

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:	April 2016
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
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Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Giles Bartlett	Initial
1. Scope of Assessment		
	By-Product Initial year 2015	
2. Fishery By-Product		
	Skipjack Tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
	Mexico (FAO 77)	
4. Fishery Method		
	Purse seine, longline	
5. Outcome of Assessment		

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>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.</p>

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.

Skipjack tuna in the east Atlantic MSY (143,000-170,000) with current yield (2013) 203,500t. The annual catches of skipjack in the Pacific Ocean during 1985-2014 are shown in Table 1. Most of the skipjack catch in the Pacific Ocean is taken in the WCPO. Prior to 1999, WCPO skipjack catches averaged about 900 thousand t. Beginning in 1999, catches increased steadily from 1.1 million t to an all-time high of 1.8 million t in 2013. In the EPO, the greatest yearly catches occurred between 2003 and 2014, with the highest catch of 309 thousand t in 2006, and a range from 153 to 309 thousand t. The annual retained catches of skipjack in the EPO by purse-seine and pole-and-line vessels during 1985-2014 are shown in Table 2. During 1999-2013 the annual retained catch averaged 234 thousand t (range 144 to 297 thousand t). The preliminary estimate of the retained catch in 2014, 262 thousand t, is 12% greater than the average for 1999-2013, and 12% less 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 2013. During the period about 5% 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 1993-2014 include discards from purse-seine vessels with carrying capacities greater than 363t.

	YFT			SKJ		
	EPO	WCPO	Total	EPO	WCPO	Total
1985	225,939	279,124	505,063	52,002	562,265	614,267
1986	286,071	260,770	546,841	67,745	715,528	783,273
1987	286,164	308,743	594,907	66,466	656,149	722,615
1988	296,428	301,716	598,144	92,127	793,226	885,353
1989	299,436	349,531	648,967	98,921	767,763	866,684
1990	301,522	390,460	691,982	77,107	835,848	912,955
1991	265,970	417,229	683,199	65,890	1,063,265	1,129,155
1992	252,514	430,985	683,499	87,294	957,325	1,044,619
1993	256,199	373,328	629,527	100,434	919,411	1,019,845
1994	248,071	411,101	659,172	84,661	990,802	1,075,463
1995	244,639	407,302	651,941	150,661	1,028,566	1,179,227
1996	266,928	409,877	676,805	132,335	1,016,890	1,149,225
1997	277,575	500,495	778,070	188,285	925,713	1,113,998
1998	280,606	603,903	884,509	165,489	1,205,639	1,371,128
1999	304,638	524,268	828,906	291,249	1,099,846	1,391,095
2000	286,865	561,404	848,269	230,480	1,184,649	1,415,129
2001	425,008	526,977	951,985	157,676	1,109,368	1,267,044
2002	443,458	485,758	929,216	167,048	1,287,960	1,455,008
2003	415,933	542,625	958,558	300,470	1,285,042	1,585,512
2004	296,847	580,414	877,261	217,249	1,386,908	1,604,157
2005	286,664	538,657	825,321	283,453	1,402,757	1,686,210
2006	179,625	467,685	647,310	309,090	1,501,245	1,810,335
2007	182,141	497,421	679,562	216,324	1,654,537	1,870,861
2008	197,320	590,045	787,365	307,699	1,629,454	1,937,153
2009	250,196	526,548	776,744	239,434	1,790,878	2,030,312
2010	261,787	540,374	802,161	153,093	1,696,061	1,849,154
2011	216,419	499,935	716,354	283,509	1,542,196	1,825,705
2012	213,058	584,010	797,068	273,446	1,768,821	2,042,267
2013	229,433	517,803	747,236	283,300	1,797,897	2,081,197
2014	233,566	*	233,566	264,378	*	264,378

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

	Total	Skipjack—Barrilete					Total
		PS Ret.	Dis.	LP	LL	OTR + NK	
1985	225,939	50,829	-	946	44	183	52,002
1986	286,071	65,634	-	1,921	58	132	67,745
1987	286,164	64,019	-	2,233	37	177	66,466
1988	296,428	87,113	-	4,325	26	663	92,127
1989	299,436	94,934	-	2,940	28	1,019	98,921
1990	301,522	74,369	-	823	41	1,874	77,107
1991	265,970	62,228	-	1,717	36	1,909	65,890
1992	252,514	84,283	-	1,957	24	1,030	87,294
1993	256,199	83,830	10,515	3,772	61	2,256	100,434
1994	248,071	70,126	10,491	3,240	73	731	84,661
1995	244,639	127,047	16,373	5,253	77	1,911	150,661
1996	266,928	103,973	24,494	2,555	52	1,261	132,335
1997	277,575	153,456	31,338	3,260	135	96	188,285
1998	280,606	140,631	22,643	1,684	294	237	165,489
1999	304,638	261,565	26,046	2,044	201	1,393	291,249
2000	286,865	205,647	24,468	231	68	66	230,480
2001	425,008	143,165	12,815	448	1,214	34	157,676
2002	443,458	153,546	12,506	616	261	119	167,048
2003	415,933	273,968	22,453	638	634	2,777	300,470
2004	296,847	197,824	17,078	528	713	1,106	217,249
2005	286,664	263,229	16,915	1,299	231	1,779	283,453
2006	179,625	296,268	11,177	435	224	986	309,090
2007	182,141	208,295	6,450	276	238	1,065	216,324
2008	197,320	296,603	8,249	499	1,185	1,163	307,699
2009	250,196	230,523	6,064	151	1,584	1,112	239,434
2010	261,787	147,192	2,769	47	1,815	1,270	153,093
2011	216,419	276,035	5,215	24	1,384	851	283,509
2012	213,058	266,215	3,511	303	2,377	1,040	273,446
2013	229,433	278,091	2,254	167	2,014	774	283,300
2014	233,566	261,665	2,596	*	*	*	264,378

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.

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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 2015. 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 widespread in the Indo-Pacific. It is considered moderately to fully exploited, with no clear indication of decline in catches or estimated biomass, although data in some areas are uncertain. It is listed as Least Concern. However, it is recommended that current fishing mortality does not increase.

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5. REFERENCES

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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>

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, 2015:
<http://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/FisheryStatusReports/FisheryStatusReport13-2.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/>