



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonis pelamis*) in FAO 71

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

22 Amelia Street

London

SE17 3BZ

E: standards@marin-trust.com

T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonis pelamis</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 71 Western Central Pacific
	Country of origin of the product:	Philippines (Flag countries: Philippines, Nauru, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Chinese Taipei, Federated State of Micronesia, Tuvalu)
	Stock:	Western central Pacific skipjack tuna (FAO 71)
Date	December 2022	
Report Code	PHL01	
Assessor	Léa Lebechnech	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Philippines (Flag countries: Philippines, Nauru, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Chinese Taipei, Federated State of Micronesia, Tuvalu)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): General Tuna Corporation			
Country: Philippines			
Email address: randrada@centurypacific.com.ph		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Léa Lebechnech	Matthew Jew	0,5	Initial
Assessment Period	To December 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonis pelamis</i>)
Stock	Western central Pacific skipjack tuna (FAO 71)
Fishery Location	FAO 71 Western Central Pacific
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole & line, and purse seine
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorized as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN’s Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as MARINTRUST raw material. Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) is not listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor it is listed in CITES appendices; therefore, skipjack tuna is eligible for approval for use as MARIN TRUST by-product raw material.</p> <p>Skipjack tuna in the western central Pacific Ocean are considered to comprise a single stock for assessment and management purposes; therefore, this assessment covers that stock when fished in FAO Area 71. Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the WCPFC stock assessment process and the latest assessment of stock status considers the stock being above the limit reference points, so the stock PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, Western central Pacific Skipjack tuna (FAO 71) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v.2.0 by-product Standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The internal peer reviewer agrees with the assessor’s assessment, who correctly classified Western Pacific skipjack tuna in FAO Subarea 71 under category C, as reference points are defined to assess status of the stock relative to.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process, and the stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point. Consequently, skipjack tuna in the Western Pacific Ocean PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, skipjack tuna in the Western Pacific Ocean (FAO Subarea 71) is APPROVED.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
N/A

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as a MarinTrust raw material.

IUCN Red list Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Western central Pacific Ocean Skipjack tuna (FAO 71)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	C	LC	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

CATEGORY C SPECIES

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. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

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.	Yes
	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.	Yes

Clause outcome: **PASS**

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.

Fishery removals of the stock in the fishery under assessment are included in the WCPFC stock assessment process and updated in the last revision (2022) of the 2019 stock assessment (Figure 1).

The total provisional catch in 2018 was 1,795,048 mt, a 10% increase from 2017 and a 1% decrease from 2013-2017. Purse seine catch in 2018 (1,469,520 mt) was a 15% increase from 2017 and a 2% increase from the 2013-2017 average. Pole and line catch (138,534 mt) was a 4% increase from 2017 and a 9% decrease from the average 2013-2017 catch. Catch by other gear (182,888 mt) was a 16% decrease from 2017 and 19% decrease from the average catch in 2013-2017.

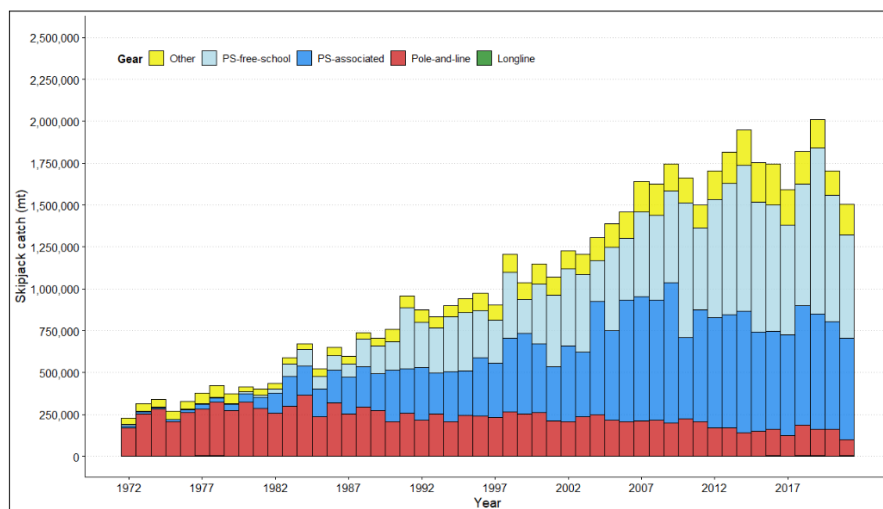


Figure 1. Annual catches of skipjack by gear type in the WCPO area covered by the assessment. Source WCPFC 2022.

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, so it **PASSES Clause C1.1.**

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.

The 2019 stock assessment showed that stock above the adopted Limit Reference Point and fished at rates below F_{MSY} with 100% probability. The latest available information on the stock (WCPFC, 2019) is that the probability that recent spawning biomass

was below the LRP = ~0% ($SB_{recent}/SB_{MSY}=2.579$ and $SB_{latest}/SB_{MSY}=2.382$ (median)). Therefore, the skipjack stock is not overfished, nor subject to overfishing. At the same time, it was also noted that fishing mortality is continuously increasing for both adult and juvenile while the spawning biomass reached the historical lowest level.

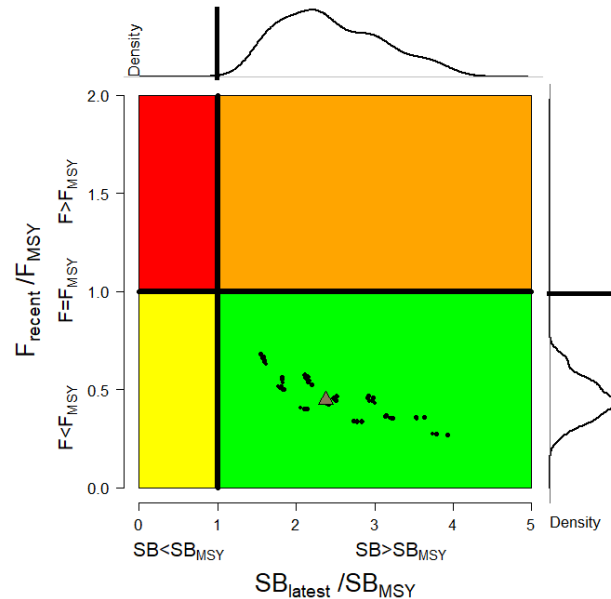


Figure 2. Kobe plot for the latest spawning potential (2018) summarizing the results for each of the models in the structural uncertainty grid.

The plots represent estimates of stock status in terms of spawning potential depletion and fishing mortality and marginal distributions of each are presented. Brown triangle indicates the median of the estimates. The size of the circle relates to the weight of that particular model run.

Source WCPFC 2019.

The most notable feature of the 2022 revision of the 2019 assessment is the estimation that the stock is becoming increasingly depleted over time, a trend which is largely driven by the equatorial regions. Importantly, this trend is driven by an increasing trend in the model estimates of the unfished spawning potential overtime, rather than a long-term decrease in the estimates of spawning potential. The assessment is indicating that the spawning potential, as informed by a number of CPUE indices, has not changed substantially in the face of the notable increases in catches over the last 20–30 years, and that the increased catches have been sustained by increased recruitment levels. The interpretation of stock status based of the ($SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0}$) reference point should bear this in mind.

In the 2022 revision, both the dynamic Majuro and Kobe plots show the steady increase in depletion of the stock since the 1070s. The dynamic Majuro plot indicates that the stock ends below the interim target reference point. The terminal spawning potential is well above B_{MSY} , the fishing mortality is well below F_{MSY} .

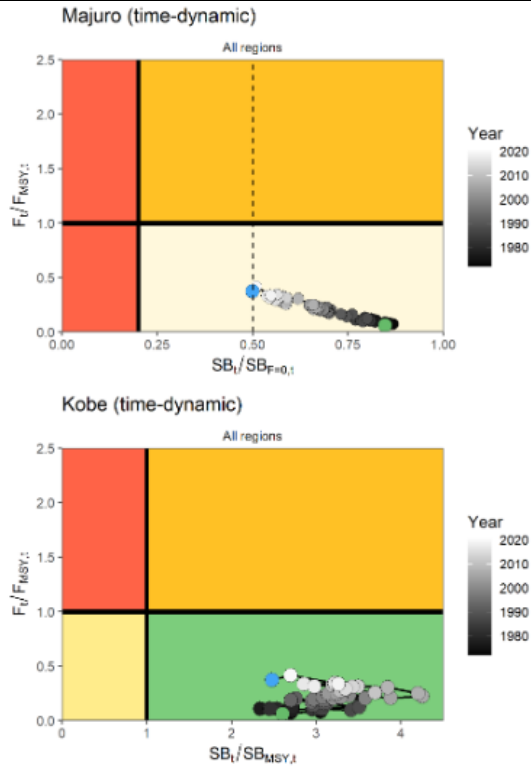


Figure 3. Time dynamic Majuro (Top) and Kobe (Bottom) plots summarising the results for the diagnostic case model over the model period. The blue point is the estimated 2021 status. Source: WCPFC 2022

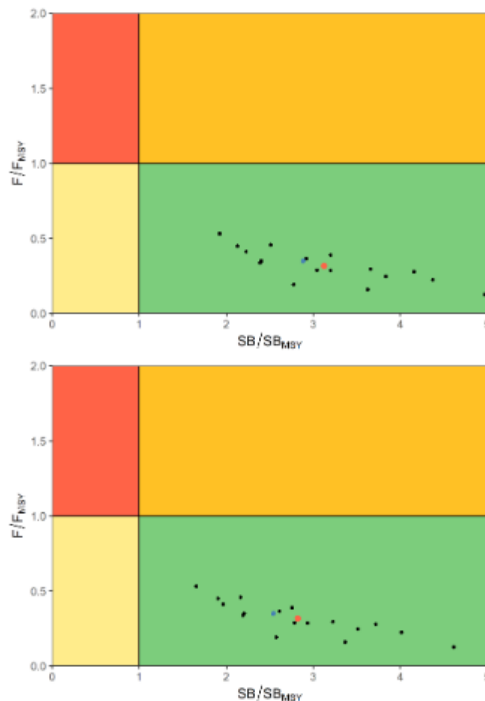


Figure 4. Kobe plots summarising the results for each of the models in the structural uncertainty grid for (Top) recent (2018-2021) and (bottom) latest (2021) periods. The blue point is the diagnostic case model and red point is the median. Source: WCPFC 2022

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), so it PASSES Clause C1.2.

References

Collette, B., Acero, A., Amorim, A.F., Boustany, A., Canales Ramirez, C., Cardenas, G., Carpenter, K.E., de Oliveira Leite Jr., N., Di Natale, A., Fox, W., Fredou, F.L., Graves, J., Guzman-Mora, A., Viera Hazin, F.H., Juan Jorda, M., Kada, O., Minte Vera, C., Miyabe, N., Montano Cruz, R., Nelson, R., Oxenford, H., Salas, E., Schaefer, K., Serra, R., Sun, C., Teixeira Lessa, R.P., Pires Ferreira Travassos, P.E., Uozumi, Y. & Yanez, E. 2011. *Katsuwonus pelamis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2011: e.T170310A6739812. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2011-2.RLTS.T170310A6739812.en>

Vincent M.T., Pilling G. M. and Hampton J. 2019. Stock assessment of skipjack tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean. WCPFC-SC15-2019/SA-WP-05-Rev2: <https://www.wcpfc.int/file/567654/download?token=YOQh3E0Q>

WCPFC-SC 2019. Fifteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee. Summary Report. Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, 12–20 August 2019. <https://www.wcpfc.int/file/361972/download?token=aYQGK8kV>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01