



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *ESP 31 - Skipjack tuna in FAO areas 41 and 47*

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 41 (Atlantic, Southwest) and 47 (Atlantic, Southeast)
	Country of origin of the product:	El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, Panama, Portugal
	Stock:	Atlantic, Southwest and Atlantic, Southeast
Date	January 2024	
Report Code	ESP31	
Assessor	Jose Peiro Crespo	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, Panama, Portugal	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Conserveros Reunidos SL (CONRESA), Arteixo			
Country:			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Jose Peiro Crespo	Sam Peacock	0.2	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	January 2024 – January 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Stock	Atlantic, Southwest and Atlantic, Southeast
Fishery Location	FAO areas 41 and 47
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Gear Type(s)	Bait boat, longline and purse seine
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessment outcome
Recommendation	Approve (both stocks)

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) meets the eligibility criteria for approval as Marin Trust by-product raw material, as it is not categorized as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List (IUCN) (it is listed as LC) and it does not appear in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) appendices.</p> <p>There are two stocks of skipjack tuna in the area of the interest. Therefore, both stocks have been considered for the purposes of this assessment. Fishery removals of both stocks are considered during the assessment process. Therefore, both stocks successfully meet the criteria outlined in Clause C1.1. In the most recent assessments, the biomass of both stocks was considered to be above the corresponding limit reference points, satisfying the conditions of Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Given that both stocks fulfil both C clauses, they are approved for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>This byproduct meets the pre-requisites for MT approval, having been categorized by the IUCN as Least Concern and not appearing in the CITES appendices. There are two skipjack stocks in the area under assessment, and the assessor has correctly determined that both stocks should be assessed under Category C. Both stocks are subjected to regular, robust stock assessments, and both were determined in their most recent stock assessments to have a biomass above the limit reference point. The peer reviewer agrees with the conclusion that the byproduct from both stocks should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor

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 an 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>	Atlantic, Southwest and Atlantic, Southeast	Yes, ICCAT	C	<u>LC</u> <u>(Least Concern)</u>	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

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	
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**

There are two skipjack stocks in the Atlantic (eastern and western stock). Both are considered in the sections below.

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.

a) Eastern Skipjack Tuna

Skipjack catches in the eastern Atlantic Ocean in 2022 were about 271,400 tonnes, a 31% increase from 2021. Purse seine (88%) and pole-and-line (9%) dominate the catches. The purse seine catches had been decreasing from the early 1990s to 2009, but increased substantially since then, reaching a high peak in 2018 and again in 2022. Catches by other gears have remained stable. Catches of the stock were considered during the most recent assessment process.

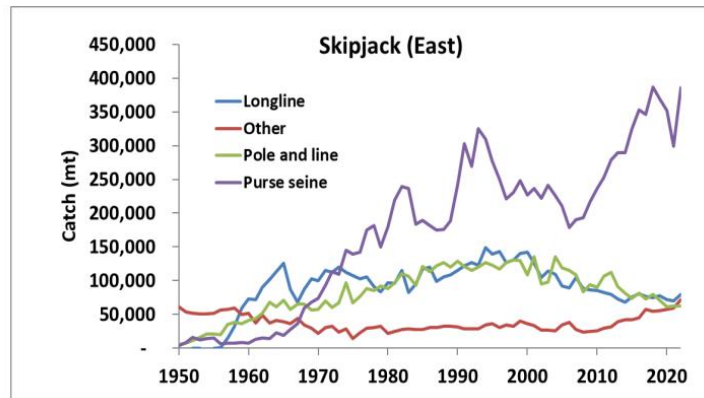


Figure 1. Catches of skipjack tuna in the Eastern AO from 1950 to 2022, by gear type (ISSF 2023).

b) Western Skipjack Tuna

Skipjack catches in the western Atlantic Ocean in 2022 were about 21,400 tonnes, a 7% increase from 2021. Pole-and-line fishing dominates the catches (70%), followed by purse seining (9%). Pole and line catches have remained relatively stable (although highly variable) during the last two decades and declined recently. Catches of the stock were considered during the most recent assessment process.

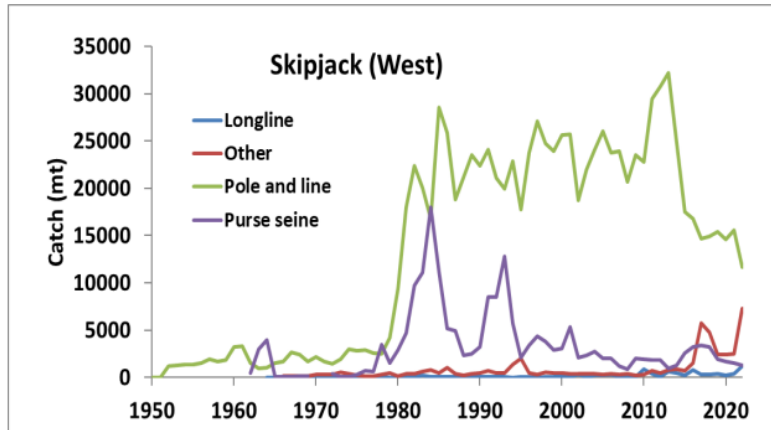


Figure 2. Catches of skipjack tuna in the Western AO from 1950 to 2022, by gear type (ISSF 2023).

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, **C1.1. is met for both stocks.**

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.

a) Eastern Skipjack Tuna

The stock was last assessed in 2022, using data up to 2020 and two different model platforms. The combined results of both assessment models, based on the median of an uncertainty grid with 18 scenarios in each model, show that:

1. The ratio of $F_{current}/F_{MSY}$ is estimated to be 0.63 (95% C.I.: 0.18-2.35), indicating that overfishing is not occurring.
2. The ratio of spawning biomass $SSB_{current}/SSB_{MSY}$ is estimated to be 1.60 (95% C.I.: 0.50-5.79) , indicating that the stock is not in an overfished state.
3. The estimate of MSY is 216,617 t (95% C.I.: 172,735-284,658 t). Current catch levels (271,400 t in 2022) are above the MSY.

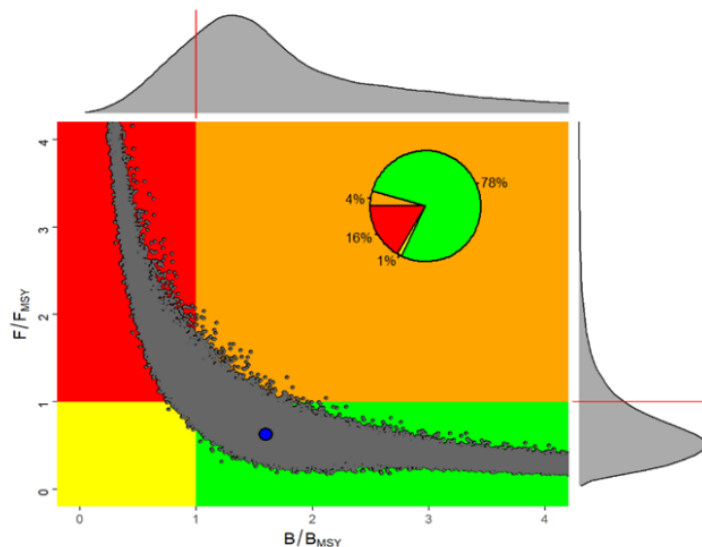


Figure 3. Joint Kobe phase plot for the 18 Stock Synthesis uncertainty grid runs and 18 JABBA uncertainty grid runs for the eastern Atlantic skipjack stock (ICCAT 2022)

b) Western Skipjack Tuna

The stock was assessed by SCRS in 2022, using data up to 2020. Stock status was estimated by combining the results of the 9 scenarios in the uncertainty grid. The SCRS concluded that:

1. The ratio of $F_{current}/F_{MSY}$ is around 0.41 (95% C.I.: 0.19-0.89), indicating that overfishing is not occurring.
2. The ratio of spawning biomass $SSB_{current}/SSB_{MSY}$ is 1.60 (95% C.I.: 0.90-2.87), indicating that the stock is not overfished.
3. The value of MSY is estimated as 35,277 tonnes (95% C.I.: 28,444-46,340 t), higher than current catch levels (21,400 t in 2022)

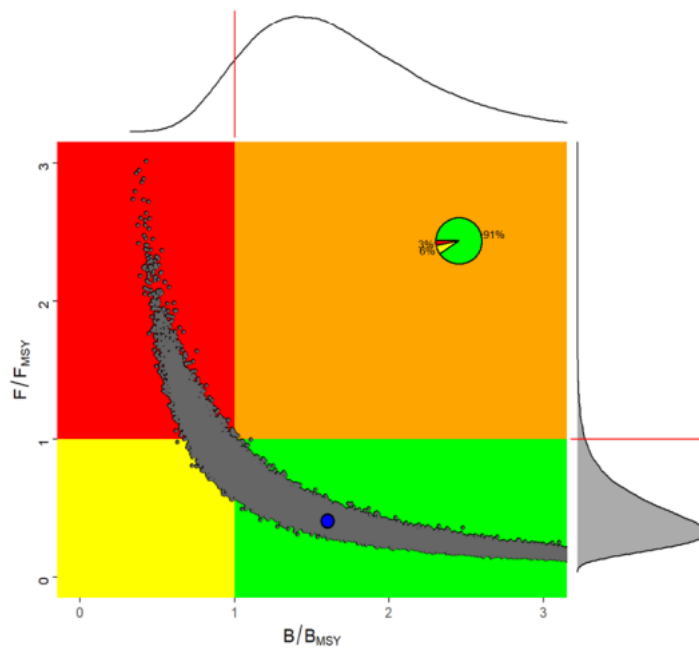


Figure 4. Kobe phase plot for the 9 Stock Synthesis uncertainty grid runs for the western Atlantic skipjack stock (ICCAT 2022)

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point, **C1.2 is met for both stocks.**

References

ICCAT REPORT 2022-2023 (I). Skipjack tuna (summary). Available at: https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/SKJ_ENG.pdf

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation ISSF 2023-12: Status of the World Fisheries for Tuna. Available at : <https://www.issf-foundation.org/issf-downloads/download-info/issf-2023-12-status-of-the-world-fisheries-for-tuna-november-2023/>

Links

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