By-Product assessment report

BP012

Conserveros Reunidos SL (CONRESA)

Document TEM-003 (prev. FISH-1) - Version 3.0
Issued July 2024 – Effective July 2024

Report code	BP012	Date of issue	December 2024

1. Application details	
Applicant	Conserveros Reunidos SL (CONRESA)
Applicant country	Spain
2. Certification Body details	
Name of Certification Body (CB)	LRQA
Contact information for CB	mt-ca@lrqa.com
Assessor name	Sam Peacock
CB internal peer reviewer name	Jose Peiró Crespo
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation
Comments on the assessment	Of the four byproduct species, two (albacore tuna and blue whiting) are sourced from low and medium risk flag states and do not require a Step 3 assessment.

Yellowfin and skipjack tuna did require a Step 3 assessment. Additional information was requested from the applicant, which was forthcoming and sufficient to enable the completion of the Step 3 process. As a result of this, all four byproduct species can be Approved, source with caution. |
| **3. Approval validity** | Valid from 12/2024 | Valid until 12/2025 |

4. By-product assessment outcomes		
By-product species name *Common and Latin names*	**Flag country(ies)**	**MarinTrust approval status**
Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*	Spain, El Salvador, Ecuador, Panama, Seychelles, Mauritius, Spain, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire	Approved source with caution

Yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*	Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, Panama, Senegal, Portugal, Seychelles, Mauritius	Approved source with caution
Albacore tuna, *Thunnus alalunga*	Spain, Portugal	Approved source with caution
Blue whiting, *Microstemus poutassou*	Spain	Approved source with caution

Guidance for on-site auditor
For the audit, the auditor will check how the facility manages by-products deemed medium risk. Any by-products downrated from high to medium risk will require additional due diligence checks.

It is important that facilities check all raw materials from and verify their suppliers especially if there is a perceived risk of sourcing from known or suspected IUU fishing activity. This requires checking supplier records or procedures in place to understand how the supplier can ensure there is no IUU in the raw material they provide. For raw materials risk rated medium, additional or more frequent checks may be required until the facility is certain that the raw materials are not from IUU fishing activity.

The audit requirements are covered in clause 2.11.3 of the MarinTrust Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients (the MarinTrust Standard) and associated interpretation guidance.

Approved by-products
- No further checks are required beyond those included in the MarinTrust Standard.

Additional checks of Approved Source with Caution by-products
- Review supplier records or procedures in place.

Additional checks of by-products Approved Source with Caution via Step 3 assessment
- In addition to checks for medium risk Approved Source with Caution by-products, by-products that have had risk downgraded from high to medium at Step 3 (use **Appendix 1** to identify these by-product species), confirm that the relevant traceability information continues to be collected for this by-product. During the audit, a traceability check on any by-products downgraded from high to medium risk shall be included as part of the required traceability checks (Section 4).

Guidance for the applicant/certificate holder
The applicant/certificate holder is responsible for ensuring the relevant actions are taken to comply with the MarinTrust Standard.
The certificate holder is responsible for communicating any changes to the by-products sourced by submitting a scope extension request through the MarinTrust online Application Portal.

Appendix 1 – assessment outcomes

By-product species name *Common and Latin names*	Flag country(ies)	IUCN Red List *Select IUCN red list category from dropdown*	CITES Appendices *Select CITES appendix status from dropdown*	Step 2 risk status *Low risk/ Medium risk/ High risk*	Step 3 required *Yes / No*	Step 3 risk Outcome *Not applicable /Risk downgraded to Medium risk/ Remains High risk*
Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*	Spain, El Salvador, Ecuador, Panama, Seychelles, Mauritius, Spain, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium risk
Yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*	Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, Panama, Senegal, Portugal, Seychelles, Mauritius	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium risk
Albacore tuna, *Thunnus alalunga*	Spain, Portugal	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No	Not applicable

Blue whiting, *Microstemus poutassou*	Spain	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No	Not applicable

Step 2 outcomes

Assessor note: Copy and paste from Spreadsheet.

Flag state	Risk rating	Flag score	Port score	General score	Flag State is contracting party or cooperating non-contracting party to all relevant RFMOs	'Carded' under EU Carding system	Flag state party to PSMA	Flag state mandatory vessel tracking for commercial seagoing fleet	WGI Governance rank
Cote d'Ivoire	Medium	2	2.83	2.27	1	1	1	1	46.23%
Ecuador	High	2.58	2.11	2.43	1	3	1	1	35.38%
El Salvador	High	1.88	2.78	2.77	1	1	5	1	34.91%
Mauritius	Medium	2.13	2.72	1.97	1	1	1	1	84.43%
Panama	High	3.75	1.67	1.93	3	3	1	1	55.19%
Portugal	Medium	3	2.44	1.53	1	1	1	1	75.00%
Senegal	Medium	2.38	2.72	2.4	1	1	1	1	41.04%

Seychelles	Medium	1.79	2.39	1.57	1	1	1	1	62.26%
Spain	Medium	3.21	3.39	2.03	1	1	1	1	75.94%

Step 3 outcomes

Category C assessment

Species name	Yellowfin tuna	
Fishing area and stock	**FAO Areas 34, 41, 47, Atlantic yellowfin**	

C 1	**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

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.

Management of this yellowfin tuna stock is coordinated by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2024, using data up to and including 2022, and utilised an age-structured model framework (Stock Synthesis). The assessment incorporated all available catch data, along with three indices of abundance; the joint-CPC tropical Atlantic longline index, the acoustic echosounder buoy index, and the purse seine free school index (ICCAT 2024). C1.1 is met.
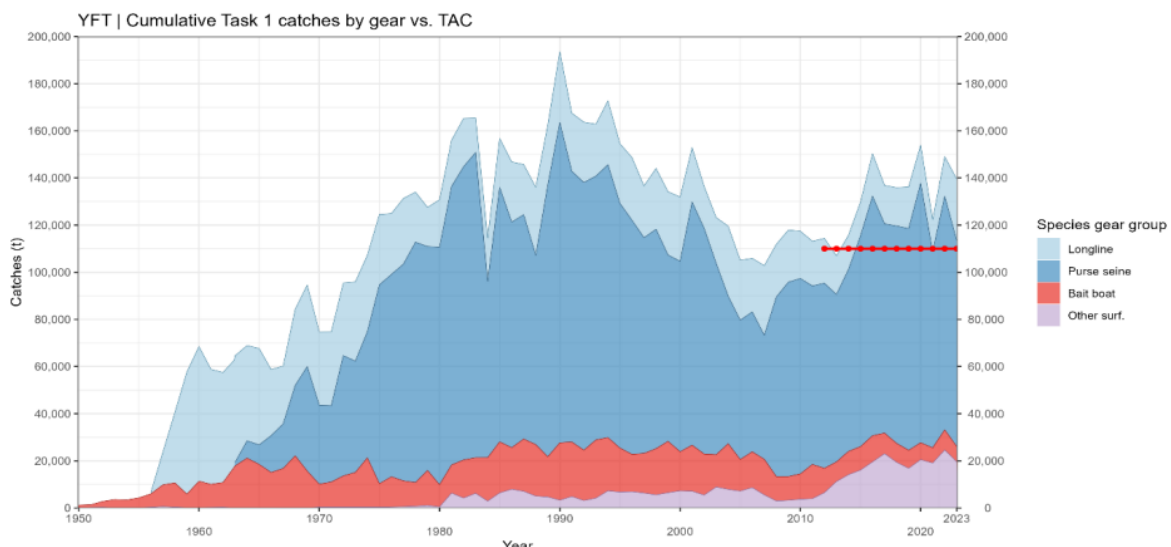
Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, total catch 1950-2023 by main fishing gear group. The red dotted line represents the TAC (ICCAT 2024).

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 ICCAT stock assessment report includes an indication of the estimated stock status relative to target reference points. B_{2022}/B_{MSY} was estimated to be 1.37, with an 80% confidence interval of 0.91 – 2.15, meaning that it is likely that stock biomass was above the target reference point level, and therefore highly likely to be above the limit reference point level. C1.2 is met.
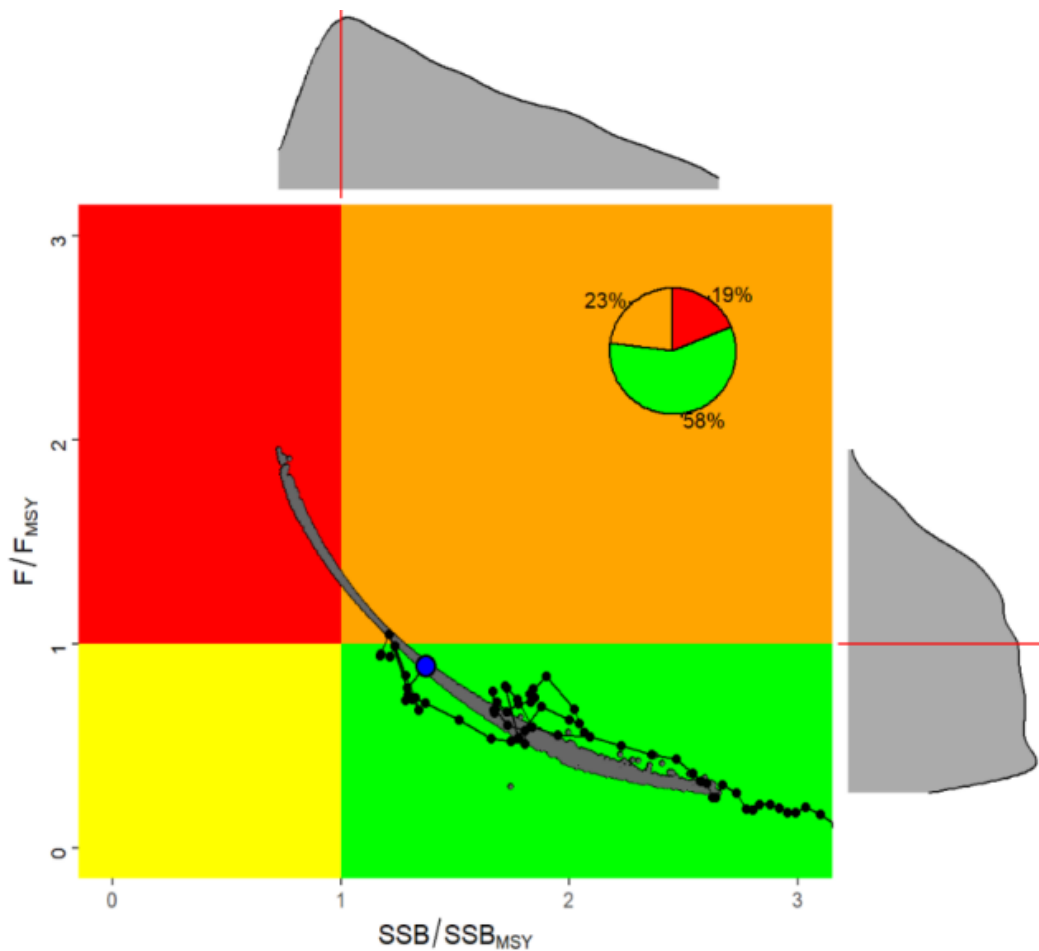

Kobe plot of the status of Atlantic yellowfin tuna in 2022 (based on the outcomes of the assessment conducted in 2024). Blue circle is the median of the stock synthesis model runs, which are marked in grey. The inserted pie chart indicates the proportion of model iterations within each Kobe colour quadrant, 58% in the green quadrant, 23% in the orange quadrant, and 19% in the red quadrant (ICCAT 2024).

References

ICCAT (2024). Stock summary, yellowfin tuna.
https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/YFT_ENG.pdf

Species name	Yellowfin tuna	
Fishing area and stock	**FAO Areas 77, 87, Eastern Pacific yellowfin**	

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

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.

The Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) yellowfin tuna stock is managed and assessed by the Inter-American Tropical Tunas Commission (IATTC). A new risk-based approach was introduced to the management of the stock in 2022, with Stock Status Indicators (SSIs) developed using catch and other data collected from the EPO as a whole. This approach has continued in 2023 (IATTC 2024). SSIs are considered to be important alternatives to formal stock assessments, particularly where those stock assessments may be too unreliable to form the basis for management advice (IATTC 2022). Fishery removals are a key component of the modelling used to generate SSI's, and their development and use is evidence that managers have sought out alternative mechanisms where stock assessment uncertainty is high. The most recent full stock assessment was conducted in 2020. C1.1 is met.
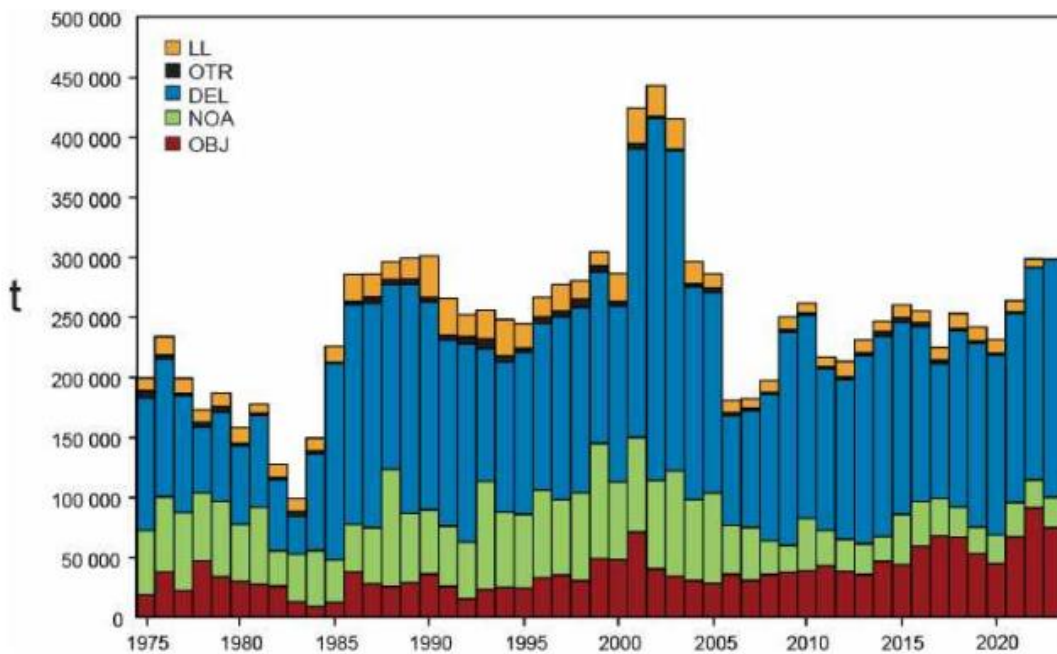
Total catches of yellowfin tuna in the EPO by set type (IATTC 2024)

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.

In the full stock assessments for this stock, multiple reference models are utilised to create a risk-based understanding of stock status. The most recent results, from 2020, indicated that "the probability of the spawning biomass being below S_{MSY_d} [i.e. the target reference point] is low (12%)" (IATTC 2024), and that the probability of the biomass being below the limit reference point S_{LIMIT} is zero. There was therefore a low probability that biomass is currently below the target reference point and almost no possibility it was below the limit reference point. C1.2 is met.
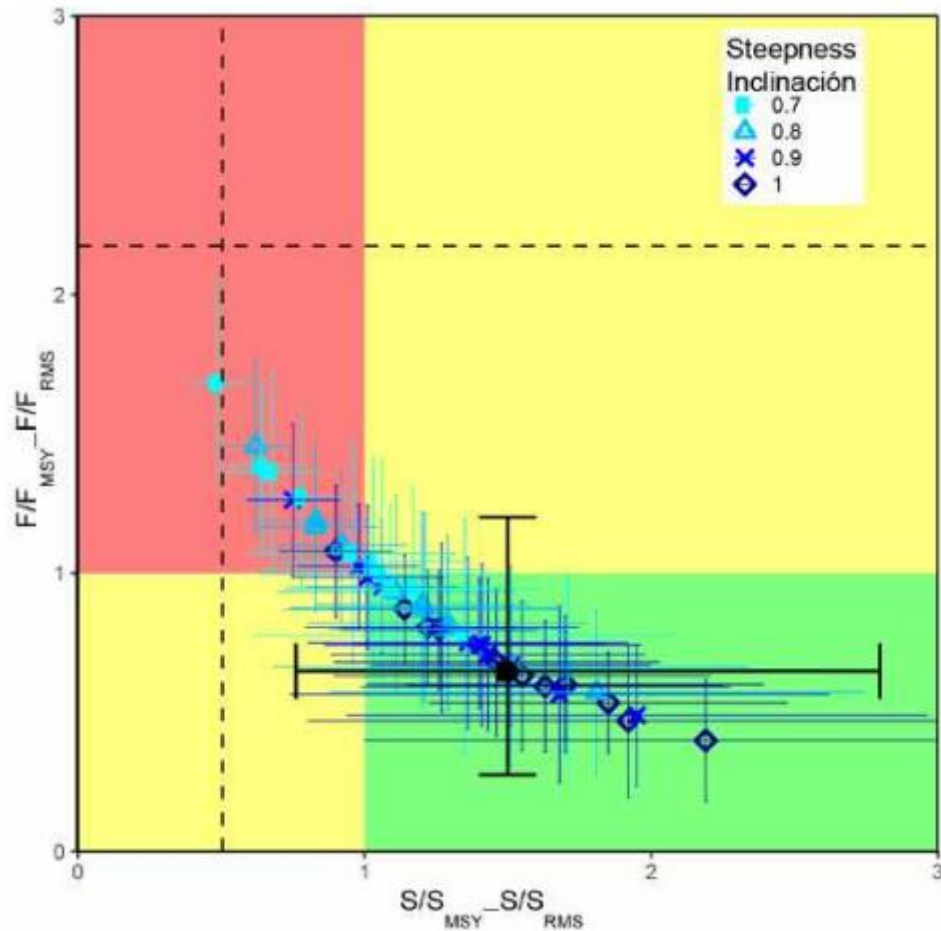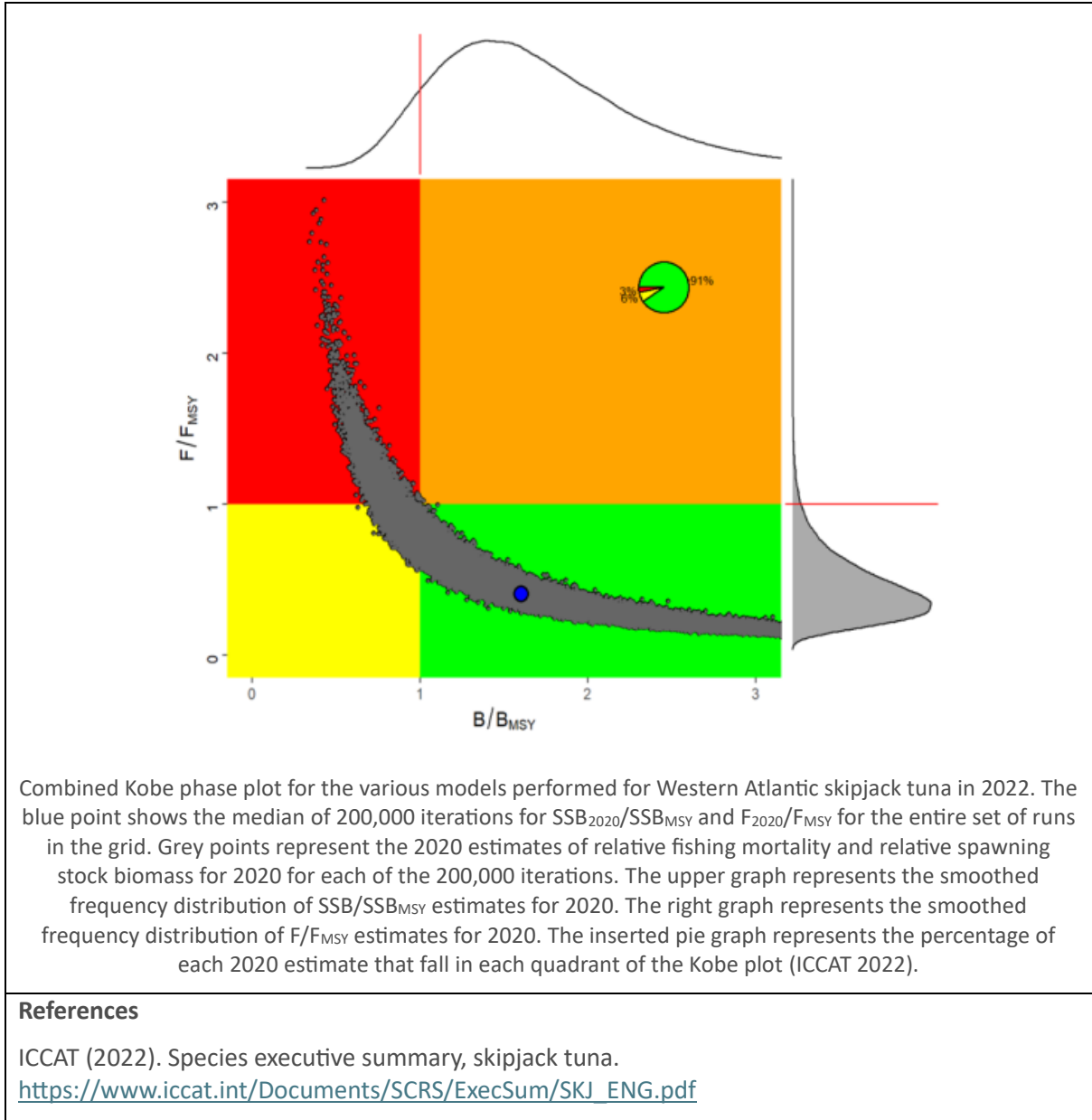
Kobe plot for yellowfin tuna in the EPO of estimates of spawning stock size (S) and fishing mortality (F). Coloured panels are separated by the target reference points S_{MSY} and F_{MSY}. Limit reference points are approximately indicated by the dashed lines, although these vary between models. The solid black circle represents all models combined (IATTC 2024).

References

IATTC (2022). Stock Status Indicators (SSIs) for tropical tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. 13th Meeting of the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee, Document SAC-13-06 Corr. https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/22511b5b-ba2b-4126-9ba2-0bffee89f4d5/SAC-13-06%20-%20Stock%20status%20indicators%20(SSIs)%20for%20tropical%20tunas%20in%20the%20EPO

IATTC (2024). The tuna fishery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 2023. https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/1ed36788-07ce-4bf4-80e4-10c6c3b2b14d/No-22-2024_Tunas,-stocks-and-ecosystem-in-the-eastern-Pacific-Ocean-in-2023.pdf

Species name	Skipjack tuna
Fishing area and stock	**FAO Area 41, Western Atlantic skipjack**

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

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.

The most recent stock assessment for Western Atlantic skipjack tuna remains the one conducted in 2022 using a Bayesian state-space production model and an integrated statistical assessment model (ICCAT 2022), as identified by the previous MT byproduct assessment. The stock status estimates from the two approaches utilised in the assessment agreed with each other. Available catch data was incorporated into the assessment, alongside a range of other fishery data. C1.1 is met.

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 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 was overfished (i.e. that 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. C1.2 is met.

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 2020 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

Species name	Skipjack tuna	
Fishing area and stock	FAO Areas 47, Eastern Atlantic skipjack	
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	PASS

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		removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	
		Clause outcome:	PASS

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.

The most recent stock assessment conducted for Eastern Atlantic skipjack tuna remains that identified in the 2023 MT byproduct assessment, carried out in 2022. The stock assessment applied non-equilibrium and Bayesian state-space production models to integrated statistical assessment models using the available catch data up to and including 2020 (ICCAT 2022). Multiple models were used to represent potential population dynamic scenarios, and to account for uncertainty in outputs. The ICCAT stock assessment group decided to combine the results of several models to capture all major uncertainties. Despite this, there was a high degree of uncertainty in the resultant estimates of stock biomass; however, the group were able to produce management advice and have made several recommendations for the improvement of future stock assessments. C1.1 is met.

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 2022 stock assessment of Eastern Atlantic skipjack tuna concluded that there was a 78% probability that the stock is neither overfished nor subject to overfishing (ICCAT 2022). Relative biomass (B_{2020}/B_{MSY}) was estimated to be 1.60, although the assessment produced a wide 95% confidence interval (0.50 – 5.79). However, as the biomass is likely to be above the target reference point, it is highly likely to be above any potential limit reference point. C1.2 is met.
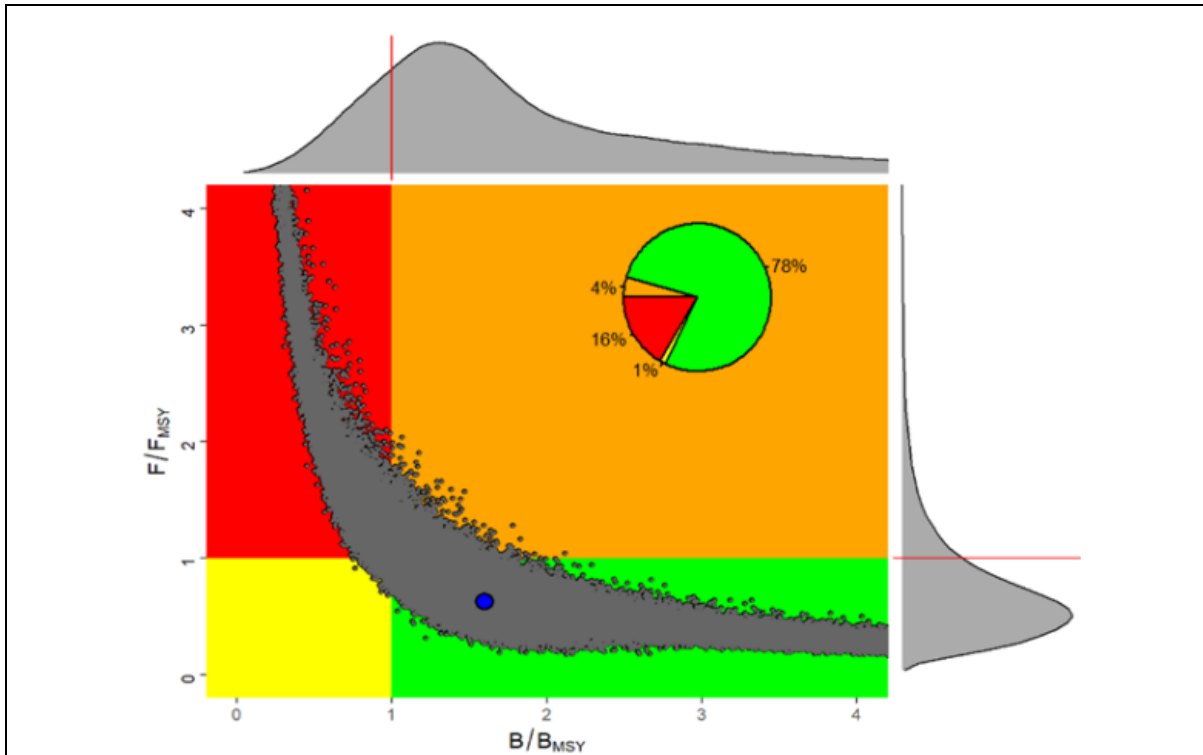
Combined Kobe phase plot for the various models performed for Eastern Atlantic skipjack tuna in 2022. The blue point shows the median of 180,000 iterations for SSB_{2020}/SSB_{MSY} or B_{2020}/B_{MSY} and F_{2020}/F_{MSY} for the entire set of runs in the grid. Grey points represent the 2020 estimates of relative fishing mortality and relative spawning stock biomass for 2020 for each of the 180,000 iterations (ICCAT 2022).
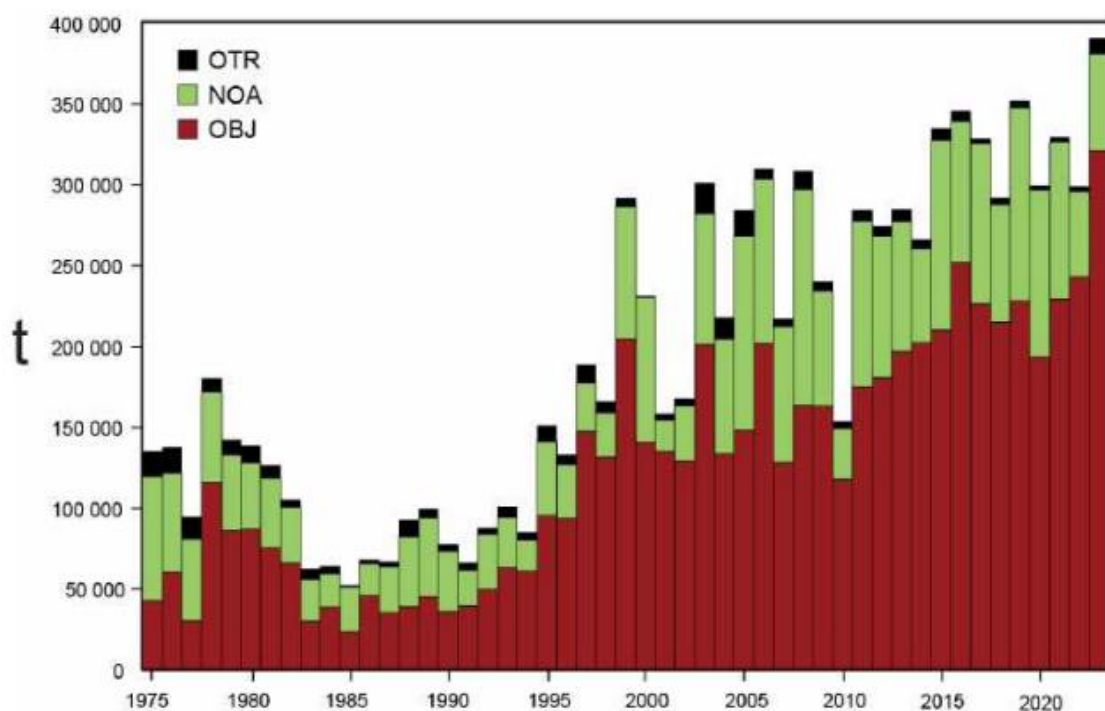
References

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

Species name	Skipjack tuna	
Fishing area and stock	FAO Areas 77, 87, Eastern Pacific skipjack	

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

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.

EPO skipjack has historically been subject to "interim" integrated statistical age-structured catch-at-length stock assessments carried out by the IATTC. In 2023, a benchmark stock assessment was conducted using an integrated statistical age-structured catch-at-length model in Stock Synthesis, which is considered by the IATTC to represent "a significant improvement from the initial interim assessment conducted in 2022" (IATTC 2024). The assessment incorporates all available data from across the EPO, including catch data but also size and age frequency data and other sources. C1.1 is met.

Skipjack catches (retained plus discards) in the EPO, 1975-2023 (IATTC 2024).

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.

MSY-based estimates and reference points cannot be estimated for EPO Skipjack due to the nature of the model used. Instead, the IATTC management process utilises a conservative proxy for target biomass of SBR = 0.3, with the fishing mortality corresponding to that target biomass used as the target reference point for fishing mortality (IATTC 2024). The reference model and most of the sensitivity analyses conducted in 2023 indicated that biomass is above the target reference point and fishing mortality is below the target level. None of the model scenarios concluded that stock biomass is below the limit reference point level. C1.2 is met.

Kobe plot for skipjack tuna in the EPO (IATTC 2024).
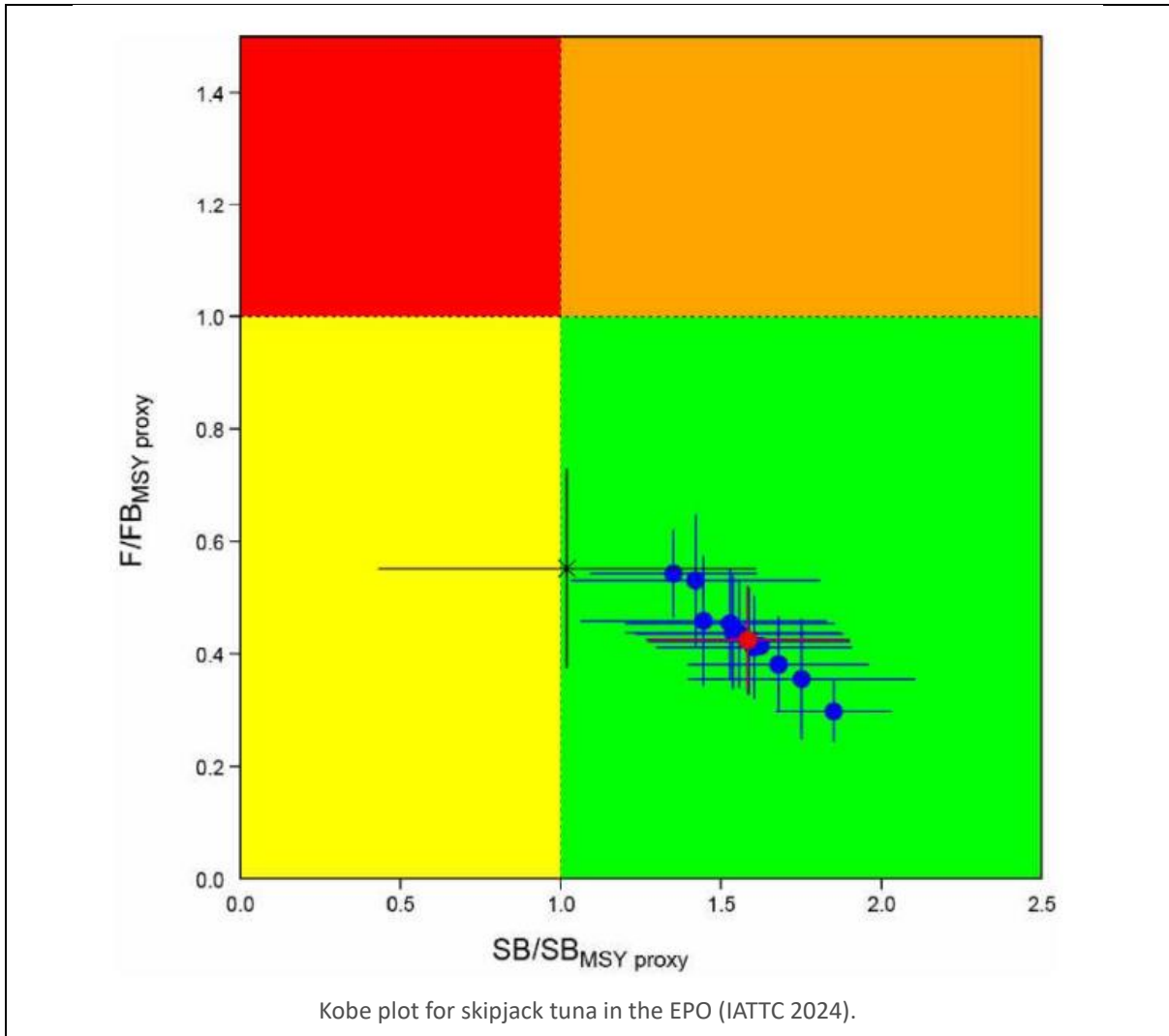
References

IATTC (2024). The tuna fishery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 2023.
https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/1ed36788-07ce-4bf4-80e4-10c6c3b2b14d/No-22-2024_Tunas,-stocks-and-ecosystem-in-the-eastern-Pacific-Ocean-in-2023.pdf

Traceability information

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

Assessor note: Duplicate for each species/stock.

Species name	Yellowfin tuna
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒

Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*

Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
	El Salvador	Multiple medium-risk states in FAO 34, 41 & 47	Cote d'Ivoire (Medium Risk)	Downgraded to medium risk
	Panama	Multiple medium-risk states in FAO 34, 41 & 47	Cote d'Ivoire (Medium Risk)	Downgraded to medium risk
	Ecuador	Multiple medium risk states in FAO 77 & 87	Ecuador (Medium Risk)	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Skipjack tuna
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*

Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
	El Salvador	Multiple medium-risk states in FAO 34, 41 & 47	Cote d'Ivoire (Medium Risk)	Downgraded to medium risk
	Panama	Multiple medium-risk states in FAO 34, 41 & 47	Cote d'Ivoire (Medium Risk)	Downgraded to medium risk
	Ecuador	Multiple medium risk states in FAO 77 & 87	Ecuador (Medium Risk)	Downgraded to medium risk