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Global Standard for Responsible Supply  
of Marine Ingredients

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# Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0



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<b>Fishery Under Assessment</b>	<b>Skipjack tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> FAO 61, 71</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>April 2018</b>
<b>Assessor</b>	<b>Conor Donnelly</b>

**Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

<b>Name: Asian Alliance &amp; others</b>				
<b>Address: Thailand</b>				
<b>Country: Thailand</b>		<b>Zip:</b>		
<b>Tel. No.:</b>		<b>Fax. No.:</b>		
<b>Email address:</b>		<b>Applicant Code</b>		
<b>Key Contact:</b>		<b>Title:</b>		
<b>Certification Body Details</b>				
<b>Name of Certification Body:</b>		<b>SAI Global</b>		
<b>Assessor Name</b>	<b>Peer Reviewer</b>	<b>Assessment Days</b>	<b>Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval</b>	<b>Whole fish/ By-product</b>
Conor Donnelly	Sam Dignan	0.5	Surveillance	By-product
<b>Assessment Period</b>	2018			

**Scope Details**

<b>Management Authority (Country/State)</b>	North-western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
<b>Main Species</b>	Skipjack tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>
<b>Fishery Location</b>	FAO 61, 71 Pacific, North-western, Central
<b>Gear Type(s)</b>	Longline, purse seine, pole and line
<b>Outcome of Assessment</b>	
<b>Overall Outcome</b>	Pass
<b>Clauses Failed</b>	None
<b>Peer Review Evaluation</b>	Agree with Assessor's determination.
<b>Recommendation</b>	Approval

### Assessment Determination

The North-Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCP) stock of skipjack tuna are managed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) with scientific advice and management recommendations made by its Scientific Committee (SC) and stock assessments undertaken by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Pacific Community (SPC). There are several management measures specific to skipjack tuna purse seine fisheries currently in place.

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin tuna purse seine fishery for selected gear types continues to be certified under the MSC Fisheries Standard (v 2.0).

Skipjack tuna are difficult to assess because of their high and variable productivity. Timely submissions and data accuracy from some member countries is a problem which mainly contributes to the significant uncertainties in the stock assessment results. The impact of fish aggregating device (FAD) purse seine fishing on ecologically important species, continues to be an issue. The WCPFC has yet to formally adopt management measures that require the use of non-entanglement FAD designs.

The stock is subject to a species-specific management regime and was assessed under clause C. As fishery removals of WCP skipjack tuna are included in the stock assessment process and the stock is considered, in its most recent assessment, to have a biomass above its limit reference point it passes clause C.

Skipjack tuna is categorised as of least concern on IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species and is not listed on CITES appendices of endangered species.

Skipjack tuna in the WCPFC are recommended for approval as by-product under the IFFO RS Standard v 2.0

### Peer Review Comments

Agree with Assessor's determination.

### Notes for On-site Auditor

## Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)	
Category A			A1	
			A2	
			A3	
			A4	
Category B				
Category C	Skipjack tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	N/A	Pass	
Category D				

[List all Category A and B species. List approximate total % age of landings which are Category C and D species; these do not need to be individually named here]

## HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT REPORT

This assessment template uses a modular approach to assessing fisheries against the IFFO RS standard.

### Whole Fish

The process for completing the template for a **whole fish** assessment is as follows:

1. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete the Species Characterisation table, to determine which categories of species are present in the fishery.
2. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete clauses M1, M2, M3: Management.
3. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY A SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete clauses A1, A2, A3, A4 for **each** Category A species.
4. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY B SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete the Section B risk assessment for **each** Category B species.
5. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C species.
6. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D SPECIES IN THE FISHERY: Complete Section D.
7. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete clauses F1, F2, F3: Further Impacts.

A fishery must score a pass in **all applicable clauses** before approval may be recommended. To achieve a pass in a clause, the fishery/species must meet **all** of the minimum requirements.

### By-products

The process for completing the template for **by-product raw material** is as follows:

1. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete the Species Characterisation table with the names of the by-product species and stocks under assessment. The ‘% landings’ column can be left empty; all by-products are considered as Category C and D.
2. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C by-product.
3. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete Section D.
4. ALL OTHER SECTIONS CAN BE DELETED. Clauses M1 - M3, F1 - F3, and Sections A and B do not need to be completed for a by-product assessment.

By-product approval is awarded on a species-by-species basis. Each by-product species scoring a pass under the appropriate section may be approved against the IFFO RS Standard.

## SPECIES CATEGORISATION

The following table should be completed as fully as the available information permits. Any species representing more than 0.1% of the annual catch should be listed, along with an estimate of the proportion of the catch each species represents. The species should then be divided into Type 1 and Type 2 as follows:

- **Type 1 Species** can be considered the ‘target’ or ‘main’ species in the fishery. They make up the bulk of annual landings and are subjected to a detailed assessment.
- **Type 2 Species** can be considered the ‘bycatch’ or ‘minor’ species in the fishery. They make up a small proportion of the annual landings and are subjected to relatively high-level assessment.

**Type 1 Species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 2 Species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch (see Appendix B).**

Species which make up less than 0.1% of landings do not need to be listed (NOTE: ETP species are considered separately). The table should be extended if more space is needed. Discarded species should be included when known.

The ‘stock’ column should be used to differentiate when there are multiple biological or management stocks of one species captured by the fishery. The ‘management’ column should be used to indicate whether there is an adequate management regime specifically aimed at the individual species/stock. In some cases it will be immediately clear whether there is a species-specific management regime in place (for example, if there is an annual TAC). In less clear circumstances, the rule of thumb should be that if the species meets the minimum requirements of clauses A1-A4, an adequate species-specific management regime is in place.

NOTE: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it **cannot** be approved for use as an IFFO RS raw material. This applied to whole fish as well as by-products.

### TYPE 1 SPECIES (Representing 95% of the catch or more)

**Category A:** Species-specific management regime in place.

**Category B:** No species-specific management regime in place.

### TYPE 2 SPECIES (Representing 5% OF THE CATCH OR LESS)

**Category C:** Species-specific management regime in place.

**Category D:** No species-specific management regime in place.

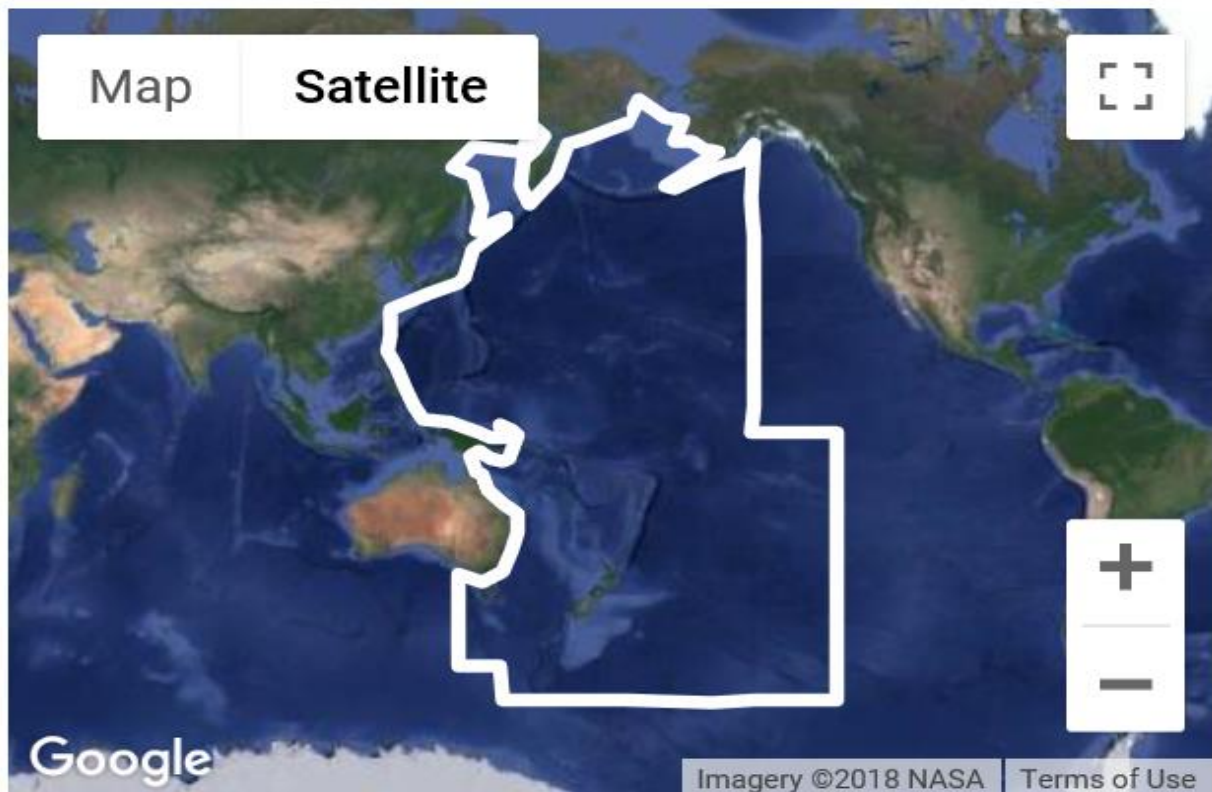
Common name	Latin name	Stock	% of landings	Management	Category
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	WCP	N/A	WCPFC	C

## CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment. 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. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

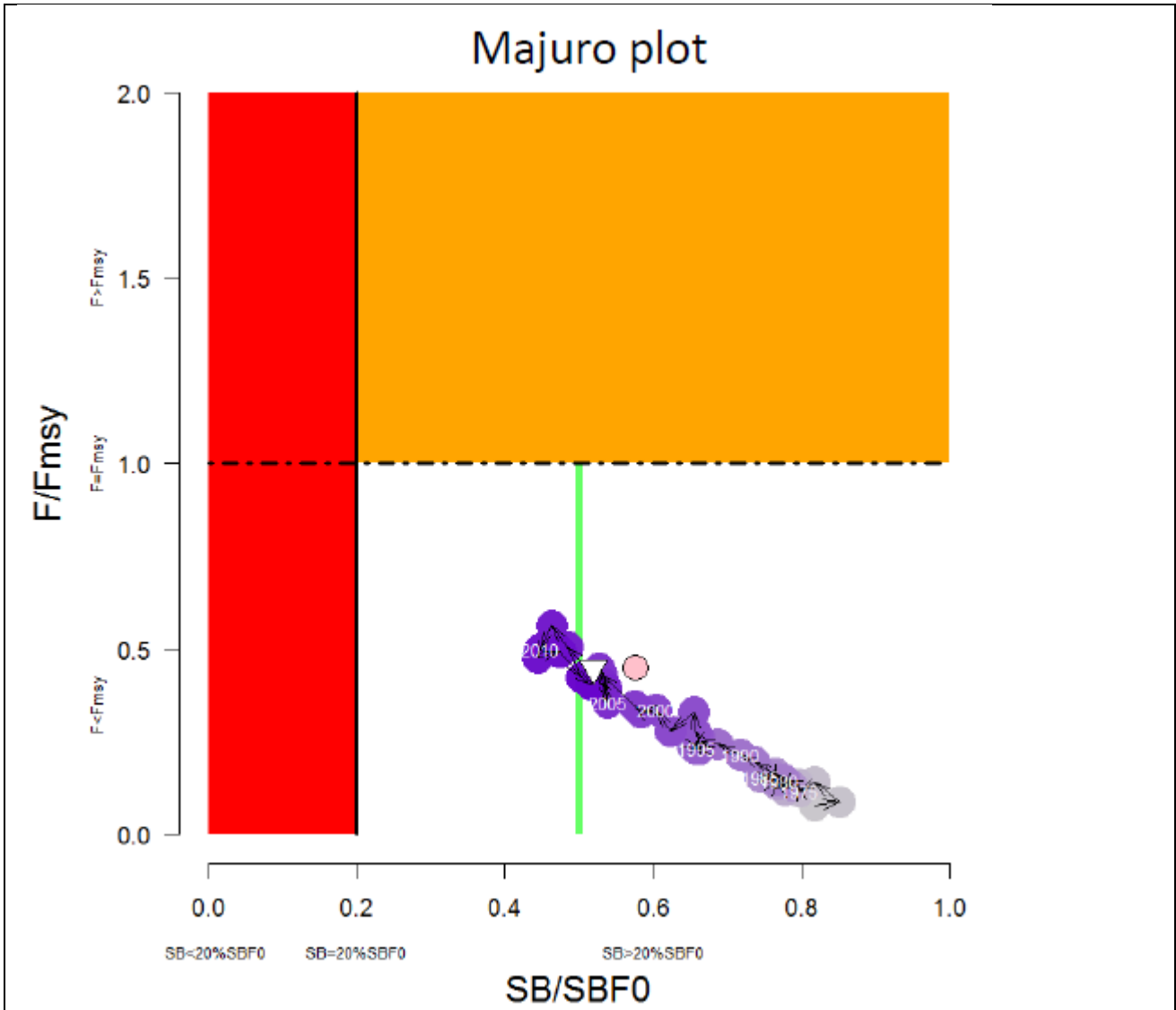
Species Name		Skipjack tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	
C1	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	Pass
	C1.2	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
			<b>Clause outcome:</b> <b>Pass</b>
<b>Evidence</b>			
<b>C1.1-C1.2:</b>			
<b>Western, Central Pacific: (WCP)</b>			
<p>WCP skipjack tuna are managed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) (<b>Figure 1</b>) established by the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.</p> <p>The Commission supports three subsidiary bodies; the Scientific Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee, and the Northern Committee, that each meet once during each year. A framework for the participation of fishing entities in the Commission which legally binds fishing entities to the provisions of the Convention has been published.</p> <p>WCP skipjack stock assessment is undertaken by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme part of the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division of the Pacific Community (SPC). The stock is assessed using a Multifan-CL model. Catch data is included in the assessment. Biological reference points are defined for the stock. The latest assessment was undertaken in 2016.</p> <p>WCPFC's Scientific Committee note that fishing mortality of all age-classes is estimated to have increased significantly since the beginning of industrial tuna fishing, but fishing mortality remains below the level that would result in MSY (F<sub>recent</sub>/F<sub>MSY</sub> = 0.45 for the reference case), and is estimated to have decreased moderately in the last several years.</p> <p>Across the reference case and the structural uncertainty grid (<b>Figure 2</b>) F<sub>recent</sub>/F<sub>MSY</sub> varied between 0.38 (5% quantile) to 0.64 (95% quantile). The Scientific Committee note that this indicates overfishing is not occurring for the WCP skipjack tuna stock.</p> <p>The estimated MSY of 1,891,600 mt is moderately higher than the 2014 estimate due to the adoption of an annual, rather than quarterly, stock-recruitment relationship. Recent catches are lower than, but approaching, this MSY value (<b>Figure 3</b>):</p>			



**Figure 1:** Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPF Convention) **R5**

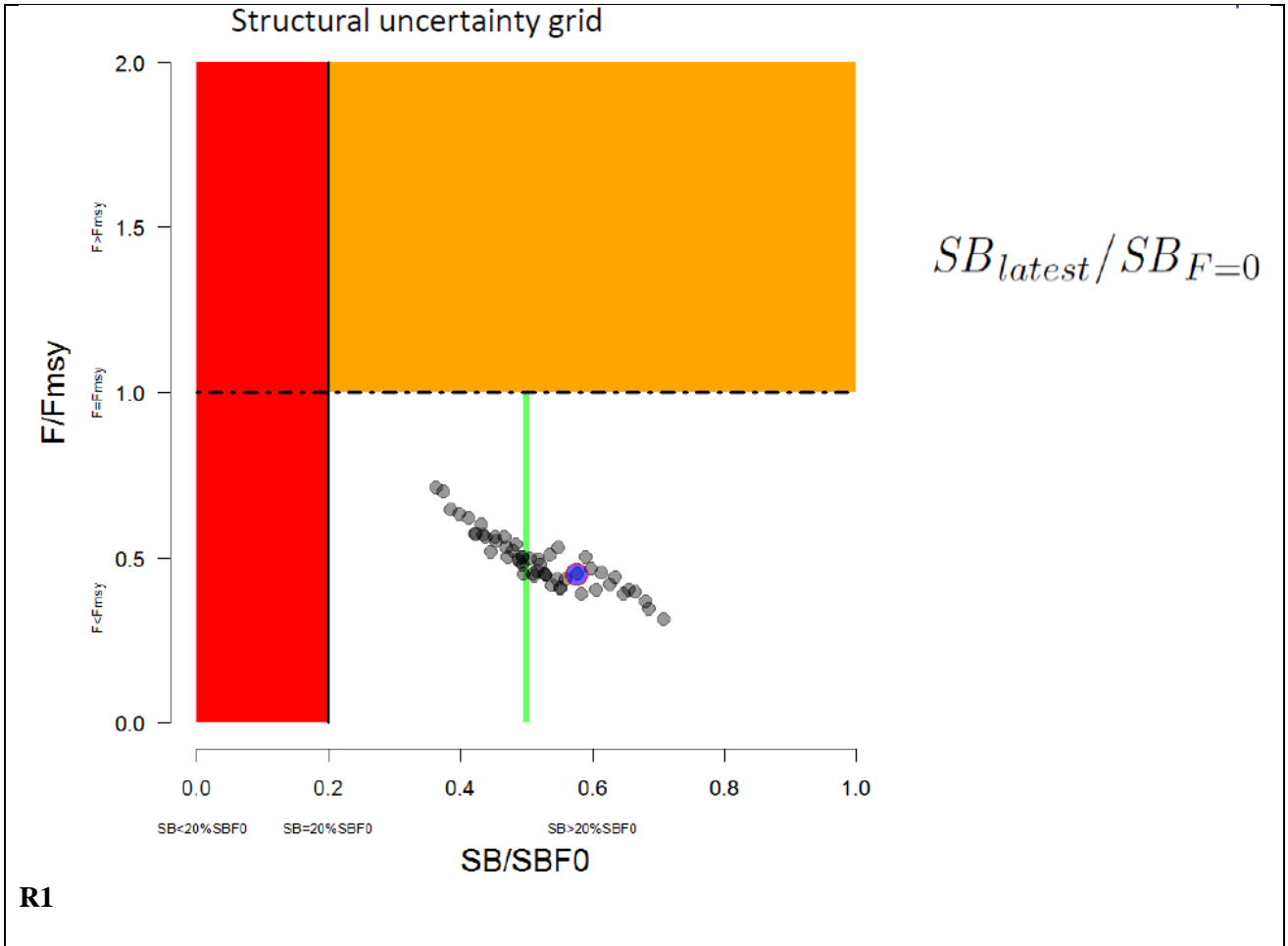
The Scientific Committee note that the latest estimate of spawning biomass is well above both the level that will support MSY ( $S_{\text{latest}}/S_{\text{MSY}} = 2.56$ , for the reference case model) and the adopted LRP of 0.2  $S_{\text{BF}=0}$  ( $S_{\text{latest}}/S_{\text{BF}=0} = 0.58$ , for the reference case model), and  $S_{\text{latest}}/S_{\text{BF}=0}$  was relatively close to the adopted interim target reference point (0.5  $S_{\text{BF}=0}$ ) for all models explored in the assessment (structural uncertainty grid: median = 0.51, 5% and 95% quantiles = 0.39 and 0.67). .

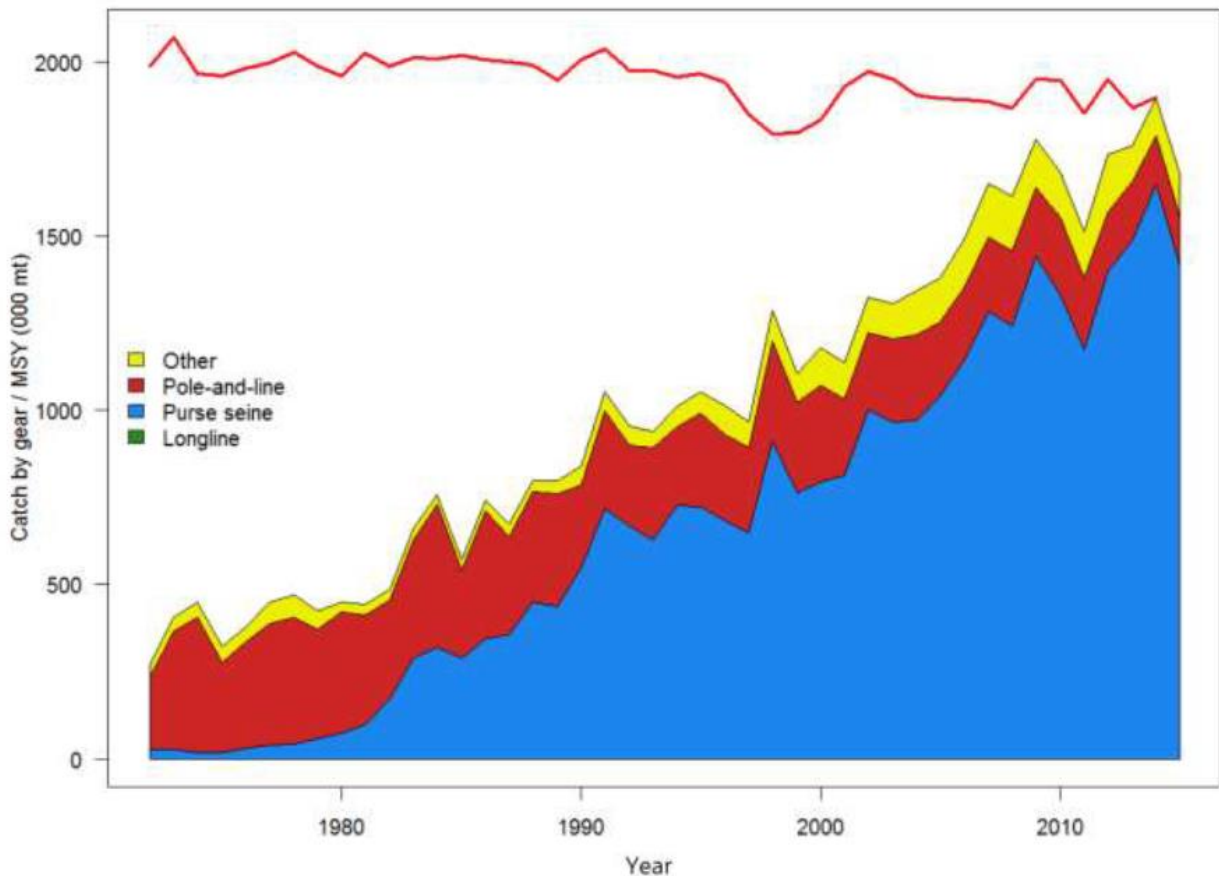
Fishery removals of WCP skipjack tuna are included in the stock assessment process and the stock is considered, in its most recent assessment, to have a biomass above its limit reference point.



**Figure 2.** Temporal trend for the reference case model (plot above) and the structural uncertainty grid (grid below) in stock status relative to  $SBF=0$  (x-axis) and  $FMSY$  (y-axis). The red zone represents spawning potential levels lower than the agreed LRP, which is marked with the solid black line ( $0.2SBF=0$ ). The orange region is for fishing mortality greater than  $FMSY$  ( $F=FMSY$ ; marked with the black dashed line). The green line indicates the interim target reference point  $50\%SBF=0$ . Source: WCPFC, 2016. **R1**







**Figure 3.** History of annual estimates of MSY compared with catches of three major fisheries for the reference case model. Source: WCPFC, 2016. **R1**

### North Pacific:

In its first two years (Secretariat established in 2015) the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) has established a Scientific Committee and has conducted two full sets of meetings of the Small Scientific Committees for: Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, North Pacific Armorhead and Pacific saury.

In addition two Scientific Committee Meetings a series of two preliminary stock assessment meetings (including Chub mackerel) have been undertaken.

In the North-Western Pacific Pacific saury (*Cololabis saira*) is harvested by China, Japan, Korea, Russia, and Chinese Taipei. While Japanese and Russian vessels operate mainly within their EEZs, Chinese, Korean, and Chinese Taipei vessels operate mainly in the high seas of the North Pacific. Besides Pacific saury, Chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), Spotted mackerel (*Scomber australasicus*), Japanese sardine (*Sardinops melanostictus*), neon flying squid (*Ommastrephes bartramii*), and Japanese flying squid (*Todarodes pacificus*) are important for fisheries within the Convention area and adjacent areas.

Skipjack tuna in the Northern Pacific (FAO 61) are currently not targeted commercially. A subsidiary body of the WCPFC, the Northern Committee; meet annually to assess commercial fisheries in this area of the Pacific (FAO 61).

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), **R2-R6**

### References

**R1** WCPFC, 2016. The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Twelfth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee. Bali, Indonesia, 3-11 August 2016. Summary Report, 26 August 2016.

[https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/01\\_SC12%20Summary%20Report-adopted%20-%2031Oct2016%20%28t-c%29\\_3.pdf](https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/01_SC12%20Summary%20Report-adopted%20-%2031Oct2016%20%28t-c%29_3.pdf)

**R2** McKechnie, S., Hampton, J., Pilling, G. & Davies, N. (2016). Presentation on: Stock assessment of skipjack tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Ocean Fisheries Programme, SPC.

[https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/Agenda%204.1.3.1.a.2%20SA-WP-04\\_SKJ\\_Assessment\\_2016.pdf](https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/Agenda%204.1.3.1.a.2%20SA-WP-04_SKJ_Assessment_2016.pdf)

**R3:** Public Certification Report (Acoura Ltd) (March 2018) PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack tuna fishery 443pp pdf

**R4:** North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) <https://www.npfc.int/>

**R5:** Fishsource: West, Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: [https://www.fishsource.org/stock\\_page/1041](https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/1041)

**R6:** Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean <https://www.wcpfc.int/convention-text>

*Standard clauses 1.3.2.2*