



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

USA15 – Skipjack tuna in FAO Area 41 (Western Atlantic)

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 Area 41
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles, South Africa
	Stock:	Western Atlantic skipjack
Date	June 2023	
Report Code	USA19	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	USA [Seychelles, South Africa]	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): The Scoular Company - Indian Ocean Tuna Ltd (ID preserved)			
Country: USA			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Kate Morris	0.2	Initial
Assessment Period	June 2023 – June 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Stock	Western Atlantic skipjack
Fishery Location	FAO Area 41
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole and line, purse seine
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Pass

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Skipjack tuna has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of Least Concern, and does not appear in the CITES appendices. Western Atlantic skipjack is managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) relative to a target reference point (B_{MSY}), and was therefore assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment for Western Atlantic skipjack was conducted in 2022 using all available catch data. The assessment concluded that the stock is not overfished and not subject to overfishing, with a high probability (91%). As biomass is very likely to be above the target reference point, it is also very likely to be above any potential limit reference point. For this reason, the byproduct meets the MT requirements and should be approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment here is the Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) fishery, pursued by vessels in FAO fishing area 41. Skipjack tuna is managed by international or state regulations. Therefore, for this Marin Trust assessment, the skipjack tuna stock is scored against Category C.</p> <p>The species scoring table has been completed by the auditor with sufficient evidence presented to support their final determination.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor’s recommendation to pass the FAO 41, Skipjack tuna stock pursued by the fishery under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.</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>	Western Atlantic skipjack tuna	Yes	C	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

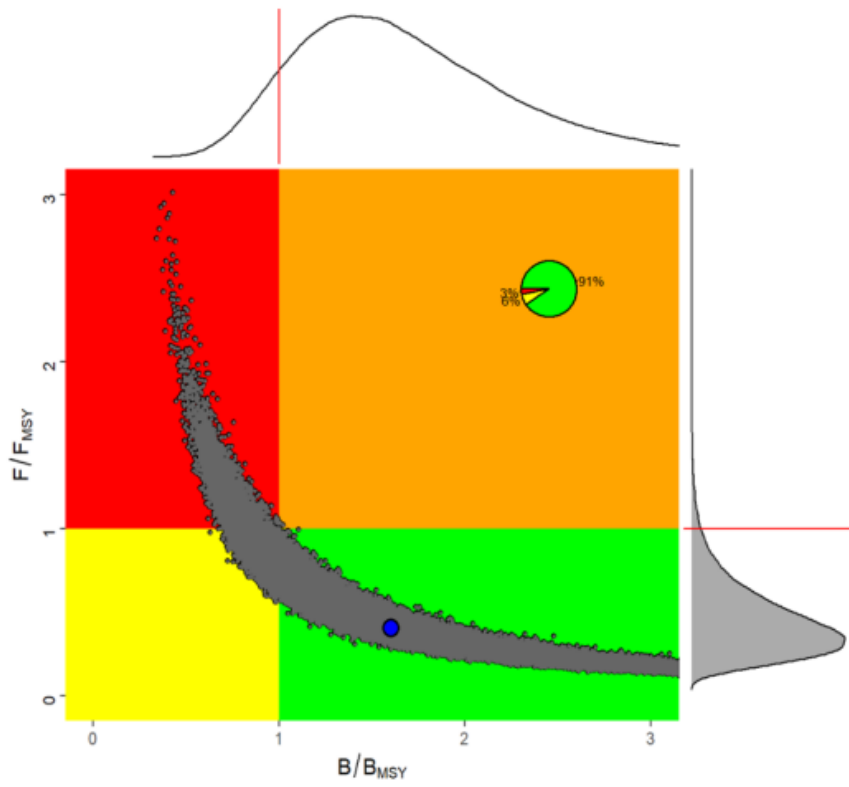
³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/170310/46644566>

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	
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 most recent stock assessment for Western Atlantic skipjack tuna was conducted in 2022 using a Bayesian state-space production model and an integrated statistical assessment model (ICCAT 2022). The stock status estimates from the two approaches agreed with each other. Available catch data was incorporated into the assessment, alongside a range of other fishery data. C1.1 is met.</p> <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.</p> <p>The results of the 2022 stock assessment indicated that there is a high probability (91%) that the Western Atlantic skipjack stock is not overfished and not currently subject to overfishing. The relative biomass (B_{2020}/B_{MSY}) was estimated to be 1.60, with a 95% confidence interval of 0.90 – 2.87 (ICCAT 2022). There was an estimated 9.1% probability that the stock is overfished (defined in this case as a 9.1% probability that stock biomass is below the target reference point). As it is highly likely that biomass is currently above the target reference point, it is also highly likely to be above any potential limit reference point, and C1.2 is met.</p>			



Combined Kobe phase plot for the various models performed for Western Atlantic skipjack tuna in 2022. The blue point shows the median of 200,000 iterations for SSB_{2020}/SSB_{MSY} and F_{2020}/F_{MSY} for the entire set of runs in the grid. Grey points represent the 2020 estimates of relative fishing mortality and relative spawning stock biomass for each of the 200,000 iterations. The upper graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of SSB/SSB_{MSY} estimates for 2020. The right graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of F/F_{MSY} estimates for 2020. The inserted pie graph represents the percentage of each 2020 estimate that fall in each quadrant of the Kobe plot (ICCAT 2022).

References

ICCAT (2022). Species executive summary, skipjack tuna. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/SKJ_ENG.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	n/a	
	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		n/a	
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	