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 2025

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	mt-ca@lrqa.com
Assessor name	Blanca Gonzalez
CB internal peer reviewer name	Sam Peacock
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation
Number of Assessment days	0.2
Comments on the assessment	All the byproduct species listed in this report are not considered and ETP species according to Marin Trust definition fulfilling this requirement for the assessment. The three species required a step 3 assessment evaluation due to Ghana´s high-risk flag state. The applicant provided data about the fishing area, which was necessary for the Category C assessments. This allowed these species to be downgraded to medium risk; therefore, all byproducts were approved, but they should be sourced with caution.

3. Approval validity	Valid from 07/2025	Valid until 07/2026
4. Assessment cycle	Initial	

5. By-product assessment outcomes

By-product species name *Common and Latin names*	Flag country(ies)	Fishing Areas *Only applicable to Step 3 assessed species*	MarinTrust approval status
Yellowfin tuna - *Thunnus albacares*	Ghana	FAO 34 - Atlantic, East Central FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast	Approved source with caution
Bigeye tuna - *Thunnus obesus*	Ghana	FAO 34 - Atlantic, East Central FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast	Approved source with caution
Skipjack tuna - *Katsuwonus pelamis*	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 *Common and Latin names*	Flag country(ies)	IUCN Red List *Select IUCN red list category from dropdown*	CITES Appendices *Select CITES appendix status from dropdown*	Step 2 risk status *Low risk/ Medium risk/ High risk*	Step 3 required *Yes / No*
Yellowfin tuna - *Thunnus albacares*	Ghana	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Bigeye tuna - *Thunnus obesus*	Ghana	Vulnerable	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Skipjack tuna - *Katsuwonus pelamis*	Ghana	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes

Step 3 Assessment Outcomes

Assessor note: All species identifed as requiring Step 3 in Table above, will have additional assessment information presented here.

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

Bigeye tuna - *Thunnus obesus*	Ghana	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Easter Central FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast	Atlantic Ocean	Pass	Path 2 - Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk
Skipjack tuna - *Katsuwonus pelamis*	Ghana	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Easter Central FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast	Eastern Atlantic Ocean	Pass	Path 2 - Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk
Skipjack tuna - *Katsuwonus pelamis*	Ghana	FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest	Western Atlantic Ocean	Pass	Path 2 - Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk

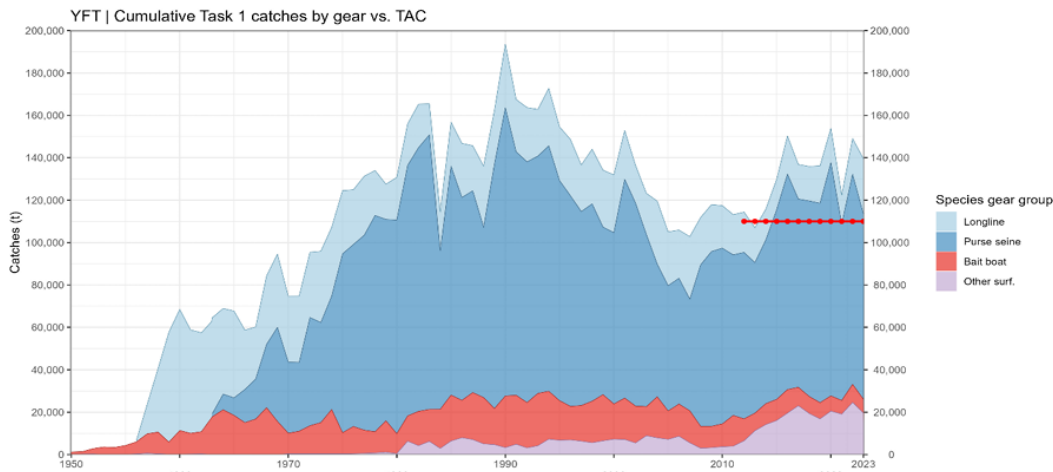# Appendix 2 – detailed assessment outcomes

(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%

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Step 3 outcomes

Category C assessment

Species name	Yellowfin tuna - *Thunnus albacares*
Fishing area and stock	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Easter Central FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast Atlantic Ocean 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.	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.

Clause is met considering that:

The most recent yellowfin tuna assessment for this stock was conducted in 2024 by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) using an age-structured model framework. The stock assessment used fishery data from the period 1950-2022. (Figure 1) (ICCAT 2025)

Figure 1. Yellowfin tuna total catch 1950-2023 by main fishing gear group. The red dotted line represents the TAC. (ICCAT 2025).

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 is met considering that:

The yellow fin trend in the spawning stock biomass (SSB) and the SSB relative to the level that would produce Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) (SSB^{MSY}) shows a general continuous decline over time. However, spawning stock biomass has remained above SSB_{MSY} over the entire time series, and in the most recent years showed a slightly increasing trend. The median estimate of SSB_{2022}/SSB_{MSY} was 1.37 (80% confidence interval: 0.91 - 2.15), indicating the stock was not overfished in 2022 with 81% probability. The median estimate of F2022/FMSY was 0.89 (0.40 - 1.46), indicating that overfishing was not occurring in 2022 with 58% probability. (Figure 2). (ICAAT 2025).
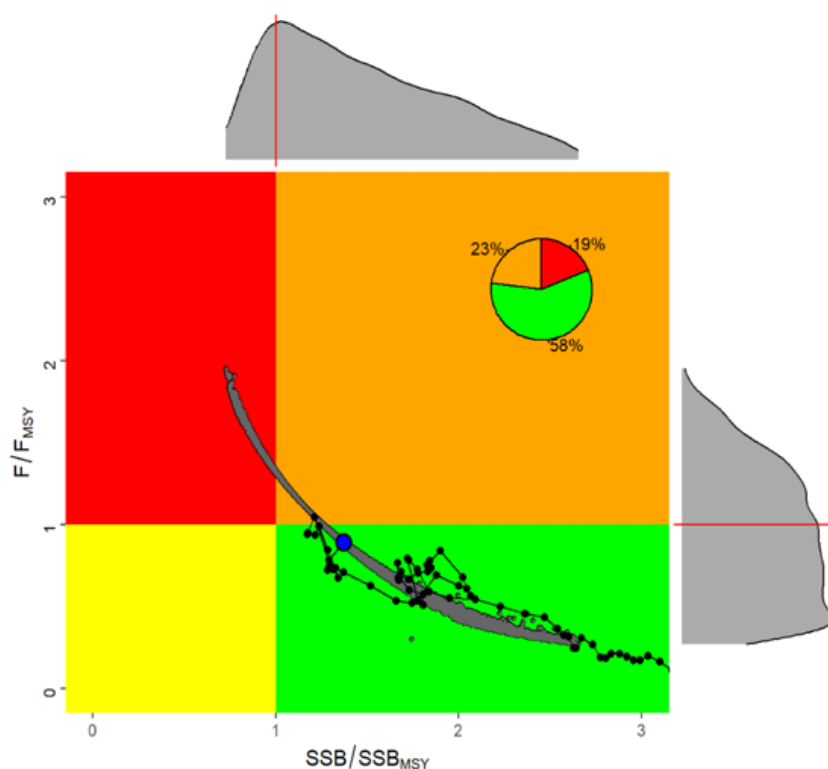

Figure 2. Kobe plot of the stock status of Atlantic yellowfin tuna in 2022. Gray dots are the 4,000 Stock Synthesis model runs; the blue circle is the median of these runs and marginal histograms represent the distribution of either SSB/SSB_{MSY} or F/F_{MSY}. The black line indicates the stock status trajectory starting in 1958. The inserted pie chart indicates the proportion of model iterations within each Kobe colour quadrant, 58% in the green quadrant, 23% in the orange quadrant, and 19% in the red quadrant. (ICAAT 2025).

References

ICCAT. 2025. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS. Report for biennial period, 2024-2025. PART I (2024) – Vol.2. English version. SCRS. Madrid, Spain. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-I-2.pdf

Species name	Bigeye tuna - *Thunnus obesus*	
Fishing area and stock	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Easter Central FAO 41 – Atlantic, Southwest FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast Atlantic Ocean 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.	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.

Clause is met considering that:

The most recent bigeye tuna assessment for this stock was conducted in 2021 by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) using several modelling approaches, ranging from non-equilibrium (MPB) and Bayesian state-space (JABBA) production models to integrated statistical assessment models (Stock Synthesis). Different model formulations considered to be plausible representations of the stock dynamics were used to characterize stock status and the uncertainties in stock status evaluations. These models used fishery data from the period 1950-2019. (Figure 1.) (ICCAT 2025).
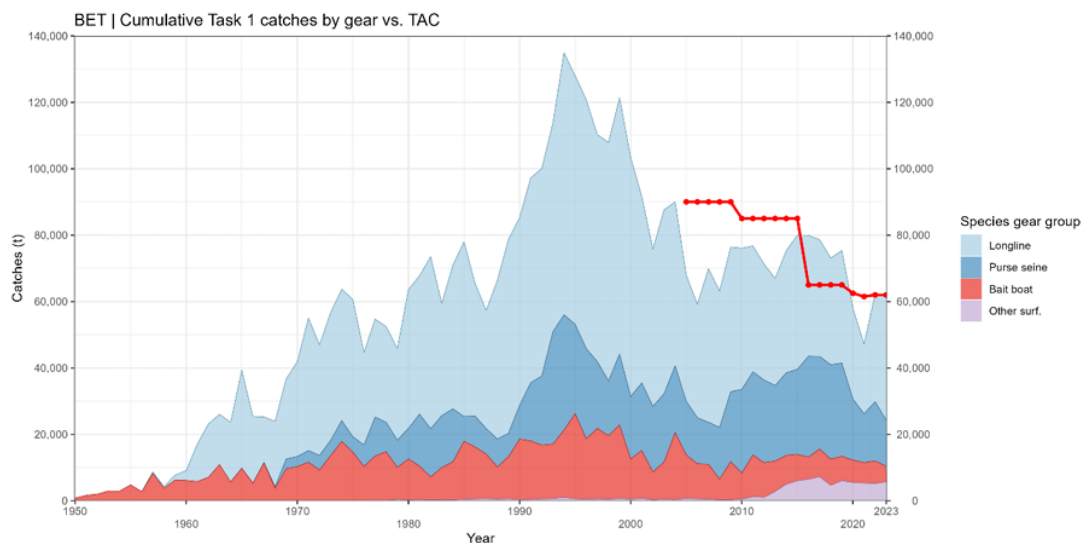
Figure 1. Bigeye tuna estimated and reported catches for all the Atlantic stock (t). The red dotted line indicates the TAC. (ICCAT 2025).

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 is met considering that:

The results of the assessment, based on the median of the entire uncertainty grid shows that in 2019 the Atlantic bigeye tuna stock was overfished (median SSB_{2019}/SSB_{MSY} = 0.94 and 80% confidence interval (CI) of 0.71 and 1.37) but was not undergoing overfishing (median F_{2019}/F_{MSY}=1.00 and 80% CI of 0.63 and 1.35). Calculations of the time-varying benchmarks from the stock synthesis uncertainty grid show a long-term increase in SSB_{MSY} and a general long-term decrease in MSY. This change in benchmarks is the result of the change in overall selectivity caused by the shift to catch greater proportions of smaller fish. The rapid change in probabilities of overfishing and overfished during 2020 and 2021 are the result of the fact that estimated stock status in 2019 is close to the centre point of the Kobe plot. When a stock is at such centre point decreases in fishing mortality initially lead to large changes in these probabilities as can be seen from the marginal histograms (Figure 2).

According to the Kobe II Strategy Matrix a future constant catch of 61,500 t, which is the TAC recommended by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas, will have a high probability (97%) of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2034. (ICAAT 2025).
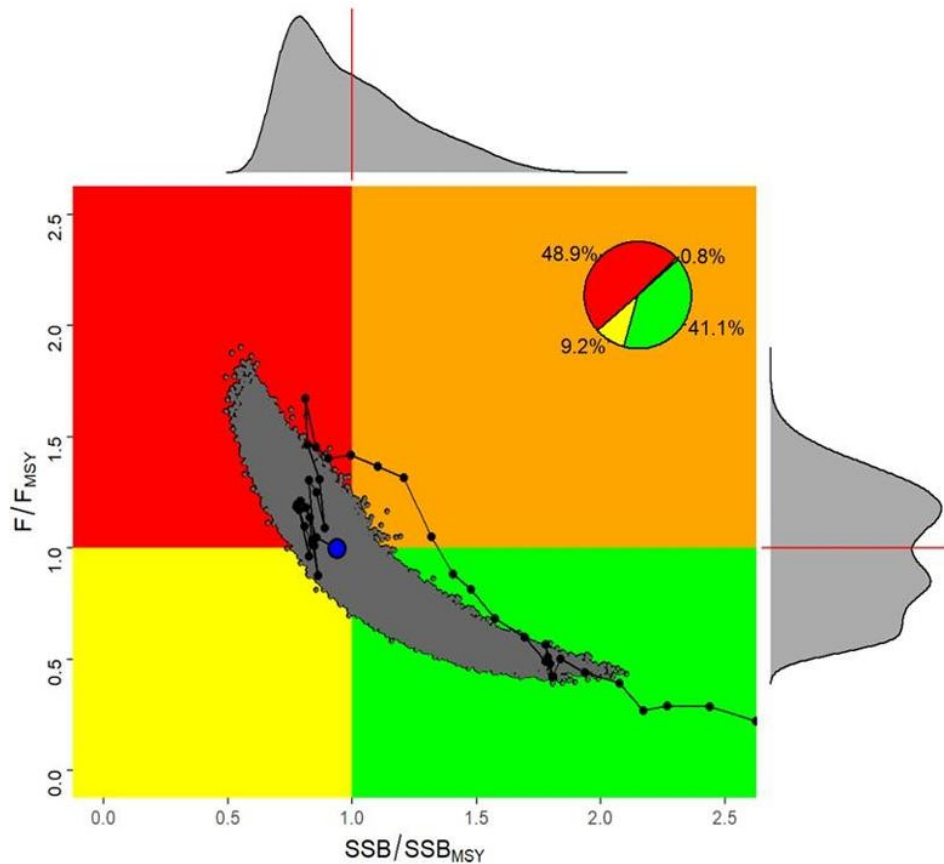
Figure 2. Stock Synthesis: Kobe plot of SSB/SSB$_{MSY}$ and F/F$_{MSY}$ for stock status of Atlantic bigeye tuna in 2019 based on the log multivariate normal approximation across the 27 uncertainty grid model runs of Stock Synthesis with an insert pie chart showing the probability of being in the red quadrant (48.9%), green quadrant (41.1 %), orange (0.8%) and in yellow (9.2 %). Blue circle is the median and marginal histograms represent distribution of either SSB/SSB$_{MSY}$ or F/F$_{MSY}$. (ICAAT 2025).

References

ICCAT. 2025. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS. Report for biennial period, 2024-2025. PART I (2024) – Vol.2. English version. SCRS. Madrid, Spain. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-I-2.pdf

Species name	Skipjack tuna - *Katsuwonus pelamis*
Fishing area and stock	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Easter Central FAO 47 – Atlantic, Southeast

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		Eastern 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.	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.

Clause is met considering that:

The last stock assessment for eastern and western Atlantic skipjack were conducted in 2022 through a process that included a data preparatory meeting and a stock assessment meeting. Additionally, informal intersessional meetings of the Group were held to prepare and finalize the stock assessment results. The assessment was able to provide quantitative estimates of management reference points and projections of stock status for both skipjack stocks, something that was never achieved before by the Committee. These new assessments for the eastern and western Atlantic skipjack stocks used fishery data from 1950-2020 and 1952-2020, respectively, and indices of relative abundance used in the assessments were calculated through 2020. In both cases, Surplus Production models and Statistically Integrated models were used. (Figure 1) (ICCAT 2025)
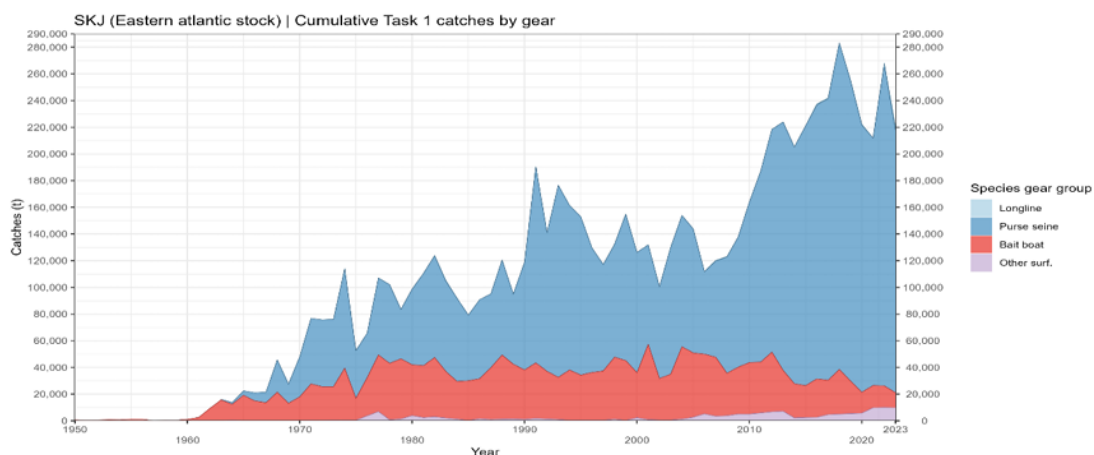

Figure 1. Skipjack catches in the eastern Atlantic, by gear (1950-2023). The values for 2023 are preliminary. (ICCAT 2025).

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 is met considering that:

The stock status of eastern Atlantic skipjack tuna in 2020 was estimated with a high probability (78%) to be in a sustainable condition, meaning the stock was neither overfished nor subjected to overfishing. According to the Kobe II Strategy Matrix, a future constant catch using the median MSY of 216,617 t will have about 55% probability of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot through 2028. Assuming a constant catch at MSY1, the probability of the stock biomass being below 20% of BMSY in 2028 was about 17%, and the probability of stock biomass being below 10% in 2028 was about 14%.(Figure 2) (ICAAT 2025).
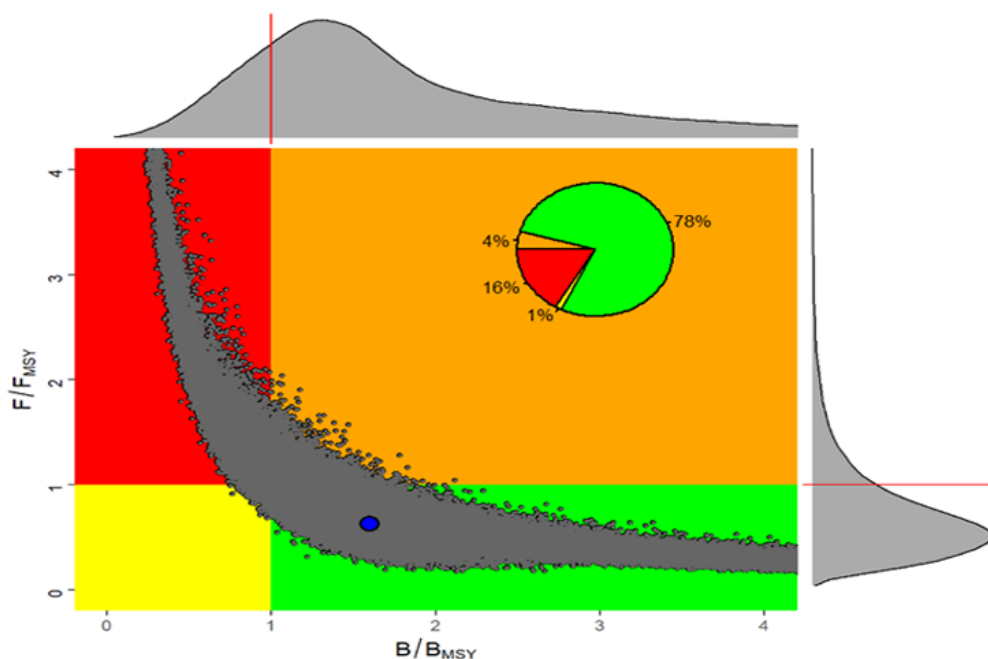

Figure 2. Joint Kobe phase plot for the 18 Stock Synthesis uncertainty grid runs and 18 JABBA uncertainty grid runs for the eastern Atlantic skipjack stock. For each run the benchmarks are calculated from the year-specific selectivity and fleet allocations, and based on 90,000 MVLN iterations for Stock Synthesis and 90,000 MCMC iterations for JABBA. The blue point shows the median of 180,000 iterations for SSB_{2020}/SSB_{MSY} or B_{2020}/B_{MSY} and F_{2020}/F_{MSY} 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 180,000 iterations. The upper graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of SSB_{2020}/SSB_{MSY} or B_{2020}/B_{MSY} estimates for 2020. The right graph represents the smoothed frequency distribution of F_{2020}/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 for Stock Synthesis showed the values at the end of years. (ICAAT 2025).

References

Species name	Skipjack tuna - *Katsuwonus pelamis*	
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.	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.

Clause is met considering that:

The last stock assessment for eastern and western Atlantic skipjack were conducted in 2022 through a process that included a data preparatory meeting and a stock assessment meeting. Additionally, informal intersessional meetings of the Group were held to prepare and finalize the stock assessment results. The assessment was able to provide quantitative estimates of management reference points and projections of stock status for both skipjack stocks, something that was never achieved before by the Committee. These new assessments for the eastern and western Atlantic skipjack stocks used fishery data from 1950-2020 and 1952-2020, respectively, and indices of relative abundance used in the assessments were calculated through 2020. In both cases, Surplus Production models and Statistically Integrated models were used. (Figure 1) (ICCAT 2025)
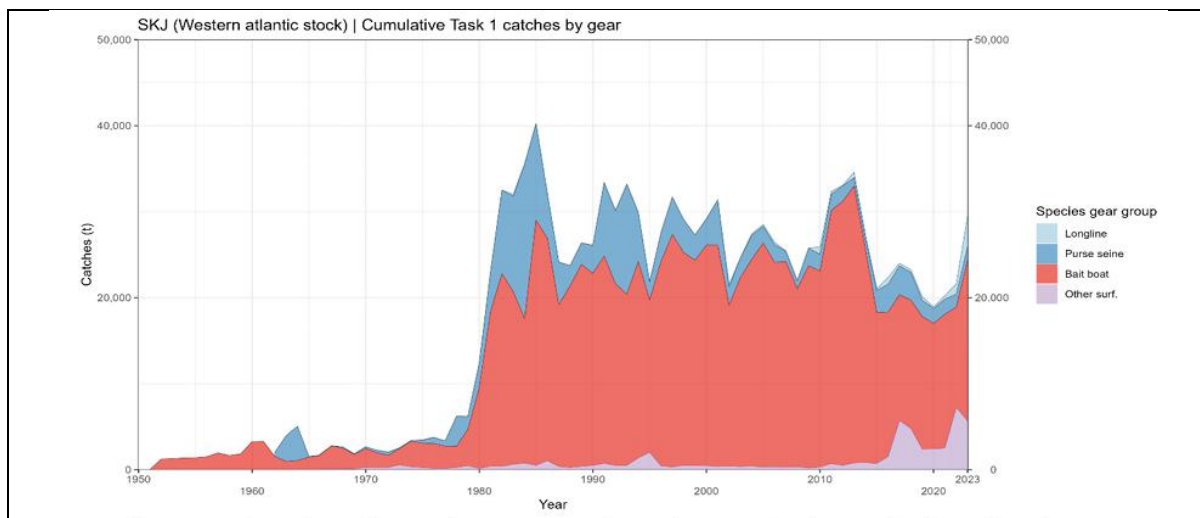
Figure 1. Skipjack catches in the western Atlantic, by gear (1950-2023). The values for 2023 are preliminary. (ICCAT 2025).

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 is met considering that:

The status of the western Atlantic skipjack stock in 2020 was estimated with a high probability (91%) to be in healthy condition and is not overfished nor undergoing overfishing. According to the Kobe II Strategy Matrix, a future constant catch using the median MSY of 35,277 t will have about 70% probability of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2028. Assuming a constant catch at MSY, the probabilities of the stock biomass being below 20% or 10% of the BMSY until 2028 are less than 1% (Figure 2) (ICAAT 2025).
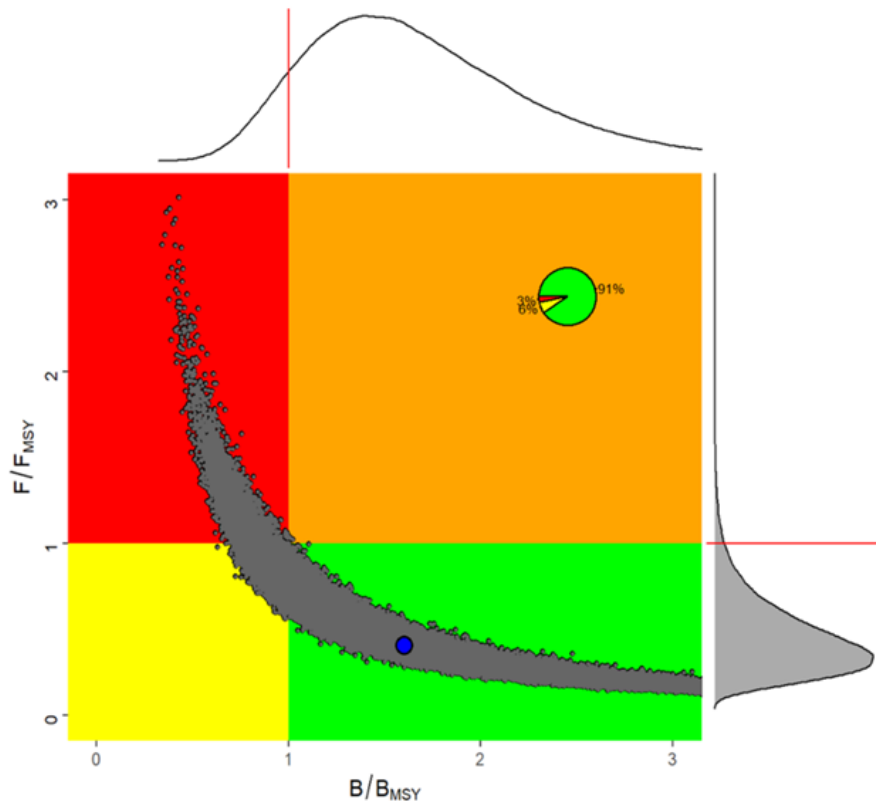
Figure 2. Kobe phase plot for the 9 Stock Synthesis uncertainty grid runs for the western Atlantic skipjack stock. For each run the benchmarks are calculated from the year-specific selectivity and fleet allocations and based on 200,000 MVLN iterations. The blue point shows the median of 200,000 iterations 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. (ICAAT 2025).

References

ICCAT. 2025. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS. Report for biennial period, 2024-2025. PART I (2024) – Vol.2. English version. SCRS. Madrid, Spain. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_24-25-I-2.pdf

Traceability information

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

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

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

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

Species name	Skipjack tuna - *Katsuwonus pelamis* Western Atlantic Stock	
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒	

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Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*

Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
	Ghana	Medium risk 2.75	Low risk 2	Downgraded to medium risk