



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

THA39

Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

in FAO Area 77

(Eastern Pacific Ocean Skipjack)

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 Area 77
	Country of origin of the product:	Thailand
	Stock:	Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) skipjack
Date	August 2024	
Report Code	THA39	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Thailand	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): TCF Co. Ltd, Chotiwat Manufacturing Public Co. Ltd, Thai Union Ingredients Co. Ltd, Piyo Bhokabhan Co. Ltd, TC Union Agrotech Co. Ltd			
Country: Thailand			
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
Sam Peacock	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	August 2024 – August 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Stock	EPO skipjack
Fishery Location	FAO Area 77
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole and line, purse seine
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's determination
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin trust raw material. Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Skipjack tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean are considered to comprise a single stock, and are managed by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Regular stock assessments are also conducted by the IATTC. The most recent stock assessment for skipjack in the EPO was conducted in 2021, using all available catch information. Although there are considerable uncertainties associated with the assessment, it is considered reliable for use to produce management advice, therefore the byproduct Passes Clause C1.1. The results of the 2021 assessment indicated a low probability that stock biomass is currently below the target reference point, and therefore a very low probability it is below any potential limit reference point. For this reason, the byproduct Passes Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) in the EPO is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly assessed Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) in FAO77 under category C, as the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.</p> <p>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 above the limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) in FAO77 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
Empty space for notes

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 € 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>	EPO	Yes	C	Least Concern 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

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 is subject to regular integrated statistical age-structured catch-at-length stock assessments carried out by the IATTC. Although the assessment is termed “interim” by IATTC staff, and it does contain significant sources of uncertainty, it is also considered to be reliable for the purposes of management decision-making (IATTC 2023). The assessment incorporates all available data from across the EPO, including catch data but also size and age frequency data and other sources.

Catches are presented in the figure below:

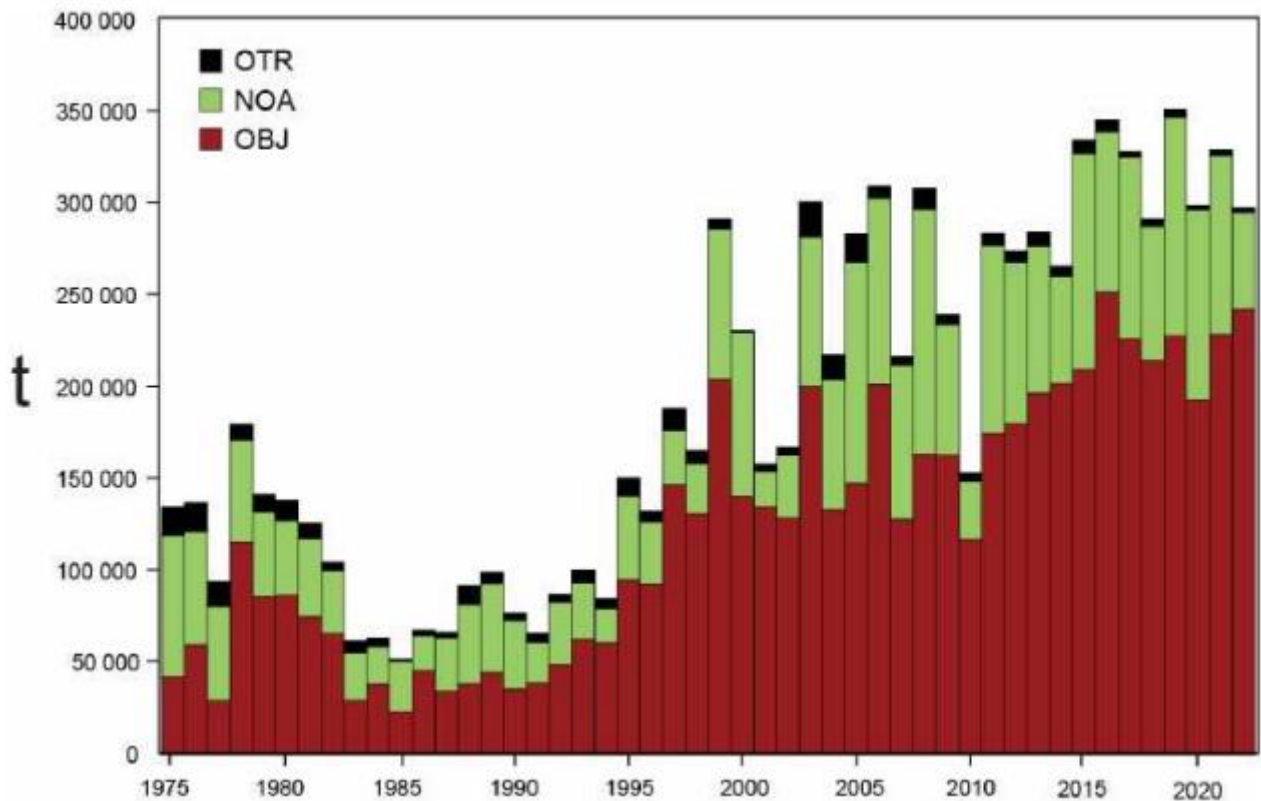


Figure 1. Skipjack catches in the EPO, (1975-2021) (IATTC 2023)

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.

MSY-based estimates and reference points cannot be estimated 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 2023). The reference model and most of the sensitivity analyses conducted in 2021 estimated that current stock biomass is above the target reference point and that fishing mortality is below the target reference point. Although there are no limit reference points established for the stock, the high probability that biomass is currently above the target reference point equates to a high probability that it is above any possible limit reference point.

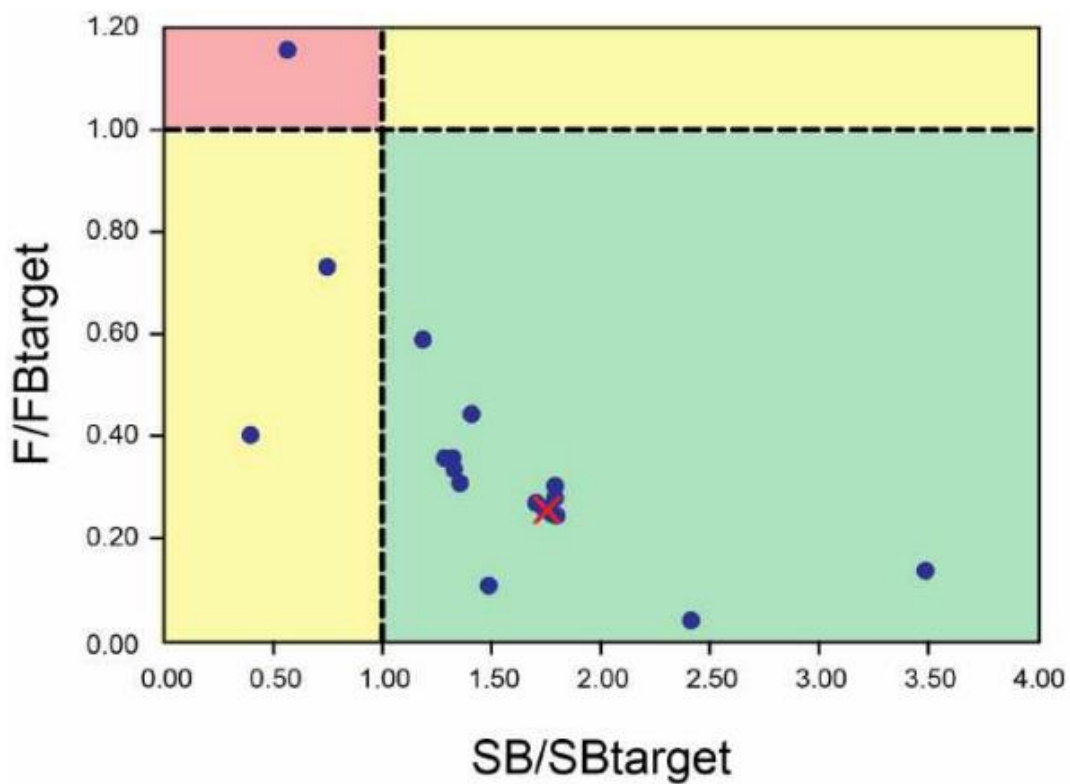


Figure 2. Kobe plot for skipjack tuna in the EPO. Each dot represents the stock status estimate from one of the assessment models. Dashed lines indicate the target reference points (IATTC 2023)

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

IATTC (2023). The tuna fishery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 2022. https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/0f48f889-2aa5-437f-8d03-648d62ecfb75/No-21-2023_Tunas,-stocks-and-ecosystem-in-the-eastern-Pacific-Ocean-in-2022.pdf

Links

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