



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

# *USA18 – Skipjack tuna in FAO Areas 61, 71, 81 (Western and Central Pacific skipjack)*

**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 61, 71, 81
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles, South Africa
	Stock:	Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) skipjack
Date	June 2023	
Report Code	USA18	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	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			
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	WCPO skipjack
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 61, 71, 81
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
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 and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) skipjack tuna is managed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) relative to target and limit reference points, and therefore was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment for WCPO skipjack was carried out in 2022 using catch data up to 2021. The assessment incorporated international catch data and the results of tag-and-release studies, and concluded that stock biomass is above the limit reference point and likely to be around the level of the interim target reference point. The byproduct thus 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 61, 71 &amp; 81. Skipjack tuna is managed by international or state regulations. Therefore, for this Marin Trust assessment, the skipjack tuna stock is scored against Category C. 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 61, 71 &amp; 81, 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	WCPO skipjack	Yes	C	Least Concern <sup>3</sup>	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

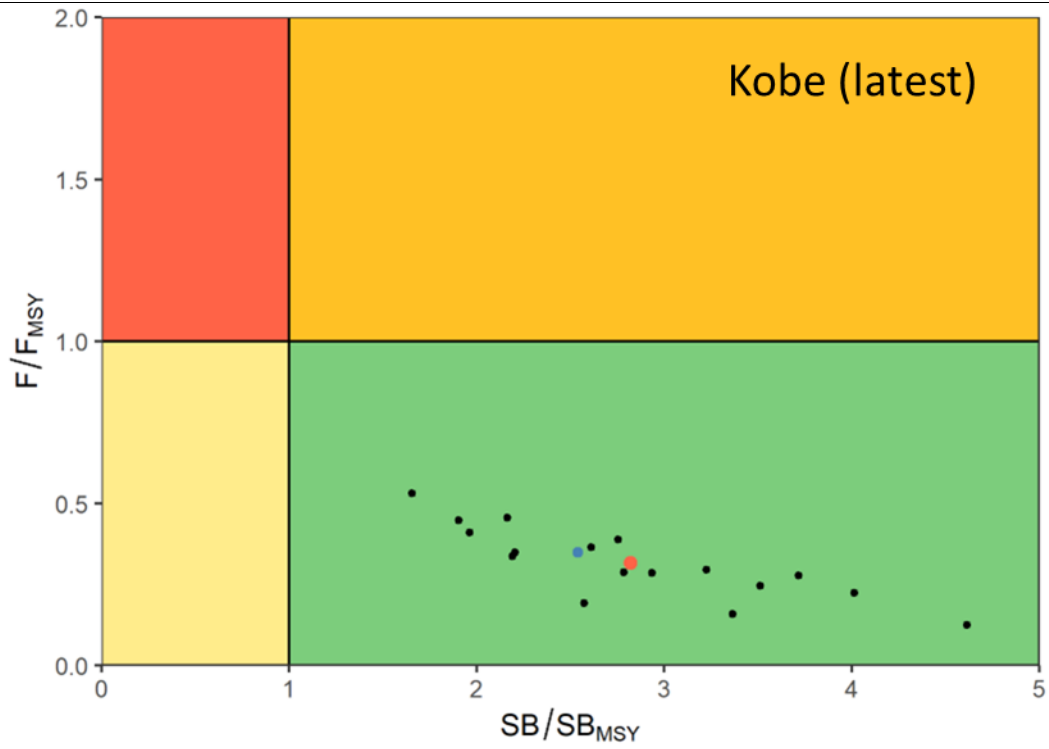
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/170310/46644566>

## 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		
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	<b>C1.1</b>	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
	<b>C1.2</b>	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
			<b>Clause outcome:</b>
<b>PASS</b>			
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>WCPO skipjack tuna is subjected to regular stock assessments by the WCPFC. The most recent of these was carried out in 2022, using data up to 2021. The assessment incorporated catch, effort- and length-frequency estimates, and tag-recapture data (WCPFC 2022). The stock assessment report includes a discussion of structural uncertainties and needs for further data gathering; however, it does not raise major concerns and the assessor concludes that the stock assessment is sufficiently robust for C1.1 to be met.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p>The 2022 stock assessment for WCPO skipjack concluded that “according to WCPFC reference points the stock is not overfished, not undergoing overfishing” (WCPFC 2023). None of the model outcomes produced by the stock assessment indicated that the stock biomass was below the limit reference point of <math>0.2 * SB_{F=0}</math>. The median model outcome indicated that stock biomass is very close to the interim target reference point of <math>SB_{recent} / SB_{F=0} = 0.5</math>. Therefore the species is considered in the most recent stock assessment to have a biomass above the limit reference point, and C1.2 is met.</p>			



Kobe plot summarising the results for each of the models in the “latest” period (i.e. 2021). The black dots represent model outcomes, the blue point is the diagnostic model, and the red point is the median (WCPFC 2023).

**References**

- WCPFC (2022). WCPFC skipjack tuna stock assessment, 2022. <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/16242>
- WCPFC (2023). Skipjack tuna, current stock status and advice. <https://www.wcpfc.int/file/987813>

**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.

<b>D1</b>	<b>Species Name</b>	n/a	
	<b>Productivity Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	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		
	<b>Average Productivity Score</b>		
	<b>Susceptibility Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	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		
	<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		
	<b>PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)</b>		
	<b>Compliance rating</b>		
	<b>Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)</b> <i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
	<b>References</b>		
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	
<b>Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements</b>			
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.		
			<b>Outcome:</b>
<b>Evidence</b>			
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.			
<b>References</b>			
<b>Links</b>			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	