



MarinTrust Standard V2

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

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 71 Western Central Pacific
	Country of origin of the product:	Ecuador (Flag countries: Taiwan, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Nauru)
	Stock:	Western central Pacific Skipjack tuna (FAO 71)
Date	7 June 2023	
Report Code	ECU14	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Ecuador (Flag countries: Taiwan, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Nauru)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Negocios Industriales Real Nirsa SA			
Country: Ecuador			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Matthew Jew	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Initial
Assessment Period	Up to June 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus 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 the assessor's determination
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 Marin trust raw material. Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> 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 Ocean skipjack tuna (FAO 71) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.0 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified the western central Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna as category C, as the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.</p> <p>Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process, and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass well above the limit reference point: the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore the western central Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna in FAO 71 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.0 by-products standards.</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 (see figure below).

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.

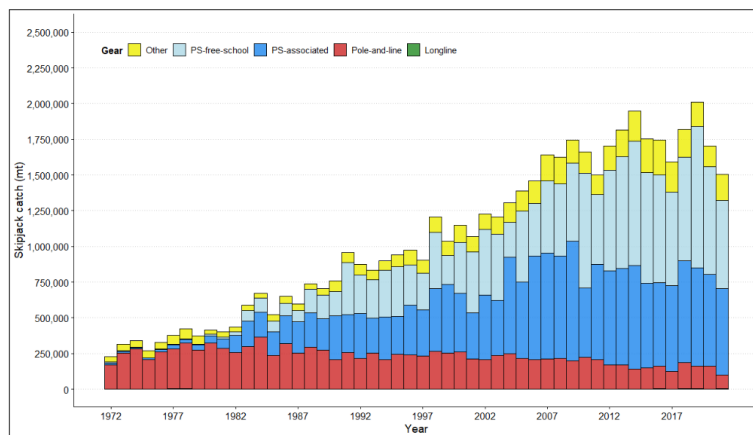


FIGURE 1. ANNUAL CATCHES OF SKIPJACK BY GEAR TYPE IN THE WCPFC AREA COVERED BY THE ASSESSMENT. SOURCE: WCPFC-SC 2022.

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.

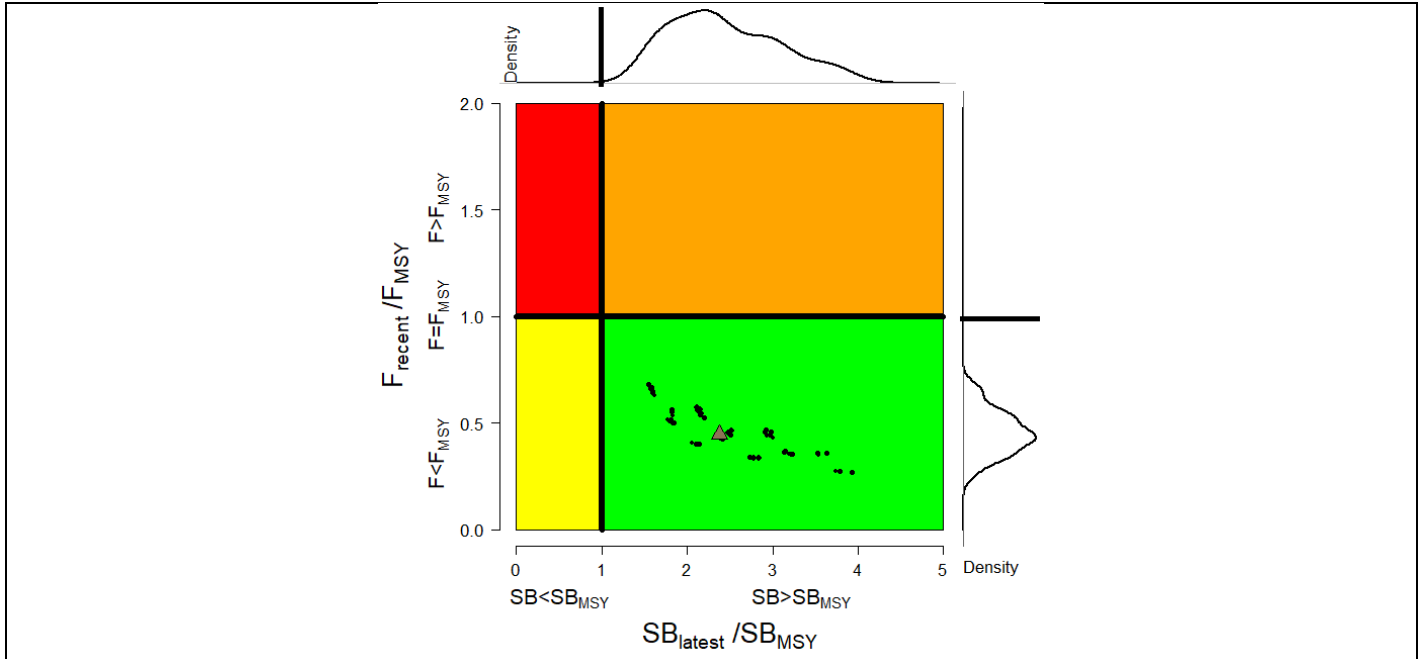


FIGURE 2. KOBE PLOT FOR THE LATEST SPAWNING POTENTIAL (2018) SUMMARIZING THE RESULTS FOR EACH OF THE MODELS IN THE STRUCTURAL UNCERTAINTY GRID. THE PLOTS REPRESENT ESTIMATES OF STOCK STATUS IN TERMS OF SPAWNING POTENTIAL DEPLETION AND FISHING MORTALITY AND MARGINAL DISTRIBUTIONS OF EACH ARE PRESENTED. BROWN TRIANGLE INDICATES THE MEDIAN OF THE ESTIMATES. THE SIZE OF THE CIRCLE RELATES TO THE WEIGHT OF THAT PARTICULAR MODEL RUN.
SOURCE: WCPFC-SC 2022.

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.

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 2022. Eighteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee: skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) stock status and management advice. Summary Report. Online. 10-18 August 2022. <https://www.wcpfc.int/file/987813/download?token=u2e1CTwN>

Links

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