MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

Skipjack Tuna, FAO 61, 71 Pacific Northwest, Western Central

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Skipjack Tuna *(Katsuwonus pelamis)*
	Geographical area:	FAO 61, 71
	Country of origin of the product:	Spain, Portugal
	Stock:	Pacific Northwest, Western Central
Date	January 2023	
Report Code	ESP 33	
Assessor	Vineetha Aravind	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Spain	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Sarval Bio-industries Noroeste, S.A.U. Arteixo			
Country: Spain, Portugal			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Vineetha Aravind	Sam Peacock		Re-approval
Assessment Period	Jan 2023 – Jan 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	*Katsuwonus pelamis*
Stock	Pacific Northwest, Western Central
Fishery Location	FAO 61, 71
Management Authority (Country/ State)	WCPFC
Gear Type(s)	Purse-seine, gillnet and Pole and line
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree
Recommendation	Approve byproduct

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination

Skipjack Tuna has been categorised as Least Concern by IUCN Red data List, and does not appear in CITES appendices. Therefore, it is eligible for approval for use as Marine Trust raw material.

For management purposes, two Pacific skipjack tuna stocks are defined, 1) Western Central skipjack tuna and 2) Eastern Pacific skipjack tuna, which are nominally split based on the WCPO/EPO boundary at 150°W.

FAO areas 61 and 71 have their western boundary at 175°W such that skipjack tuna taken in these areas may be assumed to originated from the Western Central Pacific skipjack tuna stock; therefore, it is this stock that is considered in this assessment.

Fishery removals of the WCPO skipjack tuna stock are considered in their respective stock assessment processes such that the fishery PASSES Clause C1.1.

As of the latest assessment of the stock is considered to have a biomass above the corresponding limit reference point such that the fishery PASSES Clause C1.2.

As both Clause C1.1 and C1.2 are met, the by-product covered by this report is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current IFFO RS v 2.0 by-product standard.

Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments

PR agrees that the species meets the MT pre-requisites and has been correctly assessed under Category C. The references provided support the conclusions of the Section C assessment and PR agrees with the assessor's conclusion that the byproduct should be approved for use as a raw material.

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	*Katsuwonus pelamis*	Pacific Northwest, Western Central	WCPFC	C	Least Concern (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		
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.	
	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.	
		Clause outcome:

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 are included in the WCPFC stock assessment process. The 2021 WCPFC-CA skipjack catch of 1,625,795 t was considerably lower than the highest value (2,037,921 t) recorded in 2019. Given the inclusion of removals from the fishery under assessment in the WCPFC stock assessment process, the fishery achieves a PASS against 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.

Western Central Pacific skipjack tuna is assessed and managed by the WCPFC. The WCPFC adopted 20% SBF =0 as a limit reference point (LRP) for the skipjack stock where SBF =0 for this assessment is calculated as the average over the period 2011–2020. The most recent assessment of skipjack in the WCPO was conducted in 2022, and included data from 1972 to 2021, using the eight-region model structure developed for the 2019 assessment (Castillo Jord´an et al. 2022).

While estimates of fishing mortality for skipjack have increased over time, current fishing mortality rates for skipjack tuna are estimated to be about 0.32 times the level of fishing mortality associated with maximum sustainable yield (FMSY). Therefore, overfishing is not occurring (i.e., Frecent < FMSY). Median spawning biomass4 is estimated to be at 51% of the level predicted in the absence of fishing. Recent spawning biomass levels are estimated to be well above the Limit Reference Point (LRP) of 20% of the level predicted in the absence of fishing (SB/SBF =0 > 0.2). Overall, the spawning biomass and recruitment have shown a recent declining trend since peaks in the late 2000s. Fishing mortality continues to increase and remains higher for adults than juveniles. Depletion (SB/SBF =0) continues to trend downwards, although the trend is mostly influenced by the long-term increasing trend in the estimates of unfished spawning biomass (SBF =0) rather than the declining trend in the estimated spawning biomass (SB). The trends in spawning biomass and depletion vary among model regions, with declining trends more prevalent in the equatorial regions. In terms of stock status, the 2022 stock assessment of skipjack tuna for the WCPO, indicated that according to WCPFC reference points the stock is not overfished, nor undergoing overfishing. Under status quo fishing conditions, where catch and effort levels are maintained at the average 2018–2021 levels, the stock is projected to have zero probability of dropping below the LRP.

Therefore, the stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above its limit reference point (or proxy) such that the fishery achieves a PASS against C1.2.

References

C. Castillo Jord´an, T. Teears, J. Hampton, N. Davies, J. Scutt Phillips, S. McKechnie, T. Peatman, J. Macdonald, J. Day, A. Magnusson, R. Scott, F. Scott, G. Pilling, P. Hamer. 2022. Stock assessment of skipjack tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean: 2022. WCPFC-SC18-2022/SA-WP-01 (REV5). SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION 10–18 August 2022

https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/16242 Steven R. Hare, Peter G. Williams, Claudio Castillo Jord´an, Paul A. Hamer, William J. Hampton, Patrick Lehodey, Jed Macdonald Robert D. Scott, Joe Scutt Phillips, Inna Senina and Graham M. Pilling. 2022. The Western and Central Pacific tuna fishery: 2021 overview and status of stocks. WCPFC19-2022-IP02 Rev 1. 21 November 2022. https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/wcpfc19	
Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

D1	**Species Name**		
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)		
	Average maximum age (years)		
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		
	Average maximum size (cm)		
	Average size at maturity (cm)		
	Reproductive strategy		
	Mean trophic level		
		Average Productivity Score	
	Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Availability (area overlap)		
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)		
	Selectivity of gear type		
	Post-capture mortality		
		Average Susceptibility Score	
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	
		Compliance rating	
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant) *For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision*		
References			
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2			

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	High productivity (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium productivity (medium risk, score = 2)	Low productivity (high risk, score = 3)
Average age at maturity	<5 years	5-15 years	>15 years
Average maximum age	<10 years	10-25 years	>25 years
Fecundity	>20,000 eggs per year	100-20,000 eggs per year	<100 eggs per year
Average maximum size	<100 cm	100-300 cm	>300 cm
Average size at maturity	<40 cm	40-200 cm	>200 cm
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	Demersal egg layer	Live bearer
Mean Trophic Level	<2.75	2.75-3.25	>3.25

Susceptibility attributes	Low susceptibility (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium susceptibility (medium risk, score = 2)	High susceptibility (high risk, score = 3)
Areal overlap (availability) Overlap of the fishing effort with the species range	<10% overlap	10-30% overlap	>30% overlap
Encounterability The position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear, and the position of the stock/species within the habitat relative to the position of the gear	Low overlap with fishing gear (low encounterability).	Medium overlap with fishing gear.	High overlap with fishing gear (high encounterability). Default score for target species
Selectivity of gear type Potential of the gear to retain species	a Individuals < size at maturity are rarely caught	a Individuals < size at maturity are regularly caught.	a Individuals < size at maturity are frequently caught
	b Individuals < size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity are retained by gear.
Post-capture mortality (PCM) The chance that, if captured, a species would be released and that it would be in a condition permitting subsequent survival	Evidence of majority released post-capture and survival.	Evidence of some released post-capture and survival.	Retained species or majority dead when released.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4	Species Name		
	Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements		
	D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.	
	D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.	
		Outcome:	

Evidence

D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.

D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.

References

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.5.1
GSSI	D.5.01