

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Skipjack Tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
LOCATION:	Mexico (FAO 77)
DATE OF REPORT:	March 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name: Maz Industrial, S.A. de C.V		
Address:		
Country: Mexico	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact: :	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Virginia Polonio	Surveillance Year 1
1. Scope of Assessment		
1. Scope of Assessment		By-Product surveillance year 2016
2. Fishery By-Product		
2. Fishery By-Product		Skipjack Tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		Mexico (FAO 77)
4. Fishery Method		
4. Fishery Method		Purse seine, longline
5. Outcome of Assessment		
5. Outcome of Assessment		Maintain approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Effective fishery management and research frameworks are established at the national and international levels. Due in part to the presence of international RFMOs focused on the management of tuna in general and Skipjack specifically, the assessment team recommends approving the byproduct with a high compliance rating.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>The management of the fishery used to produce the By- Product must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the management of the fishery.</i>	
LOW	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the management of the stock.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.

Determination: A legal and administrative framework remains in place since the initial assessment at the national and international levels, and works specifically to ensure the sustainability of the skipjack tuna fishery.

Fishery management framework: The government body with responsibility for fisheries management in Mexico is Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, SAGARPA). The primary legal instruments are the Fisheries Law (Ley de Pesca) and the Regulation to the Fisheries Law (Reglamento de la Ley de Pesca). Based on the contents of these laws, the SAGARPA mission statement includes a commitment to “facilitate the competitive and sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the country to increase the welfare of Mexicans”. Within SAGARPA, the National Commission on Aquaculture and Fisheries (Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca, CONAPESCA) is directly responsible for management, co-ordination and policy development with regards to fisheries. Scientific advice is provided by the National Fisheries Institute (Instituto Nacional de Pesca, INP, see section B), through which the National Fisheries Chart (Carta Nacional Pesquera) was developed. The Chart is an annually-updated summary of the status and scientific understanding of all commercial fishery resources in federal waters. The Chart is broadly divided between Pacific and Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

Species-specific management: As a highly-migratory species, effective management of skipjack tuna stocks is necessarily international. Mexican tuna fisheries are conducted in both the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico, and as such fall under the jurisdiction of two tuna RFMOs: on the west coast, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and on the east coast the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Mexico is a member of both Commissions, and the resolutions of these commissions form the basis for skipjack tuna management within Mexican waters. Management measures include gear and vessel restrictions, limited entry, seasonal and regional closures, and some country-specific quotas.

The annual catches of skipjack in the Pacific Ocean during 1986-2015 are shown in Table 1. Most of the skipjack catch in the Pacific Ocean is taken in the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). Prior to 1999, WCPO skipjack catches averaged about 900 thousand tonnes. Beginning in 1999, catches increased steadily from 1.1 million tonnes to an all-time high of 2 million tonnes in 2014. In the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), the greatest yearly catches occurred between 2003 and 2015, with the highest catch of 333 thousand tonnes in 2015, and a range from 153 to 333 thousand tonnes. The annual retained catches of skipjack in the EPO by purse-seine and pole-and-line vessels during 1986-2015 are shown in Table 2. During 2000-2014 the annual retained catch averaged 234 thousand t (range 144 to 297 thousand t). The preliminary estimate of the retained catch in 2015, 329 thousand t, is 41% greater than the average for 2000-2014, and 11% higher than the record-high retained catch of 2008. Discards of skipjack at sea decreased each year during the period, from 11% in 2000 to a low of less than 1% in

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2014. During the period about 4% of the total catch of the species was discarded at sea (Table 2). Small amounts of EPO skipjack are caught with longlines and other gears (Table 2).

Due to the difficulty in assessing skipjack tuna neither the biomass -nor fishing mortality- based reference points, nor the indicators to which they are compared, are available for skipjack in the EPO.

Table 1. Annual catches of yellowfin and skipjack tuna, by all types of gear combined, in the Pacific Ocean. The EPO total for 1993-2015 includes discards from purse- seine vessels with carrying capacities greater than 363t.

	YFT			SKJ		
	EPO	WCPO	Total	EPO	WCPO	Total
1986	286,071	261,924	547,995	67,745	724,313	792,058
1987	286,164	309,133	595,297	66,466	668,025	734,491
1988	296,428	305,338	601,766	92,127	805,563	897,690
1989	299,436	353,660	653,096	98,921	781,360	880,281
1990	301,522	393,720	695,242	77,107	854,147	931,254
1991	265,970	420,683	686,653	65,890	1,073,169	1,139,059
1992	252,514	428,646	681,160	87,294	968,767	1,056,061
1993	256,199	369,497	625,696	100,434	923,772	1,024,206
1994	248,071	409,241	657,312	84,661	987,223	1,071,884
1995	244,639	405,168	649,807	150,661	1,019,647	1,170,308
1996	266,928	408,246	675,174	132,335	1,017,270	1,149,605
1997	277,575	495,043	772,618	188,285	909,915	1,098,200
1998	280,606	596,550	877,156	165,489	1,174,372	1,339,861
1999	304,638	509,888	814,526	291,249	1,053,848	1,345,097
2000	286,865	557,523	844,388	230,480	1,164,767	1,395,247
2001	425,008	522,700	947,708	157,676	1,089,463	1,247,139
2002	443,458	478,462	921,920	167,048	1,265,455	1,432,503
2003	415,933	534,295	950,228	300,470	1,260,323	1,560,793
2004	296,847	571,444	868,291	217,249	1,357,963	1,575,212
2005	286,492	542,796	829,288	283,453	1,404,304	1,687,757
2006	180,519	473,940	654,459	309,090	1,502,445	1,811,535
2007	182,141	506,961	689,102	216,324	1,654,655	1,870,979
2008	197,328	599,881	797,209	307,699	1,627,984	1,935,683
2009	250,413	534,257	784,670	239,408	1,792,632	2,032,040
2010	261,871	552,896	814,767	153,092	1,694,169	1,847,261
2011	216,720	515,378	732,098	283,509	1,539,530	1,823,039
2012	213,310	585,831	799,141	273,519	1,771,848	2,045,367
2013	231,803	547,990	779,793	284,043	1,830,821	2,114,864
2014	246,512	611,307	857,819	265,644	1,972,512	2,238,156
2015	246,380	*	246,380	333,456	*	333,456

Table 2. Estimated retained catches by gear type, discards by purse –seine and pole and line with carrying capacities greater than 363 t only.

	Skipjack—Barrilete					Total
	PS		LP	LL	OTR + NK	
	Ret.	Dis.				
1986	65,634	-	1,921	58	132	67,745
1987	64,019	-	2,233	37	177	66,466
1988	87,113	-	4,325	26	663	92,127
1989	94,934	-	2,940	28	1,019	98,921
1990	74,369	-	823	41	1,874	77,107
1991	62,228	-	1,717	36	1,909	65,890
1992	84,283	-	1,957	24	1,030	87,294
1993	83,830	10,515	3,772	61	2,256	100,434
1994	70,126	10,491	3,240	73	731	84,661
1995	127,047	16,373	5,253	77	1,911	150,661
1996	103,973	24,494	2,555	52	1,261	132,335
1997	153,456	31,338	3,260	135	96	188,285
1998	140,631	22,643	1,684	294	237	165,489
1999	261,565	26,046	2,044	201	1,393	291,249
2000	205,647	24,468	231	68	66	230,480
2001	143,165	12,815	448	1,214	34	157,676
2002	153,546	12,506	616	261	119	167,048
2003	273,968	22,453	638	634	2,777	300,470
2004	197,824	17,078	528	713	1,106	217,249
2005	263,229	16,915	1,299	231	1,779	283,453
2006	296,268	11,177	435	224	986	309,090
2007	208,295	6,450	276	238	1,065	216,324
2008	296,603	8,249	499	1,185	1,163	307,699
2009	230,523	6,064	151	1,584	1,086	239,408
2010	147,192	2,769	47	1,815	1,269	153,092
2011	276,035	5,215	24	1,384	851	283,509
2012	266,215	3,511	303	2,381	1,109	273,519
2013	278,560	2,254	164	2,024	1,041	284,043
2014	261,578	2,596	C	239	1,231	265,644
2015	329,280	3,699	C	*	477	333,456

References: R2-R8

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.

LOW	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.
HIGH	Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.

Determination: Research organisations conduct and publish regular stock assessments for skipjack tuna in the relevant geographical regions, and these assessments are used to inform management of the stocks.

Scientific research and advice in support of the management of Mexican fisheries is provided by the National Fisheries Institute (INP). The mission of the INP is to “Coordinate and conduct scientific and technological research on fisheries and aquaculture resources with sustainability criteria for its management and conservation and promote research schemes with the participation and financial support from the sectors involved”. This includes the development of stock-specific management plans, the maintenance of the National Fisheries Charter, and

the planning and conducting of research in support of these functions. In addition to the INP, the national fisheries research of other signatories to the IATTC and ICCAT is collated and utilised in the management of the international skipjack tuna fishery. ICCAT uses international data to produce a stock assessment report for skipjack tuna every 4 years. The most recent of these was produced in 2014, utilising both an age-structured model and a non-equilibrium production model to produce estimates of stock size and MSY. ICCAT also produces distribution maps and summaries of catch by country and location.

The IATTC produces regular fishery status reports, the most recent of which was published in 2016. Skipjack tuna is a notoriously difficult species to assess. Due to its high and variable productivity (*i.e.* annual recruitment is a large proportion of total biomass), it is difficult to detect the effect of fishing on the population with standard fisheries data and stock assessment methods. Data and model based indicators such as; the standardized effort, which is a measure of exploitation rate, is calculated as the sum of the effort, in days fished, for the floating-object (OBJ) and un-associated (NOA) fisheries are used to assess the exploitation rate.

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C. STOCK STATUS

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

C. The fish used to produce the fish By- Product is not considered to be critically at risk of over exploitation in accordance with the IUCN guidance.

LOW	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.
MEDIUM	The fish By- Product is from a species that is classified as vulnerable, but has a management regime in place that will control the level of fishing permitted. Or if a species is deemed to be endangered but the sub-group from where the fish By- Product is harvested is deemed scientifically to be at no risk of over exploitation.
HIGH	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.

Determination: The byproduct comes from a species which is considered to be of least concern.

Skipjack tuna has been categorised by the IUCN as “least concern”. This species is wide-ranging in the Eastern Pacific, and there is no evidence to suggest that fishing pressure is negatively impacting the population at present. It is listed as Least Concern.

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5. REFERENCES

R1 – Skipjack tuna image <https://iccat.int/Images/species/skj1.gif>

R2 - FAO fisheries and aquaculture country page, Mexico:
http://www.fao.org/fishery/legalframework/nalo_mexico/en

R3 – CONAPESCA mission and vision:
http://www.conapesca.sagarpa.gob.mx/wb/cona/cona_mision_y_vision_acerca

R4 – INP, about: <http://www.inapesca.gob.mx/portal/english>

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R5 – National Fisheries Chart, 2012: http://www.inapesca.gob.mx/portal/documentos/publicaciones/CARTA_NACIONAL_PESQUERA/2408201_2_SAGARPA.pdf

R6 – ICCAT skipjack tuna stock assessment, 2014: https://iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/SKJ_EN.pdf

R7 – IATTC fishery status report, 2016: <https://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/FisheryStatusReports/FisheryStatusReport14.pdf>

R8 – ICCAT Circular # 8240 /2015 Recommendations and resolutions adopted at the 24th regular meeting of the commission. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/08240-15_ENG.PDF

R9 – IUCN red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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