



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment *CIV03 Skipjack Tuna in FAO Area 41 (Western Atlantic)*

**MarinTrust Programme**

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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:	Côte d'Ivoire
	Stock:	Western Atlantic skipjack
Date	March 2024	
Report Code	CIV03	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Côte d'Ivoire	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Marine Biotechnology Products Côte d'Ivoire			
Country:			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Jose Peiro Crespo	0.2	Surveillance
Assessment Period	March 2024 – March 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )
Stock	West 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	Maintain approval

## 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 (<math>B_{MSY}</math>), 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. This is the stock assessment identified by the previous MT byproduct assessment. The stock 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.</p> <p>There has been no new stock assessment and estimated stock status remains unchanged. For this reason the byproduct continues to the MT requirements and should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment is the skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) longline, pole and line and purse seine in FAO Area 41 (Western Atlantic Ocean). The species is classified as LC by the IUCN. The stock is managed relative to biomass-based reference points and therefore it is assessed as a category C species.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment for the species was conducted by the ICCAT in 2022 and concluded that the stock biomass was likely to be above the target reference point and therefore, the limit reference points (91% of probability that the stock is not overfished nor undergoing overfishing). It passes category C.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor’s recommendation to pass the Western Atlantic skipjack caught with longline, pole and line and purse seine in FAO Area 41 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 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Western Atlantic skipjack tuna	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>

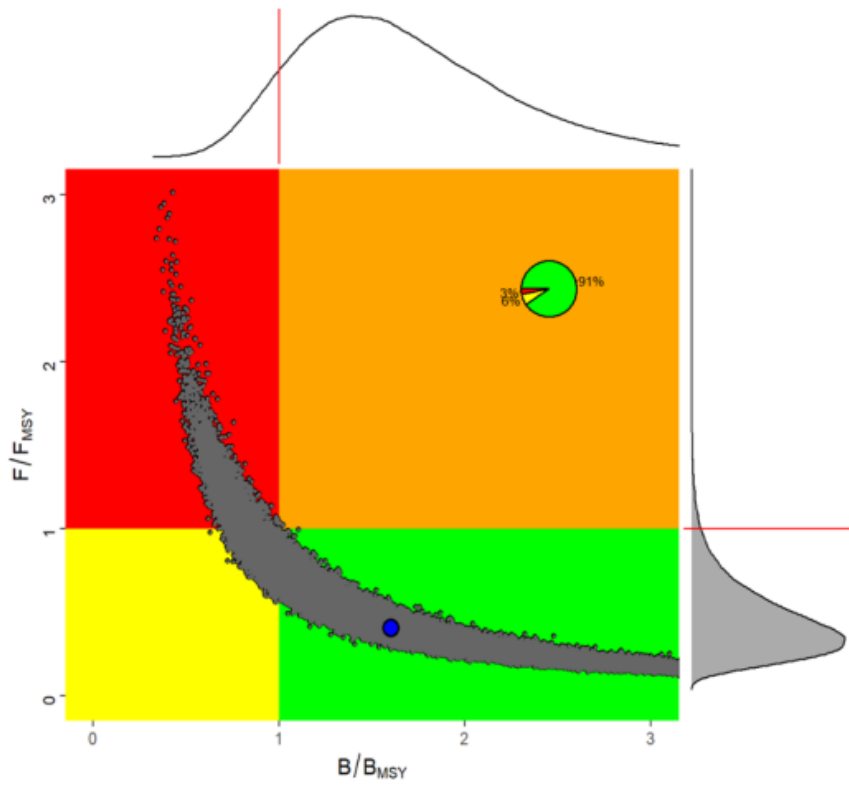
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/170310/46644566>

## 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	
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><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>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.</p> <p>There have been no changes since the previous MT assessment, and C1.1 continues 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 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 (<math>B_{2020}/B_{MSY}</math>) 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.</p> <p>There has been no new stock assessment and therefore no updated understanding of stock status since the previous MT assessment, and therefore C1.2 continues to be 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 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](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/SKJ_ENG.pdf)

**Links**

<b>MarinTrust Standard clause</b>	1.3.2.2
<b>FAO CCRF</b>	7.5.3
<b>GSSI</b>	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	