



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

ESP26

Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

in FAO 21 and 31

(Western Atlantic, Central and Northern)

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 21 and 31 (Western Atlantic - Central and Northern)
	Country of origin of the product:	Spain Flag countries: Spain, Portugal
	Stock:	Western skipjack stock
Date	August 2024	
Report Code	ESP26	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Spain Flag countries: Spain, Portugal	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Arteixo			
Country: Spain Flag countries: Spain, Portugal			
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 2
Assessment Period		August 2024 – August 2025	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Stock	Western skipjack stock
Fishery Location	FAO 21 and 31 (Western Atlantic, - Central and Northern)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (Spain), and National Fisheries Authority (Portugal)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, Baitboat, Purse Seine
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>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 Marin Trust raw material. Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>For assessment and management purposes, one discrete stock of Skipjack tuna is recognised in Western Atlantic Ocean, when fished within Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO 21 and 31 (Western Atlantic, - Central and Northern). The last stock assessment was conducted in 2022; thus no changes were applied from last year MarinTrust assessment.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas – ICCAT 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.</p> <p>Therefore, skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) in FAO 21 and 31 (Western Atlantic, - Central and Northern) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified the skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) in FAO 21 and 31 (Western Atlantic, - Central and Northern) under category C, as the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.</p> <p>As last year's report, 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 the limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, the skipjack tuna in FAO 21 and 31 (Western Atlantic, - Central and Northern) continues to be APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.</p>
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 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 ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Western skipjack stock	Yes	C	LC ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

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

CATEGORY C SPECIES

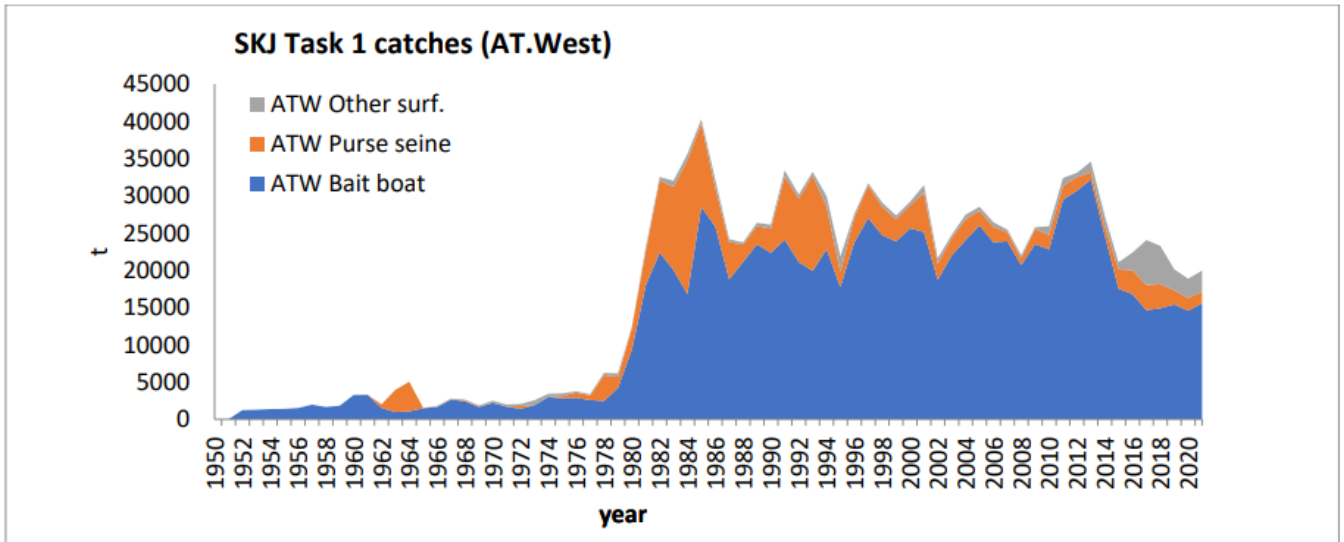
In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

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 (<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
<p>Note: this report is based on the same stock assessment as last year's report.</p> <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>The western 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 used Bayesian state-space production model and an integrated statistical assessment model (ICCAT 2022). The stock status estimates from the two approaches agreed with each other.</p> <p>Fishery data from 1952-2020 was used in the assessment and indices of relative abundance used in the assessments were calculated through 2020. The western skipjack landings have shown a slight decrease since 1982, and this has intensified in the</p>			

most recent period of the time series (2013 - 2020) [Figure 1]. The maximum total catch for this stock was observed in 1985 (40,272 t), and the lowest catch since 1985 was reached in 2020 (18,859 t). The median estimated for F_{2020}/F_{MSY} was 0.41.

The catch advice includes probabilities that overfishing is not occurring ($F \leq F_{MSY}$) and/or stock is not overfished ($SSB \geq SSB_{MSY}$) Future constant catches of 20,000 t, close to the current catch (19,951 t in 2021) are expected to maintain the stock in a not overfished nor undergoing overfishing status.



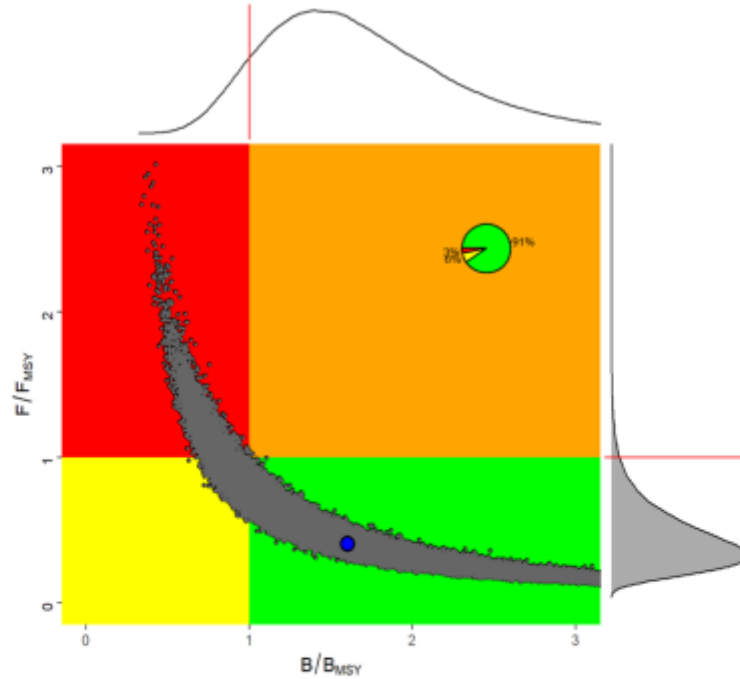
SKJ-Figure 6. Skipjack catches in the western Atlantic, by gear (1950-2021). The values for 2021 are preliminary.

FIGURE 1. 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.

According to ICCAT (2022): “Based on the combined results used to the develop management advice (9 Stock Synthesis deterministic runs), the median estimate of SSB_{2020}/SSB_{MSY} is 1.60, and the median estimated for F_{2020}/F_{MSY} is 0.41. The combined results of all runs indicates that the western skipjack stock is estimated to be in healthy condition with 91% probability of being in the green quadrant, and that the stock is not overfished nor undergoing overfishing (SKJ-Figure 17). There was a relatively low estimated probability that the stock is either overfished (yellow quadrant; 6.2%) or both overfished and undergoing overfishing (red quadrant; 2.9%).” [Figure 2].



SKJ-Figure 17. W-SKJ - Kobe phase plot for the 9 Stock Synthesis uncertainty grid runs for the western Atlantic skipjack stock. For each run the benchmarks are calculated from the year-specific selectivity and fleet allocations and based on 200,000 MVLN iterations. 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. Black line with black symbols represents the historical evolution of the median of all runs. 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. All SSB showed the values at the end of years.

FIGURE 2. SOURCE: ICAAT (2022).

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.

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

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01