



By-Product assessment report

BP016

TC Union Vietnam

Report code	BP016	Date of issue	January 2025
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1. Application details		
Applicant	TC Union Vietnam	
Applicant country	Vietnam	
2. Certification Body details		
Name of Certification Body (CB)	NSF	
Contact information for CB	nsf-marintrust@nsf.org	
Assessor name	Sam Peacock	
CB internal peer reviewer name	Matthew Jew	
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation	
Comments on the assessment	The two submitted byproduct species, yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna, are both sourced from high-risk flag states, invoking a Step 3 assessment. The applicant provided additional details of catch and landing locations, allowing the risk rating for both species to be downgraded to Medium Risk. Therefore, both byproducts should be Approved, source with caution.	
3. Approval validity		
	Valid from 01/2025	Valid until 01/2026

4. By-product assessment outcomes		
By-product species name	Flag country(ies)	MarinTrust approval status
Skipjack tuna, <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, United States	Approved source with caution
Yellowfin tuna, <i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, United States	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	Flag country(ies)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendices	Step 2 risk status	Step 3 required	Step 3 risk Outcome
Skipjack tuna, <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, United States	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium risk
Yellowfin tuna, <i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, United States	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium risk

Appendix 2 – detailed assessment outcomes (step 2 and step 3 if applicable)

Step 2 outcomes

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
Micronesia (FS of)	High	1.92	2.94	1.93	1	1	5	1	31.13%
Kiribati	High	1.79	3.11	1.96	1	1	5	1	42.92%
Marshall Isl.	High	1.79	3.17	1.89	1	1	5	1	37.74%
Nauru	Medium	2.04	1	1.64	1	1		1	53.30%
Korea (Rep. South)	Medium	3.67	3.11	1.97	1	1	1	1	83.96%
Taiwan	High	4.17	3.06	2.27	1	1	5	1	90.57%
Vietnam	High	2.3	2.11	2.8	1	3	1	1	36.32%
USA	Medium	2.29	3	2.37	1	1	1	1	91.04%

Step 3 outcomes

Due to the High Risk ratings in Step 2, the applicant was asked for additional information for both byproduct species. The information provided by the applicant indicated the following:

- All catches of both species took place in FAO Area 71, Western Pacific.
- Catches were landed in Vietnam, Tuvalu, Micronesia, or Marshall Islands.

Category C assessment

Species name		Skipjack tuna, <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	
Fishing area and stock		FAO 71, Western and Central Pacific 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>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.</p> <p>Catches are presented in the figure below:</p>			

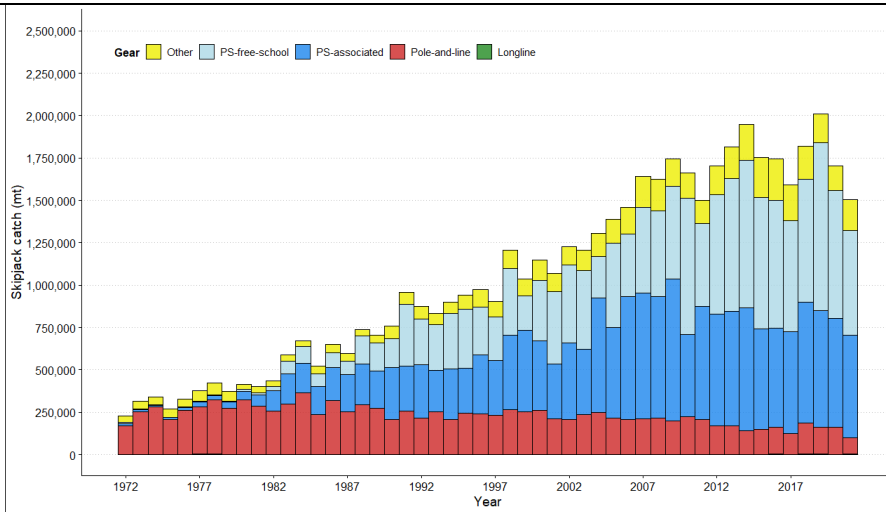


Figure 12. Annual catches of skipjack by gear type in the WCPO area covered by the stock assessment (WCPO 2023)

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore the stock PASSES clause 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.

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 $0.2 \cdot SB_{F=0}$. The median model outcome indicated that stock biomass is very close to the interim target reference point of $SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0} = 0.5$.

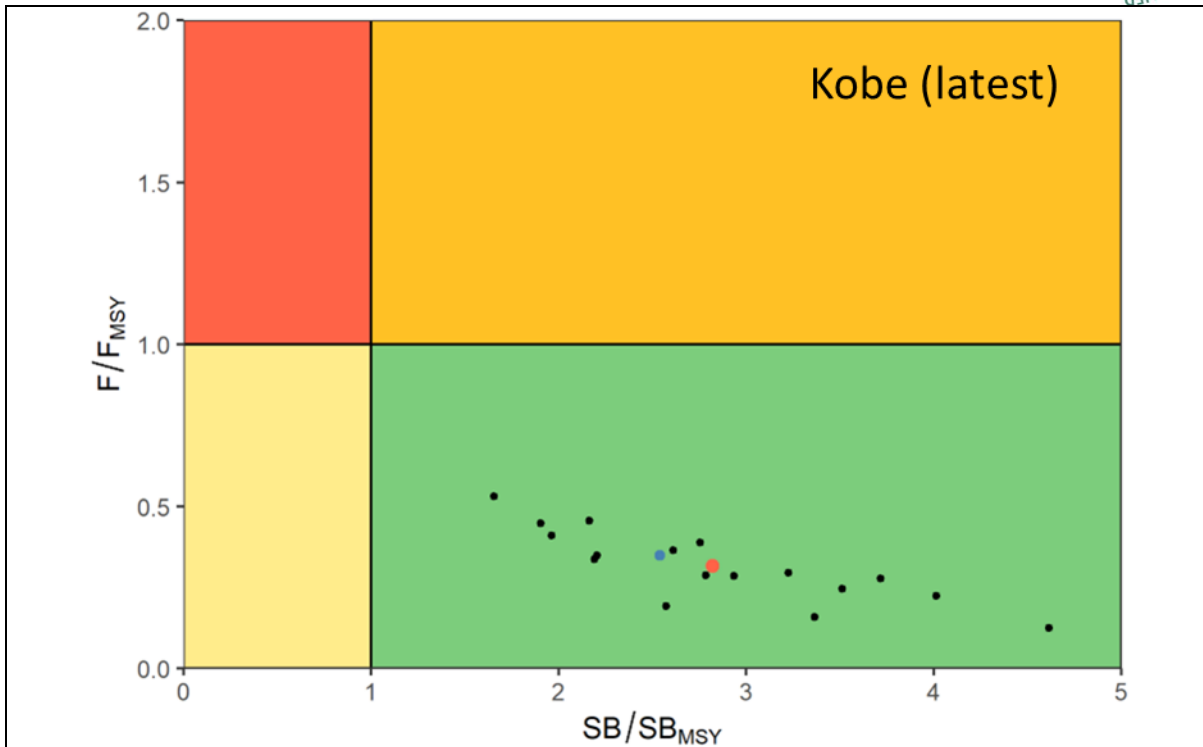


FIGURE 13. Kobe plot summarising the results for each of the models in the “latest” period (i.e. 2021). The black dots represent model outcomes, the blue point is the diagnostic model, and the red point is the median (WCPFC 2023).

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it PASSES clause C1.2.

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>

Species name		Yellowfin tuna, <i>Thunnus albacares</i>	
Fishing area and stock		FAO 71, Western and Central 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.

Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) yellowfin tuna is subject to regular stock assessments by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2023 and utilised all available catch data, as summarised in the graph below. 54 models were used to provide a range of potential outcomes based on different key variables, a process which reduces the inherent level of uncertainty.

Catches are presented in the figure below:

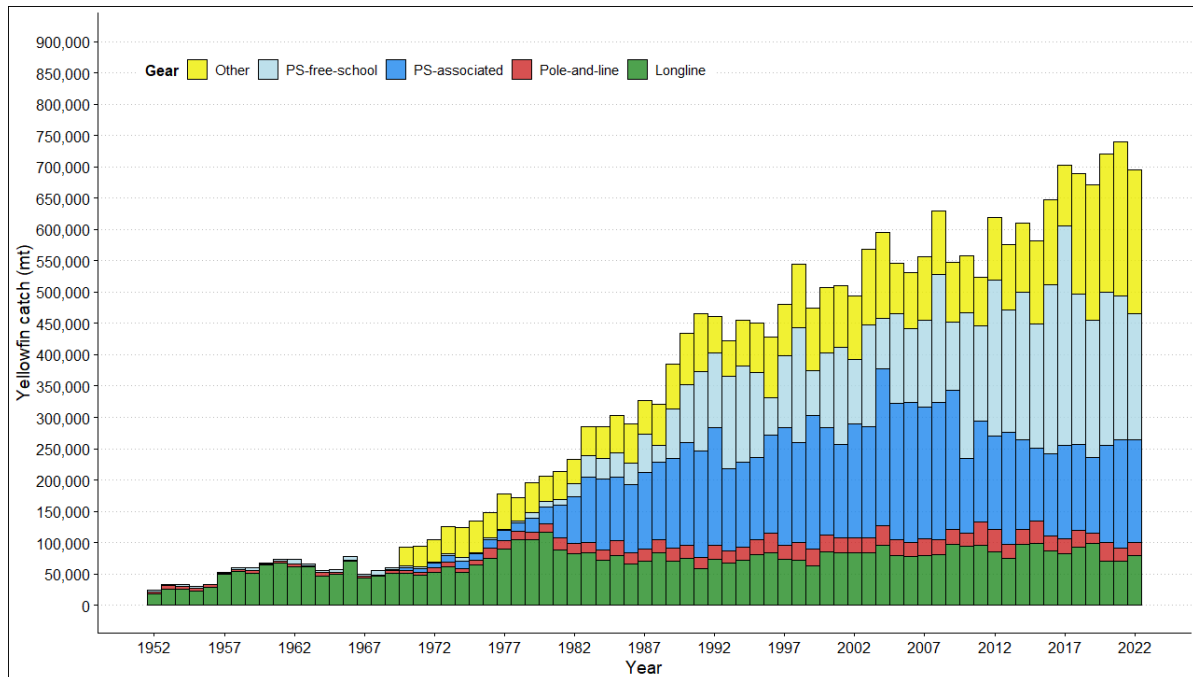


Figure 8. WCPO yellowfin catches, 1952-2022 (WCPFC 2023)

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore the stock PASSES clause 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.

The 2023 stock assessment produced a series of estimates of the current status of the stock relative to the target reference point BMSY. Biomass in 2021 was estimated to be between 1.91 and 3.11 times larger than BMSY with an 80% certainty; none of the model results indicated that biomass was below BMSY. Biomass is estimated by the most recent stock assessment to be above the target reference point with a high degree of certainty, and therefore also above any potential limit reference point (WCPFC 2023).

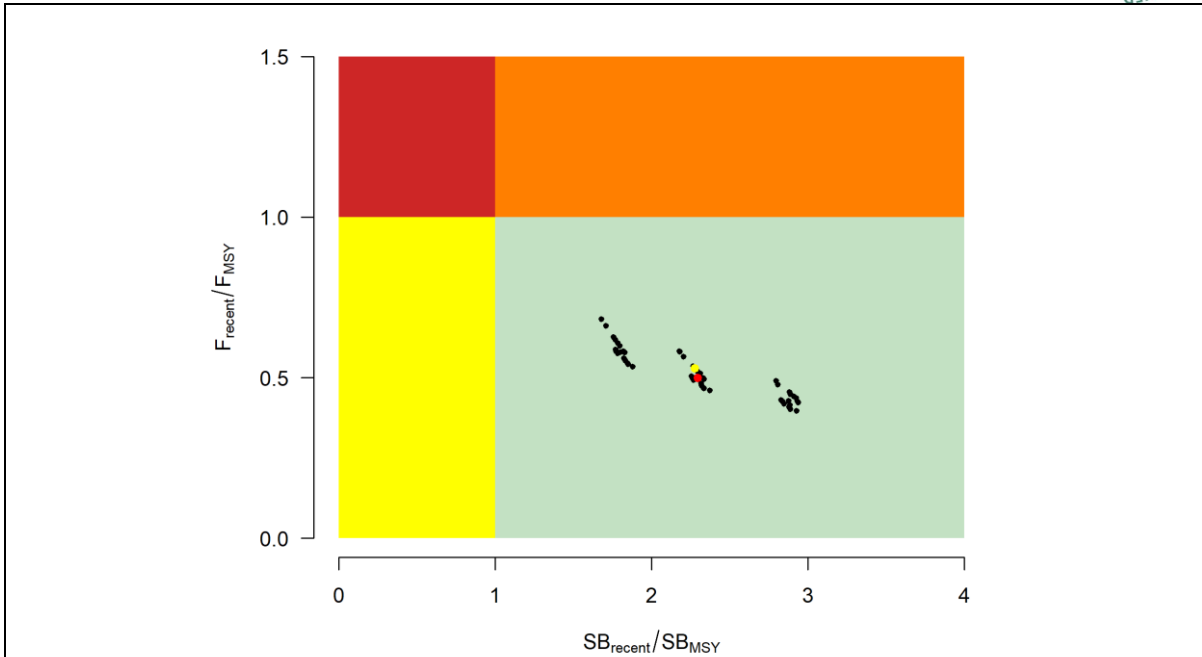


Figure 9. WCPO yellowfin tuna, Kobe plot summarising the results of each of the stock assessment models. The yellow dot is the 2023 diagnostic model and the red dot is the median (WCPFC 2023).

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it **PASSES** clause C1.2.

References

WCPFC (2023). WCPO Yellowfin Tuna, Stock Status and Management Advice. <https://www.wcpfc.int/file/1008665/download?token=wFUhc7q7>

Traceability information

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

Assessor note: Duplicate for each species/stock.

Species name	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)			
Path 1	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Path 2	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
Path 2 outcome	Flag country	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
<i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	All high-risk flag states	Medium risk (all countries in FAO 71 area)	Medium risk (Port states: Vietnam,	Downgraded to medium risk

	under assessment (Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Island, Taiwan, and Vietnam)		Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Micronesia)	
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Species name		Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)		
Path 1		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Confirm all KDEs are provided		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Path 2		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>		
Path 2 outcome <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	Flag country	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	All high-risk flag states under assessment (Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Island, Taiwan, and Vietnam)	Medium risk (all countries in FAO 71 area)	Medium risk (Port states: Vietnam, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Micronesia)	Downgraded to medium risk