



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

### ECU12

### Skipjack tuna - *Katsuwonus pelamis* in FAO 34, 41, 47

**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 Areas 34, 41, 47 (Atlantic eastern central and southern)
	Country of origin of the product:	Ecuador Flag countries: Spain, France
	Stock:	Eastern Atlantic skipjack tuna
Date	June 2024	
Report Code	ECU12	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Ecuador Flag countries: Spain, France	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): NIRSA S.A., Borsea			
Country: Ecuador Flag countries: Spain, France			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	June 2024 – June 2025		

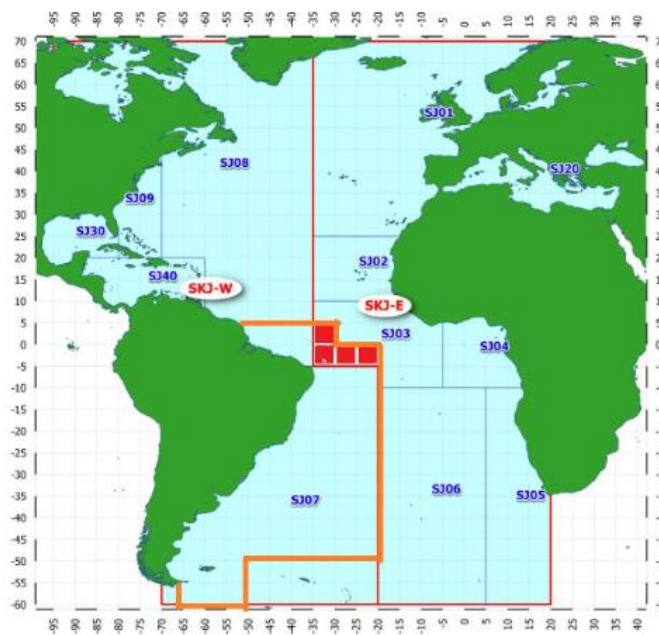
Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )
Stock	Eastern Atlantic skipjack tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 34, 41, 47 (Atlantic eastern central and southern)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, Baitboat, Purse Seine
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	<b>APPROVED</b>

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

### Assessment Determination

If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as MarinTrust raw material. Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.

There are two stocks of skipjack tuna in the Atlantic Ocean. This assessment covers the east Atlantic skipjack tuna stock. The eastern stock covers all of FAO areas 34, 47, and all but a small longitudinal corridor on the western edge of area 27. The eastern stock also contains a small portion of the northwest corner of area 41 (contained by the polygon: 5°N, 35°W; 5°S, 35°W; 5°S, 20°W; 0°N, 20°W, 0°N, 30°W; and 5°N, 30°W. As shown by the red boxes in Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Map of FAO area 41 (orange outline) showing the locations considered by the ICCAT stock assessment to be part of the eastern Atlantic skipjack tuna stock (red boxes).**

This stock is managed at the international level by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). ICCAT conducts stock assessments; reference points are defined for the east Atlantic skipjack tuna stock, so it has been assessed under Category C.

Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the stock assessment process and the latest assessment of stock status considers the stock being above the limit reference points, so the stock PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.

Therefore, skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in FAO 34, 41 and 47 is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.

**Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments**

The assessor correctly classified the east Atlantic skipjack tuna (FAO 34, 41, 47) under category C, as the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.

Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process, and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass well above limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.

Therefore, the east Atlantic skipjack tuna is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.

**Notes for On-site Auditor**

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## 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>Katuswonus pelamis</i>	Eastern Atlantic skipjack tuna	Yes	C	LC <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/ia/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.

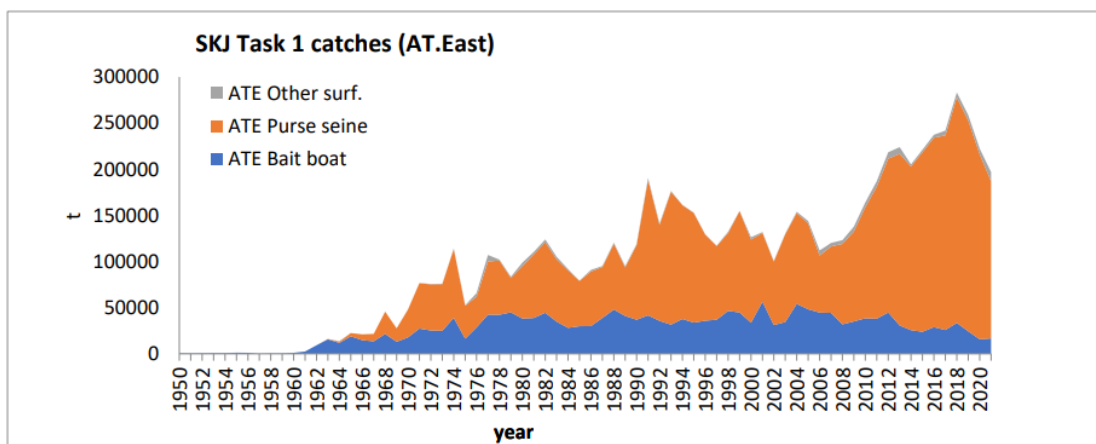
Species Name		Skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )	
C1	Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	Pass
	C1.2	The 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

**Note:** as the ICCAT stock assessment did not change from last year, the results detailed in this report are the same as last year's report.

### 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 skipjack stock was reassessed in 2022 (ICCAT, 2022) and resulted in a similar picture of stock status to the previous (2014) assessment, reiterating that the stocks are in a healthy condition. 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. Multiple models were used to represent potential population dynamic scenarios, and to account for uncertainty in outputs. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas - ICCAT stock assessment group decided to combine the results of several models to capture all major uncertainties. 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.

The nominal catches for the eastern stock had shown a generally increasing trend since the 1960s (Figure 1). The total catches increase from 1,171 metric tons in 1960 to more than 280,000 metric tons in 2018. Since 2018 the total catches of the eastern stock have gradually declined to 196,987 t in 2021. In 2020 the East Atlantic skipjack tuna stock was not overfished (median  $B_{2020}/B_{MSY} = 1.60$ ) and was not undergoing overfishing (median  $F_{2020}/F_{MSY} = 0.63$ ).



**SKJ-Figure 5.** Skipjack catches in the eastern Atlantic, by gear (1950-2021). The values for 2021 are preliminary.

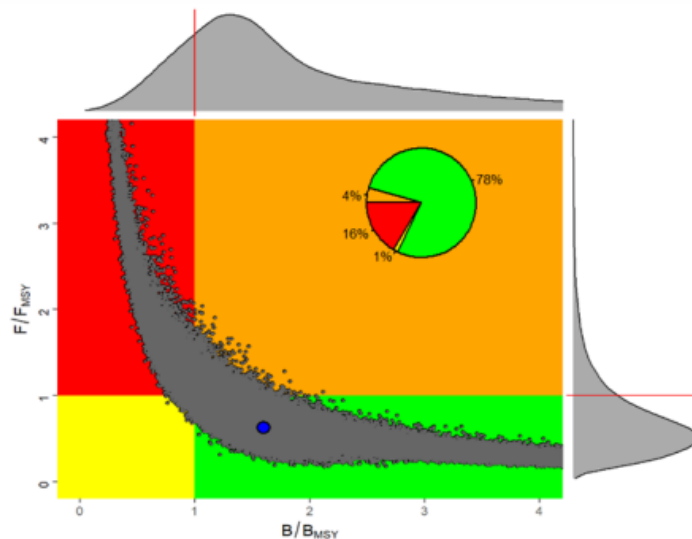
Figure 2. Source: ICCAT (2022)

Fishery removals are incorporated into the stock assessment process and therefore 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 there is large uncertainty in biomass estimates reflected in the long tails of the biomass distribution relative to  $B_{MSY}$  (95% confidence interval of 0.5 to 5.79  $B/B_{MSY}$ ). As the biomass is likely to be above the target reference point, it is highly likely to be above any potential limit reference point.

According to ICCAT (2022): “The median MSY was estimated as 216,617 t from the uncertainty grid of the deterministic runs. Probabilities of the stock being in each quadrant of the Kobe plot (SKJ-Figure 14) are 78% in the green (not overfished, not subject to overfishing), 4% in the orange (subject to overfishing but not overfished), 1% in the yellow (overfished but not subject to overfishing) and 16% in the red (overfished and subject to overfishing). In summary, the results indicated a stock status of not overfished (83% probability), with no overfishing (80% probability)” [Figure 2].



**SKJ-Figure 14. E-SKJ** Joint Kobe phase plot for the 18 Stock Synthesis uncertainty grid runs and 18 JABBA uncertainty grid runs for the eastern Atlantic skipjack stock. For each run the benchmarks are calculated from the year-specific selectivity and fleet allocations, and based on 90,000 MVLN iterations for Stock Synthesis and 90,000 MCMC iterations for JABBA. 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. The upper graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of  $SSB_{2020}/SSB_{MSY}$  or  $B_{2020}/B_{MSY}$  estimates for 2020. The right graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of  $F_{2020}/F_{MSY}$  estimates for 2020. The inserted pie graph represents the percentage of each 2020 estimate that fall in each quadrant of the Kobe plot. All SSB for Stock Synthesis showed the values at the end of years.

Figure 3. Source: ICCAT (2022).

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), C1.2 is met.

**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