



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

ECU01 - Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

FAO Areas 77 Pacific Eastern Central & 87 Pacific Southeast

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 Areas 77 Pacific Eastern Central & 87 Pacific Southeast
	Country of origin of the product:	Ecuador (Flag countries: Ecuador, Spain, El Salvador, Panama)
	Stock:	Eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna
Date	March 2024	
Report Code	ECU01	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Ecuador (Flag countries: Ecuador, Spain, El Salvador, Panama)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Universal de Comercio S.A. Unicorsa, Manabita de Comercio SA - Mancorsacom, Tadel SA, Productos Pesqueros SA Produpes, URISA SA, NIRSA S.A., Exu SA, Fortidex SA, Borsea			
Country: Ecuador (Flag countries: Ecuador, Spain, El Salvador, Panama)			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Certification Trust/NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Matthew Jew	0.5	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	March 2024 – March 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 77 Pacific Eastern Central & 87 Pacific Southeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Ecuador Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine, longline, pole and line
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as MarinTrust raw material. Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) is eligible for approval for use as MarinTrust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) skipjack tuna is managed at the international level by the IATTC through a multiyear conservation plan. IATTC conducts regular stock assessments and a recent target reference point was proposed and validated. Thus, the species was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment, the species passed C.1.1. The stock is above the limit reference point, thus it passed C.1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, Eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined by IATTC.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment likelihood projections shows that the stock is above B_{lim}. Therefore, because the stock has biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), it passes Category C.</p> <p>Eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna passes both clauses (C1.1 and 1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.3.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
N/A

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 a 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>	Eastern Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna	Yes	C	LC 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>MSY-based quantities cannot be estimated for skipjack tuna, because the trade-off between growth and natural mortality, in combination with the assumption that recruitment is independent of stock size, implies fish should be caught at the youngest ages to maximize yield, implying that the optimal fishing mortality should be infinite. An integrated statistical age-structured catch-at-length stock assessment was developed for skipjack tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean using Stock Synthesis in 2022. A conservative proxy target biomass reference point of 30% of the unexploited spawning biomass (0.3S0) based on ranges estimated for yellowfin and bigeye tuna in under different assumptions was proposed. Although the assessment is termed interim by the staff, the staff considers it reliable for management advice (IATTC, 2022 and 2024).</p>			

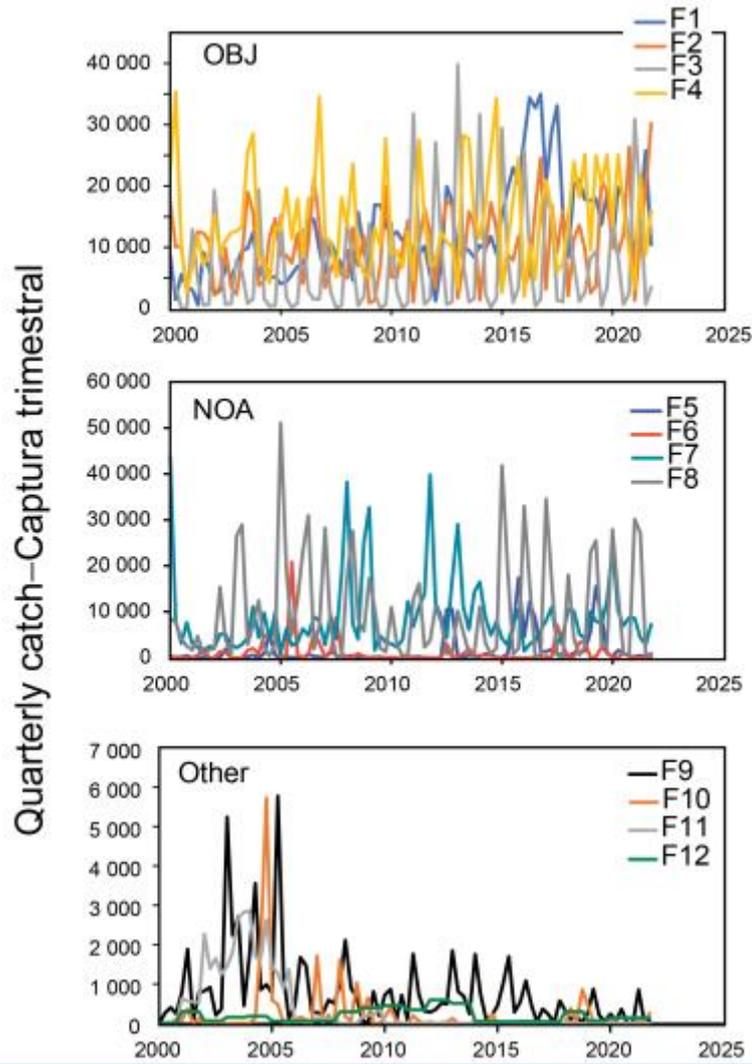


Figure 1. Quarterly catches of skipjack tuna, in tons, in the EPO, 2000-2021, by fishery. NOTE: The y-axis scale varies by plot (IACT, 2022).

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. C.1.1 is met.

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.

According to IATTC (2024), the estimated probability of the spawning biomass being below the limit reference point is zero for all models applied. This reference point is defined by IATTC as the spawning biomass that produces 50% of the virgin recruitment assuming that the spawner-recruitment relationship follows the Beverton-Holt function with a conservative steepness (h) of 0.75 (SAC-05-14). The spawning biomass at the limit reference point is equal to 0.077 of the equilibrium unfished spawning biomass (S_0 or B_0).

Except by one model, all the other models showed a 95% or higher chance of being above the proposed $S/S_0 = 0.30$ target reference point.

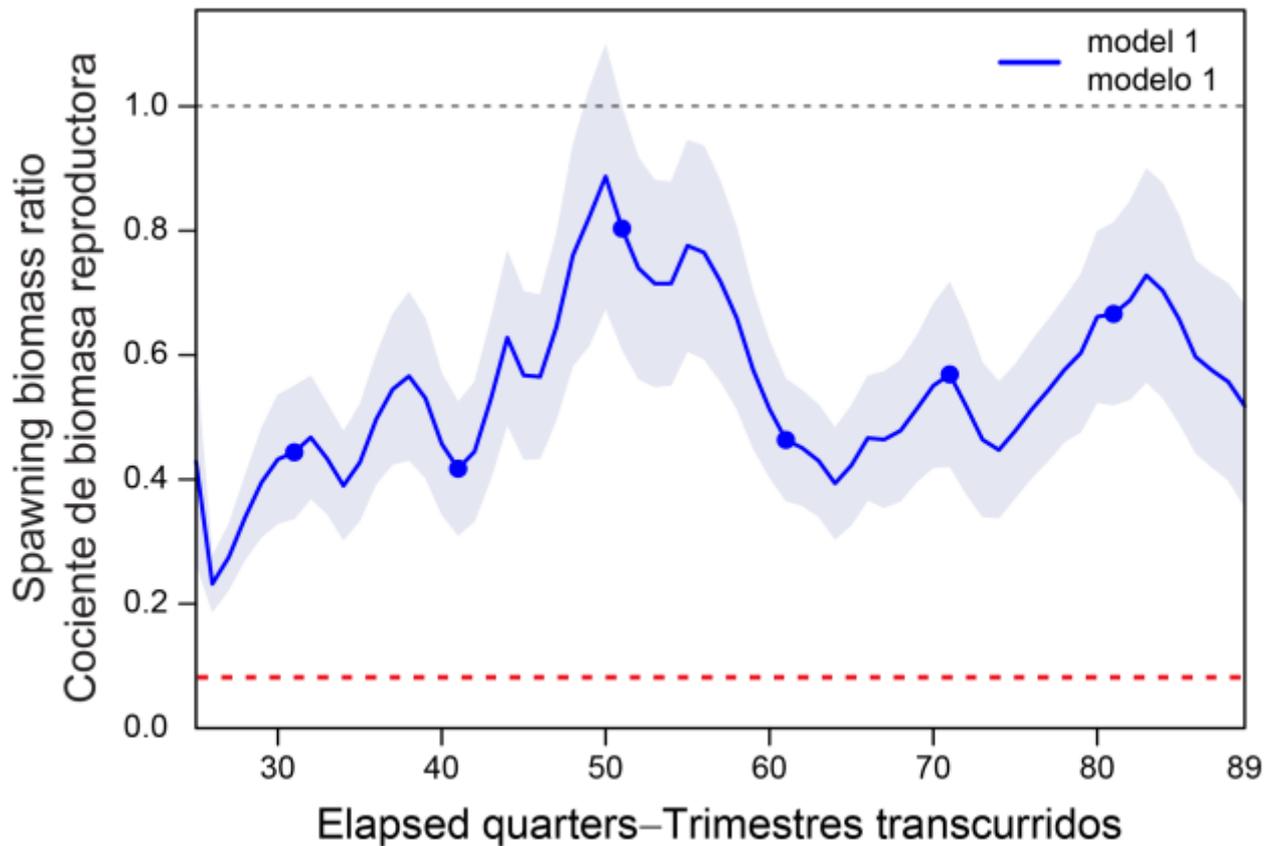


Figure 2. Spawning biomass ratio for skipjack tuna in the EPO, 2006-2021 estimated by the reference model. The solid lines represent the maximum likelihood estimates and the shaded area the approximate 95% confidence intervals around those estimates. The red dashed horizontal line (at 0.077) identifies the limit reference point and the grey dashed line identifies the target reference point (IATTC, 2022).

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). C.1.2 is met.

References

IATTC. 2024. Status of the tuna and billfish stocks in 2022. Stock Assessment Report 24. https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/6cdc278b-c722-4497-8fce-7984de1b2732/No-24-2024_Status-of-the-tuna-and-billfish-stocks-in-2022.pdf

IATTC. 2022. Skipjack tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, 2021: Interim assessment. DOCUMENT SAC-13-07. https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/0acfc999-fbcd-4b07-9e8d-fc5f85fd88e8/SAC-13-07_Skipjack-tuna-interim-assessment-2022.pdf

Links

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