on anchovies Stolephorus sp distribution in Bone Gulf, Indonesia AACL Bioflux 11 387-393

[13] Butler M J A, Mouchot M C, Barale V and LeBlanc C 1988 The Application of Remote Sensing Technology to Marine Fisheries: An Introductory Manual (FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No. 295) 165 pp

[14] Podesta G P, Browder J A and Hoey J J 1993 Exploring the association between swordfish catch rates and thermal fronts on U.S. long line grounds in the western North Atlantic Cont. Shelf. Res. 13 253-277

[15] Mustasim 2015 Spatio-temporal dynamics of skipper tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis) it’s relationship to the thermal and chlorophyll-a front (Makassar: Thesis Hasanuddin University)

[16] Cayula J F and Cornillon P 1992 Edge detection algorithm for SST images J. Atmos. Ocean. Tech. 9 67-80

[17] Putri A R S and Zainuddin M 2018 Effect of climate change on the distribution of skipjack tuna Katsuwonus pelamis catch in the Bone Gulf, Indonesia, during the southeast monsoon AACL Bioflux 11 387-393

[18] Nurdin S, Mustapha M A, Lihan T and Zainuddin M 2017 Applicability of remote sensing oceanographic data in the detection of potential fishing grounds of Rastrelliger kanagurta in the Archipelagic waters of Spermonde, Indonesia Fish. Res. 196 1-12

[19] Zainuddin M 2011 Skipjack tuna in relation to sea surface temperature and chlorophyll-a concentration of Bone Bay by using remotely sensed satellite data Jurnal Ilmu dan Teknologi Kelautan Tropis 3 82-90

[20] Tadjuddah M 2005 Analysis of Cakalang Fishing Area (Katsuwonus pelamis) and Madidihang (Thunnus albacares) by Using Satellite Data in Waters of Wakatobi Regency, Southeast Sulawesi (Bogor: Institut Pertanian Bogor)