



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment USA06

Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in FAO Areas 51, 57 (Indian Ocean skipjack)

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 51, 57
	Country of origin of the product:	Ghana, Belize, Spain, France, Italy
	Stock:	Indian Ocean skipjack
Date	June 2024	
Report Code	USA06	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Ghana, Belize, Spain, France, Italy	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pioneer Food Cannery Limited			
Country: Ghana			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification Ltd. / NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	June 2024 – June 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Stock	Indian Ocean skipjack
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 51, 57
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine (free and associated schools), longline, handline, gillnet, and pole-and-line.
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 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 Indian Ocean are considered to comprise a single stock, and are managed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Regular stock assessments are also conducted by the IOTC. The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2023 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.</p> <p>Therefore, skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) in the Indian Ocean 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 classified the Indian Ocean (FAO Areas 51&57) skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) 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 well above the limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore the Indian Ocean skipjack tuna 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

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>	Indian Ocean	Yes	C	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

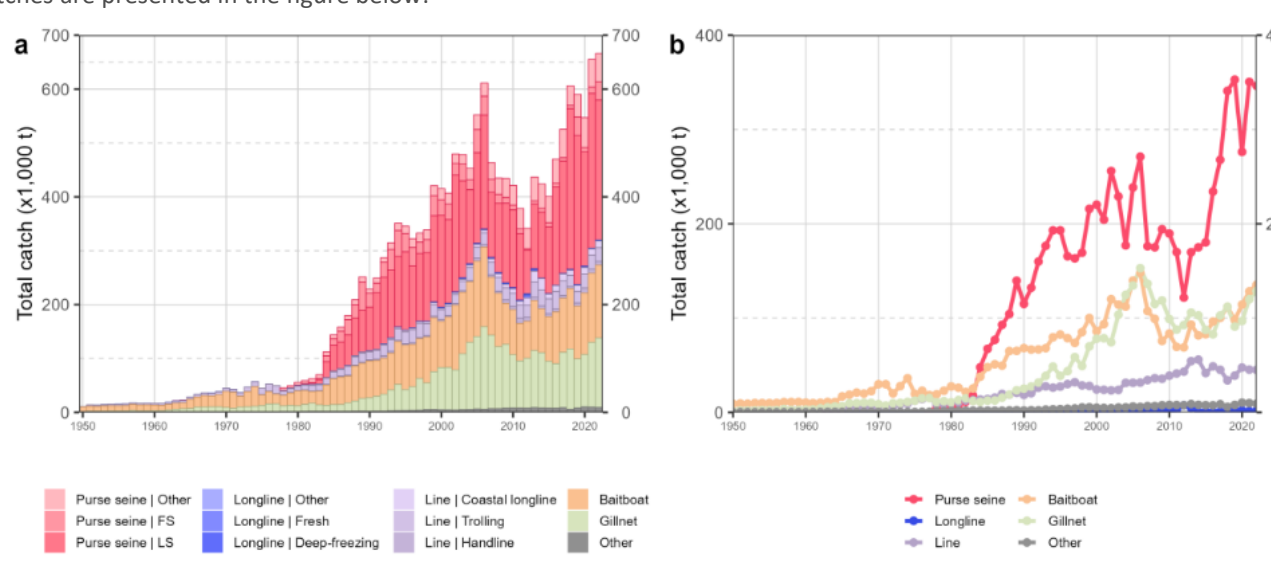
² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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
<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 stock assessment conducted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) takes all fishery removals into account. The most recent assessment was conducted in 2023. Landings in recent years were reported as a total catch in 2022 of 666,408t, and an average catch 2018-2022 of 613,061t (IOTC 2023). Full catch datasets, including catch and effort by month, species, gear, and vessels flag, and size-frequency datasets, are made available on the IOTC website (IOTC 2023a).</p> <p>Catches are presented in the figure below:</p> 			
<p>Figure 1. Annual time series of (a) cumulative nominal catches (metric tonnes; t) by fishery and (b) individual nominal catches (metric tonnes; t) by fishery group for Indian Ocean skipjack tuna during 1950-2022 (IOTC 2023)</p>			
<p>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.</p>			
<p>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.</p>			

The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2023, as reported in a 2023 stock status report published by the IOTC (IOTC 2023). The stock assessment conclusion states that “The outcome of the 2023 stock assessment model is more optimistic than the previous assessment (2020) despite the high catches recorded in the period 2021-2022, which exceeded the catch limits established in 2020 for this period” (IOTC 2023).

Biomass was estimated to be around 53% of the unfished level, which is above SB_{MSY} . The IOTC also notes that “Over the history of the fishery, biomass has been well above the adopted limit reference point ($20\%SB_0$)” (IOTC 2023).

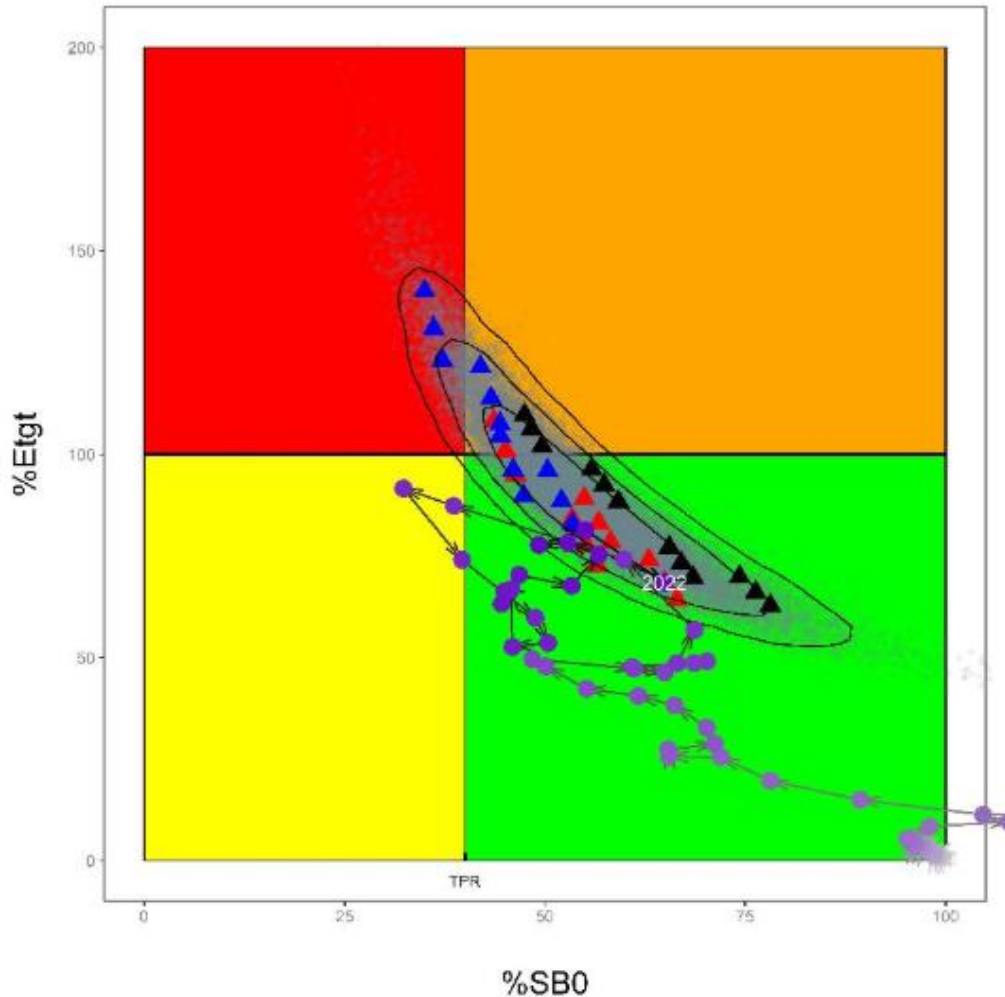


Figure 2. Indian Ocean skipjack tuna, Kobe plot of the 2023 stock assessment. Triangles represent outputs from individual models, grey dots represent uncertainty from individual models (IOTC 2023)

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

IOTC (2023). Indian Ocean Skipjack Tuna Stock Status: Executive Summary.
https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock_status/2023/Skipjack_ES_2023.pdf

IOTC (2023a). Available datasets. <https://www.iotc.org/data/datasets>

Links

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