



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Skipjack tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis)* *FAO 77- Eastern Pacific Ocean*

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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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 77
	Country of origin of the product:	Mexico
	Stock:	Eastern Pacific Ocean
Date	February 2024	
Report Code	MEX02	
Assessor	Blanca Gonzalez	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Mexico	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Maz Industrial SA de CV			
Country: Mexico			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Blanca Gonzalez	Sam Peacock	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	February 2024 – February 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean
Fishery Location	FAO 77
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine, longline, pole & line, handline
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation
Recommendation	PASS

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) was assessed as a category C species considering that it is a Least Concern species by the IUCN, it is not included in any CITES Appendixes, and the stock is managed relative to proxy reference points by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).</p> <p>The last stock assessment of skipjack tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean was carried out in 2021 by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Scientific Advisory Committee from the IATTC take into account the results of this assessment as well as the management advice issued by the staff as reliable for management advice. Removals of the species are included in the stock assessment process and the current biomass is above the target reference point and the fishing mortality is below the target fishing mortality.</p> <p>The skipjack tuna by-product meets the Marin Trust requirements and it should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor has correctly concluded that skipjack tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean is eligible for MT assessment, and has also correctly assessed the species under Category C. There has been no new stock assessment since the 2023 MT byproduct assessment, and so the conclusions remain unchanged: the stock assessment is robust, biomass is estimated to be above the target reference point, and the stock meets the MT byproduct requirements. For these reasons, the peer reviewer agrees that the byproduct should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
Empty space for notes

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	Yes	C	Least Concern 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.	PASS
	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.	PASS
Clause outcome:			PASS
<p>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.</p> <p>The clause is met considering that:</p> <p>The last stock assessment of skipjack tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean was carried out in 2021 by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) using an integrated statistical age-structured catch-at-length stock assessment (IATTC 2022). This stock assessment is considered as “interim” because additional improvements had been ongoing since 2021; However, the staff considers it reliable for management advice (IATTC 2023c). The 1st external review of this stock assessment was finalized in January 2023. (IATTC 2023b), and in May 2023 the Scientific Advisory Committee from the IATTC take into account the results of this assessment as well as the management advice issued by the staff. (IATTC 2023c).</p> <p>This assessment used all data available obtained from the fishery, including an index of abundance based on echosounder buoys that are used in the purse-seine OBJ (floating object) fishery. Catch data comes from four main sources: canneries, onboard observers, vessel logbooks, and in-port sampling by IATTC staff (IATTC 2022); thus, removals of the species are included in the stock assessment process (figure 1).</p>			
		<p>Figure 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- 2022. The purse-seine catches are adjusted to the species composition estimate obtained from sampling the catches. The 2020 catch data are preliminary. (IATTC 2023a)</p>	

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 Clause is met considering that:

MSY-based estimates and reference points cannot be estimated due to the nature of the model used. 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 (IATTC 2023a). 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 1) (IATTC 2023a). Although there are no limit reference points established for the stock, the high probability that biomass is currently above the target reference point equates to a high probability that it is above any possible limit reference point.

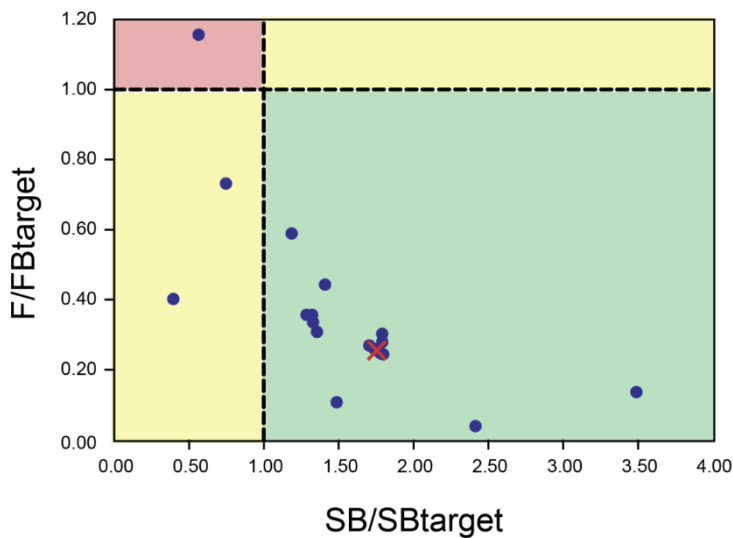


Figure 1. Kobe plot showing the stock status estimates from all the models. Each dot represents the stock status estimate from one of the assessment models. Dashed lines indicate the target reference points (IATTC 2023a).

References

IATTC (2022). Skipjack tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, 2021: Interim assessment. Document SAC-13-07. https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/56a3ede0-5ced-4a11-b5f3-11b57ec17fb8/WSSKJ-01_Skipjack-tuna-interim-assessment-2022.pdf

IATTC (2023a). Report on the tuna fishery, stocks, and ecosystems in the Eastern Pacific Ocean 2022. https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/Of48f889-2aa5-437f-8d03-648d62ecfb75/No-21-2023_Tunas,-stocks-and-ecosystem-in-the-eastern-Pacific-Ocean-in-2022.pdf

IATTC (2023b). 1st External review of IATTC Staff’s stock assessment of skipjack tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Report of the meeting. https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/c86ee90b-4244-4aed-951d-60d247ca1862/WSSKJ-01-RPT_1st-External-Review-of-IATTC-staff%E2%80%99s-stock-assessment-of-skipjack-tuna-in-the-EPO.pdf

IATTC (2023c). Scientific Advisory Committee. 14th meeting. Implementation of recommendations adopted at the previous SAC meeting: progress and outcomes. Document SAC-14-02. May 2023. https://www.iattc.org/getattachment/90cfedb3-2b01-4db7-acf8-b8c353a6a303/SAC-14-02_Implementation-of-SAC-recommendations.pdf

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) <i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
	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	