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IFFO RS
Global Standard for Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients

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Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0



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Fishery Under Assessment	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) FAO 34 (Atlantic Eastern Central)
Date	December 2018
Assessor	Jim Daly

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: TCF Ltd; South East Asian Packing & Canning Ltd & others				
Address:				
Country: Thailand		Zip:		
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:		
Email address:		Applicant Code		
Key Contact:		Title:		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		SAI GLOBAL		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval	Whole fish/ By-product
Jim Daly	Virginia Polonio	0.5	Initial	By-product
Assessment Period	2018			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	ICCAT
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Fishery Location	FAO 34 (Atlantic Eastern Central)
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine, hand lines
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	PASS
Clauses Failed	None
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Approve by-product

Assessment Determination
<p>The Regional Fishery Management Organisation (RFMO) managing the fishery in the assessment area is the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT). For the Eastern Atlantic stock the last stock assessment was completed in 2014 using catch data up to 2013. The next assessment is due in 2019.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included. Biomass and fishing mortality reference points are provided and are within limit reference points. However these data are based on the 2013 fishery. Future assessments should take into account the possibility of under-reporting of catches in this fishery.</p> <p>Studies should also be conducted to increase monitoring and publish information that assesses purse seine interactions with protected, endangered and threatened (PET) and other bycatch species. Studies should also be conducted on the ecosystem impacts of fish aggregating devices (FADs) and to also identify and mandate best practice for bycatch mitigation techniques.</p> <p>OPAGAC launched in 2016 a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) with the objective of achieving MSC certification for their purse seine tuna fleets in three oceans and four RFMOs. A sub-FIP linked to ICCAT has as its unit of certification both Western and the Eastern Atlantic Ocean skipjack fisheries (purse seine). Current progress on the FIP is rated as A; the end date for the Project is September 2021 (website accessed 10.12.18).</p> <p>IUCN has categorised skipjack tuna as a species of least concern; the species does not appear in the current CITES appendices (both sites accessed 10.12.18).</p> <p>The assessment team recommends the approval of skipjack tuna (FAO 34) as a by-product species under the current IIFO RS Standard (v2.0) for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.</p>
Peer Review Comments
Notes for On-site Auditor

Note: This table should be completed for whole fish assessments only.

Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)	
Category A			A1	
			A2	
			A3	
			A4	
Category B				
Category C	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	N/A	PASS	
Category D				

[List all Category A and B species. List approximate total %age of landings which are Category C and D species; these do not need to be individually named here]

SPECIES CATEGORISATION

The following table should be completed as fully as the available information permits. Any species representing more than 0.1% of the annual catch should be listed, along with an estimate of the proportion of the catch each species represents. The species should then be divided into Type 1 and Type 2 as follows:

- **Type 1 Species** can be considered the ‘target’ or ‘main’ species in the fishery. They make up the bulk of annual landings and are subjected to a detailed assessment.
- **Type 2 Species** can be considered the ‘bycatch’ or ‘minor’ species in the fishery. They make up a small proportion of the annual landings and are subjected to relatively high-level assessment.

Type 1 Species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 2 Species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch (see Appendix B).

Species which make up less than 0.1% of landings do not need to be listed (NOTE: ETP species are considered separately). The table should be extended if more space is needed. Discarded species should be included when known.

The ‘stock’ column should be used to differentiate when there are multiple biological or management stocks of one species captured by the fishery. The ‘management’ column should be used to indicate whether there is an adequate management regime specifically aimed at the individual species/stock. In some cases it will be immediately clear whether there is a species-specific management regime in place (for example, if there is an annual TAC). In less clear circumstances, the rule of thumb should be that if the species meets the minimum requirements of clauses A1-A4, an adequate species-specific management regime is in place.

NOTE: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it **cannot** be approved for use as an IFFO RS raw material. This applied to whole fish as well as by-products.

TYPE 1 SPECIES (Representing 95% of the catch or more)

Category A: Species-specific management regime in place.

Category B: No species-specific management regime in place.

TYPE 2 SPECIES (Representing 5% OF THE CATCH OR LESS)

Category C: Species-specific management regime in place.

Category D: No species-specific management regime in place.

Common name	Latin name	Stock	% of landings	Management	Category
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Eastern Atlantic	N/A	ICCAT	C

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment. In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime, and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

Clause C1 should be completed for **each** Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

Species Name		Skipjack tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	
C1	Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	PASS
	C1.2	The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	PASS
			Clause outcome: PASS
Evidence			
<p>The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is an intergovernmental organization responsible for the management and conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The organization was established in 1969. Scientists participating in ICCAT carry out studies on biometry, fisheries ecology, and oceanography, focusing on the effects of fishing on tuna stock abundance. They also collect and analyse fisheries statistics which are relative to conditions the management of resources.</p> <p>There remains uncertainty around the stock structure of skipjack in the Atlantic but the hypothesis of separate Eastern and Western stocks is the most plausible. The population of skipjack tuna in the eastern Atlantic is most likely healthy and fishing mortality rates are sustainable. There are spatial closures for the surface fishery that will likely provide protection to skipjack tuna. There is required observer coverage in this fishery. Recent recommendations to maintain catches at current levels have not had results in any quotas being set. Additional work is needed to estimate unreported landings made into West African ports and canneries.</p> <p>Skipjack tuna:</p> <p>Skipjack tuna is the predominant species aggregated to Fish Aggregation Devices (FAD's) where it is caught in association with juvenile yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and with other species of epipelagic fauna. Skipjack reach sexual maturity in around one year and spawn opportunistically in warm waters above 25°C throughout the year, in large areas of the ocean. Growth differences depending on latitude must be taken into account if assessments are carried out on separate stocks between sub-tropical and tropical areas. In the Eastern Atlantic, the major fishery is associated and un-associated (no fish aggregating device) purse seining and hand lines.</p>			

Stock Assessments:

Traditional stock assessment models are difficult to apply to skipjack tuna because of their characteristics (continuous spawning, spatial variation in growth, discrimination of effort for fishing on free schools and on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)). In the latest assessment the Scientific Committee suggested keeping catches of skipjack tuna below recent levels (ICCAT 2014).

Reference Points: Last updated on 08 Jan 2015 (Source: ICCAT (2014):

- MSY: 143,000 - 170,000 tonnes
- Current Replacement Yield: 203,500 tonnes
- B2008/Bmsy: likely >1
- F2008/Fmsy: likely <1

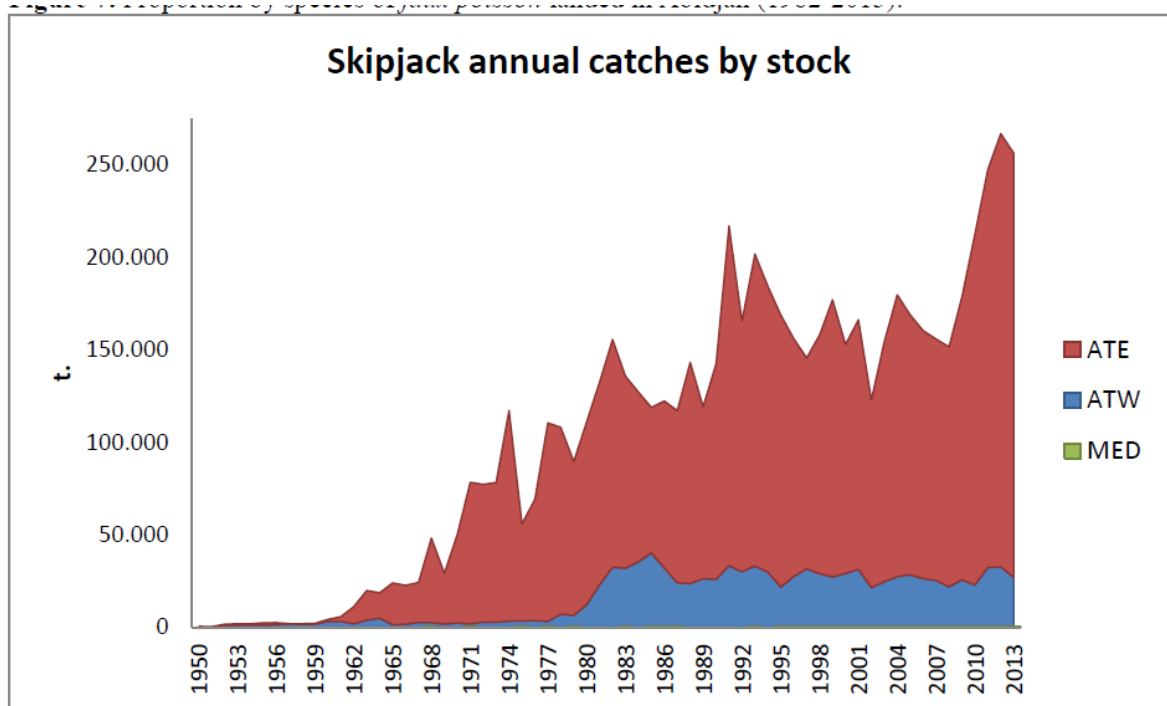


Figure 1: Nominal catch (t) by stock of skipjack tuna R2

Species –Specific Stock Assessment:

Fishery removals of Skipjack tuna in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, such as catches and effort (Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)). Stock assessments (Eastern and Western Atlantic skipjack tuna) were conducted by ICCAT in 2014 using 2013 data. The next assessment is due in 2019.

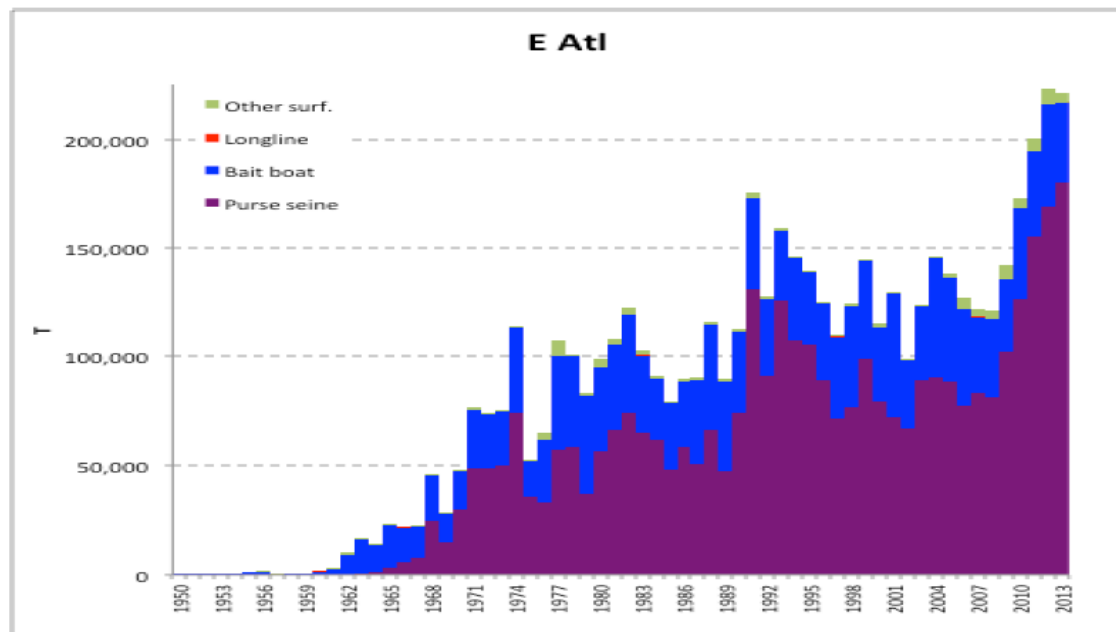


Figure 2: Eastern Atlantic catches of skipjack by gear as used by the Working Group for the 2014 stock assessment. **R2**

Management Recommendations:

The most recent stock assessment suggests that Skipjack tuna stock in Eastern Atlantic is not overfished and that overfishing is not occurring (ICCAT 2014).

Fishery removals of Skipjack tuna in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) **R2**

References

R1: FAO Species Fact Sheets (Skipjack tuna)

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2494/en>

R2: ICCAT SCRS/2014/011 REPORT OF THE 2014 ICCAT EAST AND WEST ATLANTIC SKIPJACK STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING Dakar Senegal (2014) 172pp

https://www.iccat.int/Documents/CVSP/CV071_2015/n_1/CV071010001.pdf

R3: CITES Species Endangered list: <http://checklist.cites.org/#/en> (accessed 23.03.18)

R4: IUCN Red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search> (accessed 23.03.18)

R5: MSC Track a Fishery:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/search?q=certified+skipjack+tuna&start> (accessed 23.03.18)

R6: Fishsource: Skipjack Tuna Eastern Atlantic Ocean: https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/1038

R7: Fishery Progress.org: OPAGAC FIP Skipjack Eastern Atlantic: <https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/atlantic-ocean-tropical-tuna-purse-seine-opagac> (accessed 10.12.18)

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2