



By-Product assessment report

BP069

Cosmo Seafoods - The Scoular Company

Document TEM-003 (prev. FISH-1) - Version 3.1

Issued April 2025 – Effective April 2025

Report code	BP069	Date of issue	July 2026
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1. Application details		
Applicant	Cosmo Seafoods - The Scoular Company	
Applicant country	Ghana	
2. Certification Body details		
Name of Certification Body (CB)	LRQA	
Contact information for CB	fisheries-ca@lrqa.com	
Assessor name	Jim Missen	
CB internal peer reviewer name	Megan McLaughlin	
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation	
Number of Assessment days	0.25	
Comments on the assessment	The yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna species considered within this re-approval assessment are not listed as either Critically Endangered or Endangered by the IUCN, and none are listed in any CITES appendix. Thus, they are eligible for approval as MarinTrust by-products. All three species are sourced from Ghana, a high-risk flag state, and therefore require a Step 3 assessment. The information required for this assessment was previously provided by the applicant. Based on the information provided, the fisheries were downgraded to medium risk and are approved as by-products but should be sourced with caution. Peer review comments – Happy with by report, stock assessment information has been updated where necessary. Traceability information remains the same as last year.	
3. Approval validity	Valid from 07/2026	Valid until 07/2027
4. Assessment cycle	Re-Approval	

5. By-product assessment outcomes			
By-product species name <i>Common and Latin names</i>	Flag country(ies)	Fishing Areas <i>Only applicable to Step 3 assessed species</i>	MarinTrust approval status
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Ghana	FAO 34 - Atlantic, East Central FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast	Approved source with caution
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	Ghana	FAO 34 - Atlantic, East Central FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast	Approved source with caution
Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Ghana	FAO 34 - Atlantic, East Central FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast	Approved source with caution
Guidance for on-site auditor For the audit, the auditor will check how the facility manages by-products deemed medium risk. Any by-products downrated from high to medium risk will require additional due diligence checks. It is important that facilities check all raw materials from and verify their suppliers especially if there is a perceived risk of sourcing from known or suspected IUU fishing activity. This requires checking supplier records or procedures in place to understand how the supplier can ensure there is no IUU in the raw material they provide. For raw materials risk rated medium, additional or more frequent checks may be required until the facility is certain that the raw materials are not from IUU fishing activity.			

The audit requirements are covered in clause 2.11.3 of the MarinTrust Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients (the MarinTrust Standard) and associated interpretation guidance.

Approved by-products

- No further checks are required beyond those included in the MarinTrust Standard.

Additional checks of Approved Source with Caution by-products

- Review supplier records or procedures in place.

Additional checks of by-products Approved Source with Caution via Step 3 assessment

- In addition to checks for medium risk Approved Source with Caution by-products, by-products that have had risk downgraded from high to medium at Step 3 (use **Appendix 1** to identify these by-product species), confirm that the relevant traceability information continues to be collected for this by-product. During the audit, a traceability check on any by-products downgraded from high to medium risk shall be included as part of the required traceability checks (Section 4).

Guidance for the applicant/certificate holder

The applicant/certificate holder is responsible for ensuring the relevant actions are taken to comply with the MarinTrust Standard.

The certificate holder is responsible for communicating any changes to the by-products sourced by submitting a scope extension request through the MarinTrust online Application Portal.

Appendix 1 – assessment outcomes

Step 2 Assessment Outcomes

By-product species name <i>Common and Latin names</i>	Flag country(ies)	IUCN Red List <i>Select IUCN red list category from dropdown</i>	CITES Appendices <i>Select CITES appendix status from dropdown</i>	Step 2 risk status <i>Low risk/ Medium risk/ High risk</i>	Step 3 required <i>Yes / No</i>
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Ghana	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	Ghana	Vulnerable	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Ghana	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes

Step 3 Assessment Outcomes

By-product species name <i>Common and Latin names</i>	Flag country(ies)	Fishing Area	Stock name <i>(If applicable e.g. Eastern Pacific stock)</i>	Category C Assessment Outcome <i>Pass/Fail</i>	Traceability information <i>Path 1 – Yes OR Path 2 – Yes/No OR MT Approved Whole Fish</i>	Step 3 Risk Outcome <i>Risk downgraded to Medium Risk/ Remains High Risk</i>
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Ghana	FAO 34 - Atlantic, East Central FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast	Atlantic Ocean	Pass	Path 2 – Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	Ghana	FAO 34 - Atlantic, East Central FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast	Atlantic Ocean	Pass	Path 2 – Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk

Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Ghana	FAO 34 - Atlantic, East Central FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast	Eastern Atlantic Ocean	Pass	Path 2 – Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk
Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Ghana	FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest	Western Atlantic Ocean	Pass	Path 2 – Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk
Comments on Step 3 Assessment: N/A.						

Appendix 2 – detailed assessment outcomes

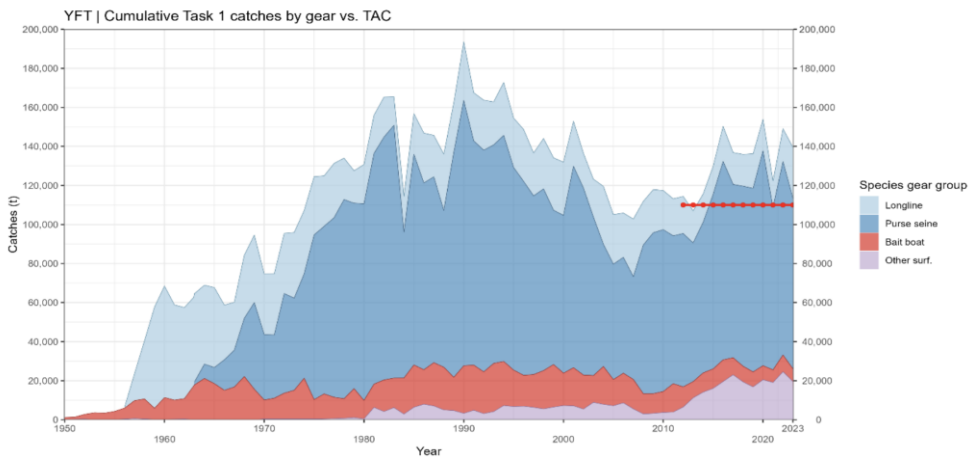
(step 2 and step 3 if applicable)

Step 2 outcomes

Flag state	Risk rating	Flag score	Port score	General score	Flag State is contracting party or cooperating non-contracting party to all relevant RFMOs	'Carded' under EU Carding system	Flag state party to PSMA	Flag state mandatory vessel tracking for commercial seagoing fleet	WGI Governance rank
Ghana	High	1.67	2	2.23	1	3	1	1	44.81%

Step 3 outcomes

Category C assessment

Species name		Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
Fishing area and stock		FAO 34 (Atlantic, East Central), FAO 41 (Atlantic, Southwest), FAO 47 (Atlantic, Southeast)
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.	
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.	
		Clause outcome:
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. No fundamental changes have occurred since the initial assessment. The most recent stock assessment for the fishery was conducted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in 2024, applying an age-structured model framework (Stock Synthesis)¹. The stock assessment considered fishery data from 1950 to 2022 with total catches through 2023 shown in Figure 1.  Figure 1. Yellowfin tuna total catch 1950-2023 by main fishing gear group. The red dotted line represents the Total Allowable Catch (TAC)¹. Based on the above, the fishery 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 trend in yellowfin tuna spawning stock biomass (SSB) and SSB relative to the level that would produce maximum sustainable yield (SSB_{MSY}) shows a general decline over time¹. However, SSB has remained above SSB_{MSY} throughout the time series and has shown a slight increasing trend in recent years. Since the mid-2010s, fishing mortality increased to levels around F_{MSY} before declining below F_{MSY} in 2021 and 2022¹.

The median estimate of SSB_{2022}/SSB_{MSY} was 1.37 (80% confidence interval: 0.91–2.15), indicating an 81% probability that the stock was not overfished in 2022¹. The median estimate of F_{2022}/F_{MSY} was 0.89 (80% confidence interval: 0.40–1.46), indicating a 58% probability that overfishing was not occurring in 2022¹. The Kobe plot showing stock status in 2022 is presented in Figure 2.

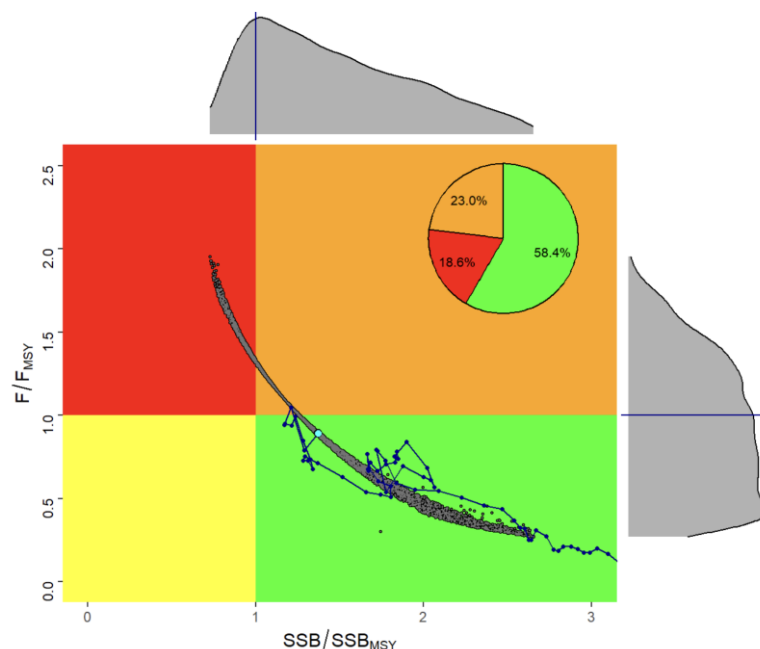


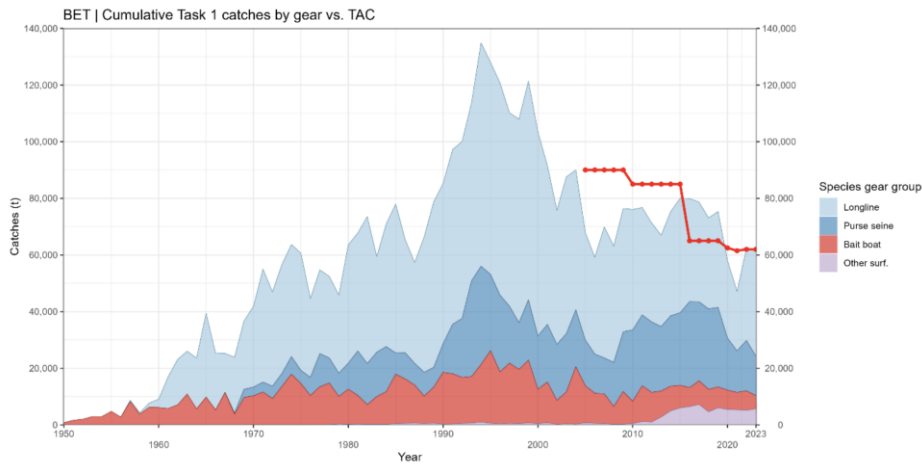
Figure 2. Kobe plot for the Atlantic yellowfin tuna stock status in 2022, estimated during the 2024 yellowfin stock assessment. Grey dots are the 4,000 Stock Synthesis model runs; the blue circle is the median of these runs and marginal histograms represent the distribution of either SSB/SSB_{MSY} or F/F_{MSY} . The black line indicates the stock status trajectory starting in 1958. The inserted pie indicates the probability of the stock being within each Kobe colour quadrant. The probability distributions shown in each axis represent uncertainty around current B/B_{MSY} and F/F_{MSY} ².

Based on the above, the fishery passes Clause C1.2.

References

1. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. (2025). ICCAT report for the biennial period 2024–2025 (Part I, Volume 2): Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-I-2.pdf

2. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. (2025). ICCAT report for the biennial period 2024–2025 (Part II, Volume 2): Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-II-2.pdf

Species name		Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
Fishing area and stock		FAO 34 (Atlantic, East Central), FAO 41 (Atlantic, Southwest), FAO 47 (Atlantic, Southeast)
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.	
	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.	
		Clause outcome:
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 the fishery was conducted by ICCAT in 2025, applying multiple modelling approaches (stock synthesis and surplus production models)^{1,2}. The stock assessment considered fishery data from 1950 to 2023 with total catches for the period displayed in Figure 3.  Figure 3. Bigeye tuna estimated and reported catches for all the Atlantic stock (t). The red dotted line indicates the TAC³. Based on the above, the fishery 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 estimated SSB declined between 1950 and the late 2000s and subsequently fluctuated around SSB_{MSY}^2 . SSB over the most recent four years (2020–2023) showed a rapid increasing trend. Regarding fishing mortality, a pronounced increase was observed until the end of the 1990s, at which point it exceeded F_{MSY}^2 . Subsequently, from 2005 onwards, fishing mortality decreased and remained below F_{MSY} for the remainder of the time series².

The median estimate of relative spawning biomass (SSB_{2023}/SSB_{MSY}) was 1.23, indicating that the stock was not overfished in 2023¹. The median estimate of relative fishing mortality (F_{2023}/F_{MSY}) was 0.59, indicating that overfishing was not occurring in 2023¹. The probability that the stock was both not overfished and not subject to overfishing was 73.8%¹. The Kobe plot showing Atlantic bigeye tuna stock status in 2023 is presented in Figure 4.

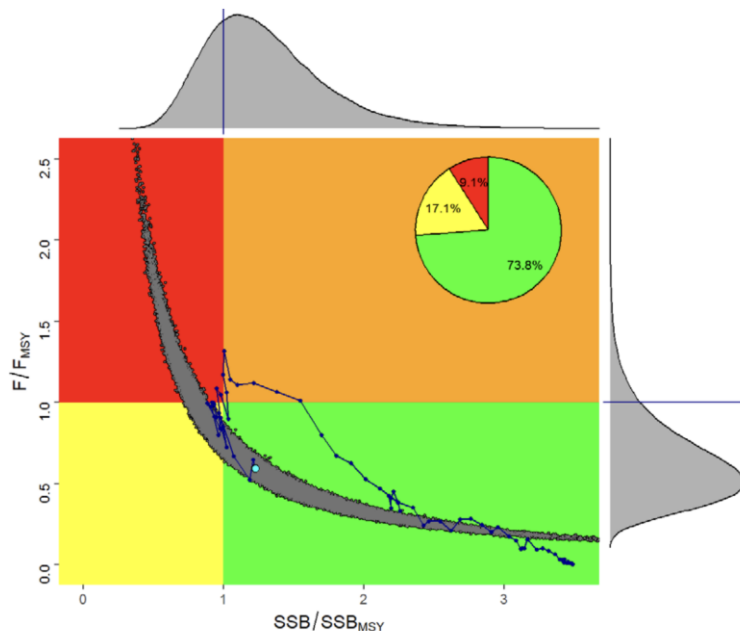


Figure 4. Kobe plot for the Atlantic bigeye tuna stock status in 2023, estimated during the 2025 stock assessment. The line indicates the stock status trajectory starting in 1950. The inserted pie chart indicates the probability of the stock being within each Kobe colour quadrant¹.

Based on the above, the fishery passes Clause C1.2.

References

1. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. (2025). ICCAT report for the biennial period 2024–2025 (Part II, Volume 2): Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-II-2.pdf
2. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. (2025). Report of the 2025 ICCAT Atlantic Bigeye tuna Stock Assessment Meeting. Collective volume of scientific

papers, Vol. 82(5): SCRS scientific documents.

https://www.iccat.int/Documents/CVSP/CV082_2025/n_5/CV082050011.pdf

3. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. (2025). ICCAT report for the biennial period 2024–2025 (Part I, Volume 2): Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-1-2.pdf

Species name		Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Fishing area and stock		FAO 34 (Atlantic, East Central), FAO 47 (Atlantic, Southeast) Eastern Atlantic stock
C1 Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
C1.1	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.
	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.

Clause outcome:

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.

No fundamental changes have occurred since the initial assessment.

The most recent stock assessment for the fishery was conducted by ICCAT in 2022. The assessment applied similar models and methods to those used for other tropical tuna species, including yellowfin and bigeye tuna, using Stock Synthesis and surplus production models¹. The assessment considered fishery data from 1950 to 2020, with total catches through 2023 shown in Figure 5.

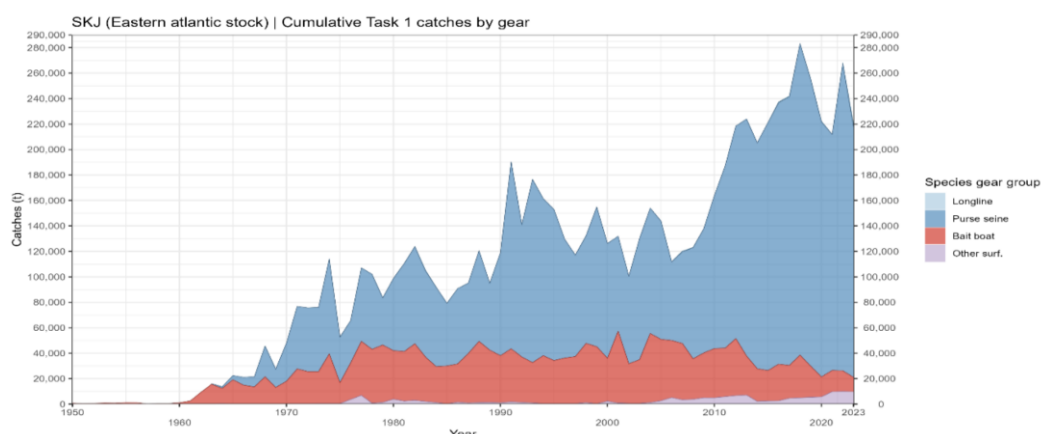


Figure 5. Skipjack catches in the eastern Atlantic, by gear (1950-2023). The values for 2023 are preliminary¹.

Based on the above, the fishery 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 stock assessment show that, in 2020, the Eastern Atlantic skipjack tuna stock was not overfished (median $B_{2020}/B_{MSY} = 1.60$) and was not subject to overfishing (median $F_{2020}/F_{MSY} = 0.63$)¹. The probabilities of the stock occurring within each quadrant of the Kobe plot were 78% in the green quadrant (not overfished and not subject to overfishing), 4% in the orange quadrant (subject to overfishing but not overfished), 1% in the yellow quadrant (overfished but not subject to overfishing), and 16% in the red quadrant (overfished and subject to overfishing) (Figure 7)¹. Overall, the results indicate that the stock was not overfished (83% probability) and was not subject to overfishing (80% probability)¹.

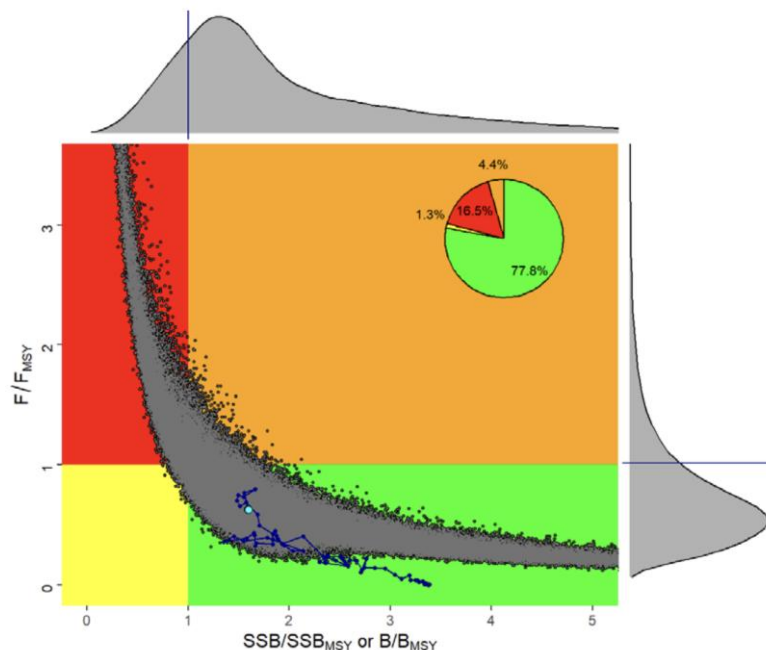


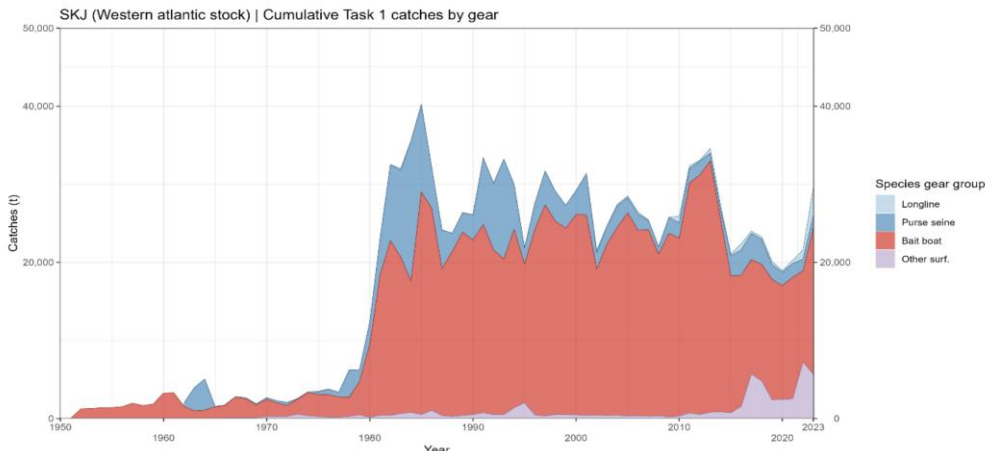
Figure 6. Kobe plots for the eastern Atlantic skipjack stock status in 2020, estimated during the 2022 stock assessment. The upper graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of SSB_{2020}/SSB_{MSY} or B_{2020}/B_{MSY} estimates for 2020, while the right graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of F_{2020}/F_{MSY} estimates for 2020. The inserted pie charts indicate the probability of the stock being within each Kobe colour quadrant. The line indicates the stock status trajectory starting in 1952².

Based on the above, the fishery passes Clause C1.2.

References

1. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. (2025). ICCAT report for the biennial period 2024–2025 (Part I, Volume 2): Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-I-2.pdf

2. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. (2025). ICCAT report for the biennial period 2024–2025 (Part II, Volume 2): Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-II-2.pdf

Species name		Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	
Fishing area and stock		FAO 41 (Atlantic, Southwest), Western Atlantic stock	
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.	
	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.	
Clause outcome:			
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.			
No fundamental changes have occurred since the initial assessment.			
The most recent stock assessment for the fishery was conducted by ICCAT in 2022. The assessment applied similar models and methods to those used for other tropical tuna species, including yellowfin and bigeye tuna, using Stock Synthesis and surplus production models ¹ . The assessment considered fishery data from 1952 to 2020, with total catches through 2023 shown in Figure 7.			
			
Figure 7. Skipjack catches in the western Atlantic, by gear (1950-2023). The values for 2023 are preliminary.			

Based on the above, the fishery 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 stock assessment show that, in 2020, the Western Atlantic skipjack tuna stock was estimated to be in healthy condition, with a 91% probability that the stock was not overfished and was not subject to overfishing¹. The median estimate of SSB_{2020}/SSB_{MSY} was 1.60, and the median estimate of F_{2020}/F_{MSY} was 0.41. The estimated probability that the stock was either overfished (6.2%) or both overfished and subject to overfishing (2.9%) was relatively low. The probability that stock biomass would fall below 20% or 10% of B_{MSY} was less than 1% until 2028, assuming future catches remain constant at the MSY level.

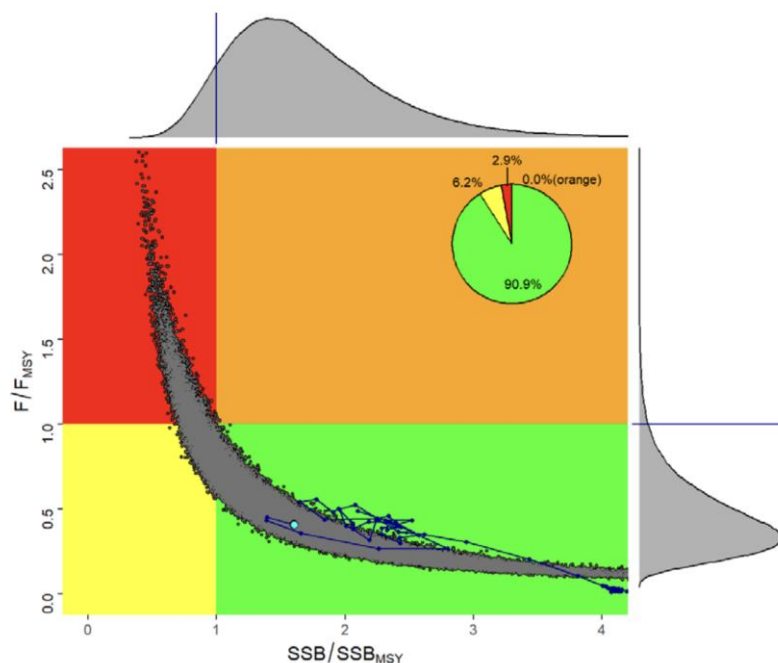


Figure 8. Kobe plots for the western Atlantic skipjack stock status in 2020, estimated during the 2022 stock assessment. The upper graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of SSB_{2020}/SSB_{MSY} or B_{2020}/B_{MSY} estimates for 2020, while the right graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of F_{2020}/F_{MSY} estimates for 2020. The inserted pie charts indicate the probability of the stock being within each Kobe colour quadrant. The line indicates the stock status trajectory starting in 1952².

Based on the above, the fishery passes Clause C1.2.

References

1. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. (2025). ICCAT report for the biennial period 2024–2025 (Part I, Volume 2). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-I-2.pdf

2. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. (2025). ICCAT report for the biennial period 2024–2025 (Part II, Volume 2): Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-II-2.pdf

Traceability information

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

Species name	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
Path 2 outcome <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	Flag country	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	Ghana	2.75 Medium risk	2.0 Low risk	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
Path 2 outcome <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	Flag country	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	Ghana	2.75 Medium risk	2.0 Low risk	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>), Eastern Atlantic stock			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
Path 2 outcome <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	Flag country	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	Ghana	2.75 Medium risk	2.0 Low risk	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>), Western Atlantic stock			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			

Confirm all KDEs are provided		Yes ☐ No ☐		
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
Path 2 outcome <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	Flag country Ghana	Coastal score 2.75 Medium risk	Port score 2.0 Low risk	Risk outcome Downgraded to medium risk