MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment
THA55
Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)
in FAO Area 41
(Western Atlantic skipjack)

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 41
	Country of origin of the product:	Thailand
	Stock:	Western Atlantic skipjack
Date	August 2024	
Report Code	THA55	
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): TC Union Agrotech Co. Ltd, Thai Union Ingredients 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 1
Assessment Period	August 2024 – August 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)
Stock	Western 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	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	**APPROVED**

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
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 (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, *Katsuwonus pelamis* is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material. Skipjack tuna in the Western Atlantic is considered to comprise a single stock, and are managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Regular stock assessments are also conducted by the ICCAT. The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2022 and utilised all international landings, meaning the fishery meets the requirements of C1.1. The stock assessment concluded that biomass is currently above the limit reference point level, meaning the fishery meets the requirements of C1.2. Therefore, skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in the Western Atlantic is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly Western Atlantic (FAO 41) skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) 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 above the limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2. Therefore, Western Atlantic (FAO 41) 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

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	*Katsuwonus pelamis*	Western Atlantic	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 (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)**	
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.

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. As no new stock assessment has been conducted since the previous MT assessment, the outcome is unchanged. 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.

Catches are presented in the figure below:

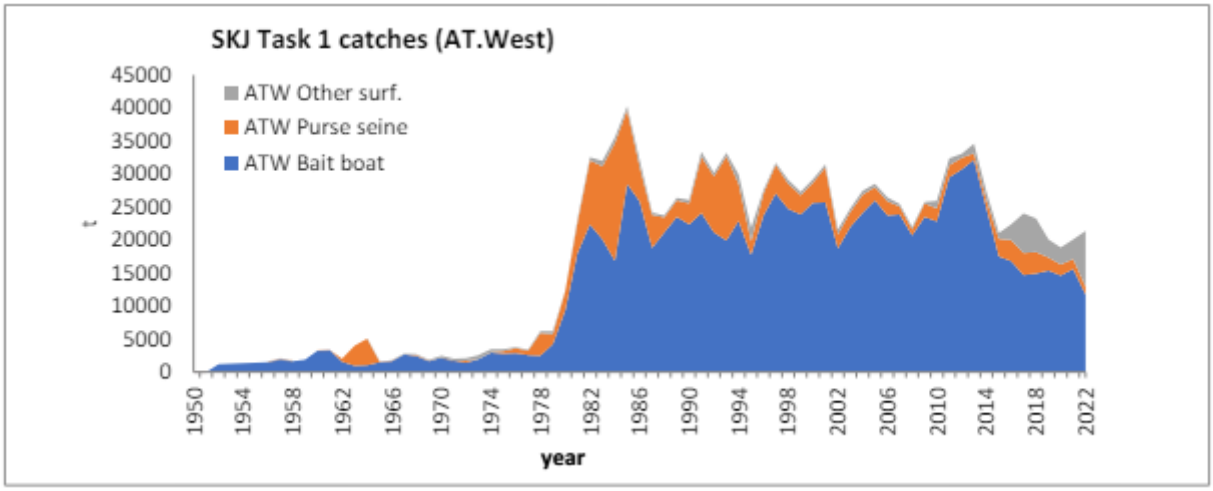

Figure 1. Skipjack catches in the western Atlantic, by gear (1950-2022). The values for 2022 are preliminary (ICCAT 2022).

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 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 (B_{2020}/B_{MSY}) 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.

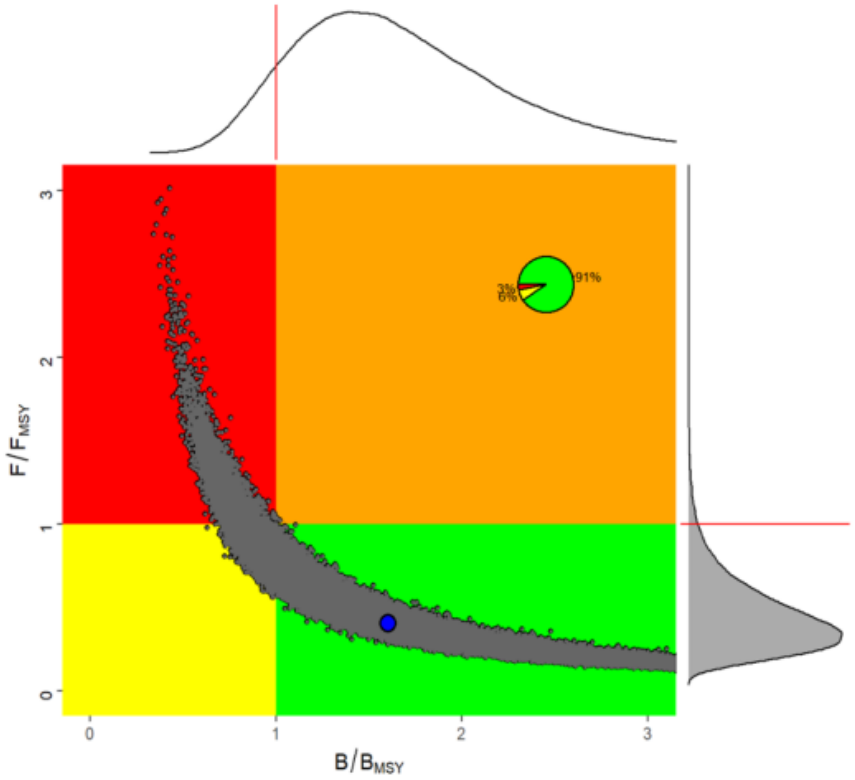

Figure 2. Combined Kobe phase plot for the various models performed for Western Atlantic skipjack tuna in 2022. The blue point shows the median of 200,000 iterations for SSB2020/SSBMSY and F2020/FMSY for the entire set of runs in the grid. Grey points represent the 2020 estimates of relative fishing 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/SSBMSY estimates for 2020. The right graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of F/FMSY 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).

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

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