



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), FAO Areas 77 Pacific Eastern Central & 87 Pacific Southeast

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Areas 77 Pacific Eastern Central & 87 Pacific Southeast
	Country of origin of the product:	Ecuador (Flag countries: Ecuador, Spain, El Salvador, Panama)
	Stock:	Eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna
Date	21 March 2023	
Report Code	ECU01	
Assessor	Léa Lebechnech	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Ecuador (Flag countries: Ecuador, Spain, El Salvador, Panama)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): URISA S.A.; TADEL S.A.; PRODUCTOS PESQUEROS S.A.; PESQUERA EXU S.A.; NIRSA S.A; Manabita de Comercio S.A; BORSEA			
Country: Ecuador			
Email address: marco@urisaecuador.com		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	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	To March 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 77 Pacific Eastern Central & 87 Pacific Southeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Ecuador Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine, longline, pole and line
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on 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>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices. Therefore, Eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna is eligible for approval for use as MARINTRUST by-product raw material.</p> <p>The Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) skipjack tuna is managed at the international level by the IATTC through a multiyear conservation plan. IATTC conducts regular stock assessments. Skipjack tuna is a difficult species to assess. A conventional stock assessment method for EPO skipjack is not possible due to the lack of age-composition data and tagging data. Neither biomass- nor fishing mortality-based reference points are available for EPO skipjack. Simple stock, status indicators (SSIs) based on relative quantities have been investigated by Maunder and Deriso (2007). In addition, a Productivity and Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) for EPO tropical tuna fisheries indicated that skipjack and bigeye have the same susceptibility to purse seine and that skipjack is much more productive than bigeye. Taking the risk analysis for bigeye as a reference IATTC infers the status of skipjack from the status of bigeye.</p> <p>The stock was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the various stock assessment processes, and in the most recent stock assessment, the stock is considered to have a biomass above the proxy for the limit reference point, so the stocks PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, Eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna 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 assessor correctly classified eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime by IATTC and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is not overfished and not currently experiencing overfishing. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point.</p> <p>Therefore, eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>N/A</p>

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>	Eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack	IATTC / Ecuador	C	LC ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/170310/46644566>

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.

No new assessment has been published at the time of this report’s publication, so the following information remains the same as last year. The next benchmark assessment should be conducted in 2024.

Data to support the stock assessment is derived from commercial catches: relative catches in weight, relative catch per set and relative average length of catch.

Total catches (retained plus discards) are shown in Figure below:

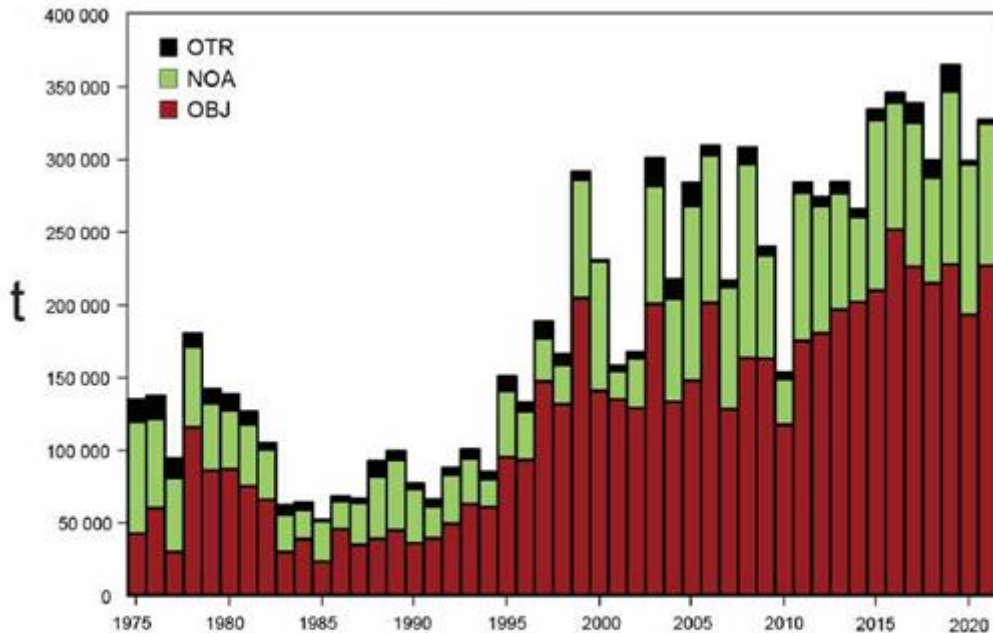


FIGURE C-1. Total catches (retained catches plus discards) for the purse-seine fisheries, by set type (NOA, OBJ) and retained catches for the other (OTR) fisheries, of skipjack tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 1975-2021. The purse-seine catches are adjusted to the species composition estimate obtained from sampling the catches. The 2020 catch data are preliminary.

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.

MSY-based quantities cannot be estimated because the trade-off between growth and natural mortality, in combination with the assumption that recruitment is independent of stock size, implies fish should be caught at the youngest ages to maximize yield, implying that the optimal fishing mortality should be infinite. Therefore, a conservative proxy for the target biomass of SBR = 0.3 based on values for bigeye and yellowfin, and the fishing mortality corresponding to that biomass, are used as the target reference points.

The reference model estimated that the 2021 exploitation rate was slightly above status quo (average level of 2017-2019; Figure C-2) as did over half of the sensitivity models ranging from being only slightly above to being 0.1 higher (except one model that estimated high exploitation rates).

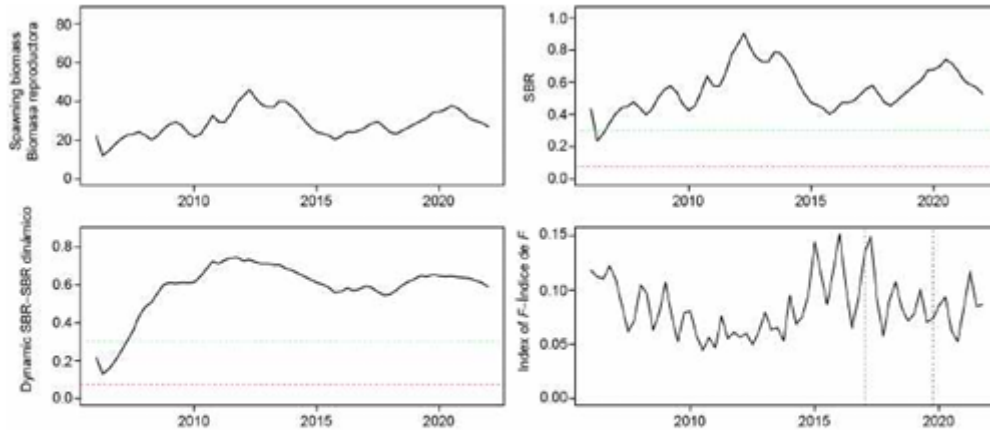


FIGURE C-2. Spawning biomass, spawning biomass ratio, dynamic spawning biomass ratio, and an index of quarterly exploitation rate for the reference model. The green dashed horizontal line is the target biomass reference point (SBR = 0.3) and the red horizontal dashed line is the limit biomass reference point (SBR = 0.077). The two vertical lines represent the *status quo* period (2017-2019).

The reference model and most of the sensitivity analyses estimate that the current biomass is above the target reference point and the fishing mortality is below the target fishing mortality (Figure C-3).

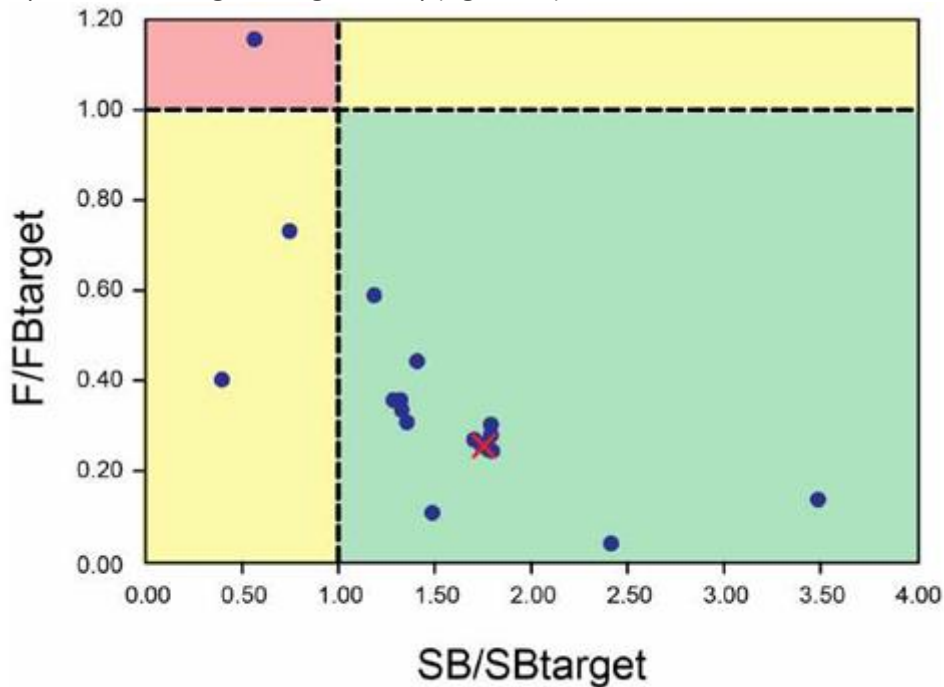


FIGURE C-3. Kobe plot showing the stock status estimates from all the models.

The model will continue to be improved towards the benchmark assessment in 2024, including incorporating the results of the analysis of recently collected tagging data.

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

IATTC 2022. Reports on the Tuna fishery, stocks, and ecosystem in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 2021:
https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/99dc87b3-cf5f-4b7b-8e6e-f5aa9cab0fce/No-20-2022_Tunas,-stocks-and-ecosystem-in-the-eastern-Pacific-Ocean-in-2021.pdf

Links

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