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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 21 (Atlantic Northwest), 31 (Atlantic Western Central), 41 (Atlantic Southwest)</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>May 2019</b>
<b>Assessor</b>	<b>Jim Daly</b>

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: Sarval Bio-Industries Noroeste S.A.U.				
Address:				
Country:		Zip:		
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:		
Email address:		Applicant Code		
Key Contact:		Title:		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		SAI GLOBAL Ltd		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval	Whole fish/ By-product
Jim Daly	Virginia Polonio	0.5	SURV 1	By-product
Assessment Period	2018			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	ICCAT
Main Species	Skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )
Fishery Location	FAO 21 (Atlantic Northwest), 31 (Atlantic Western Central), 41 (Atlantic Southwest)
Gear Type(s)	Bait boat, Purse seine, pole & line, longlines
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	PASS
Clauses Failed	None
Peer Review Evaluation	Approve
Recommendation	Pass

### Assessment Determination

The Regional Fishery Management Organisation (RFMO) managing the fishery in the assessment area is the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT). For the Western Atlantic stock the latest assessment was undertaken in 2014. The next assessment will be undertaken in 2020. The last stock assessment completed for Eastern Atlantic Skipjack tuna was completed in 2014, and used catch data up to 2013. ICCAT have published a report covering the most recent information on the state of the stocks on this species (**R1**).

The major fishery for the Western stock is the Brazilian bait boat fishery, followed by the Venezuelan purse seine fleet. Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included. Biomass and fishing mortality reference points are provided and are currently within limit reference points. However these data are based on the 2013 fishery. Future assessments should take into account the possibility of under-reporting of catches in this fishery. The population of skipjack tuna in the western Atlantic is most likely healthy and fishing mortality rates are sustainable. Catches have been below maximum sustainable levels (**R7**).

The fishery is prosecuted in the Eastern Atlantic by Member States that comply with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures (CMM). There is a time area closure for the surface fishery and area closures for fishing with fish aggregating devices (FADs) during January and February. The population of skipjack tuna in the eastern Atlantic is most likely healthy and fishing mortality rates are sustainable. The Eastern Atlantic Stock is outside of the scope of this assessment (**R7**).

There are currently no MSC Certified fisheries in the assessment area. IUCN has categorised skipjack tuna as a species of least concern. The species does not appear in the current CITES appendices (both sites accessed 27.05.19).

The assessment team recommends the approval of skipjack tuna as a by-product species under the current IIFO RS Standard (v2.0).

### Peer Review Comments

Although the information in the report is accurate and I will recommend to rewrite the rationale to make easier the understanding of the outcome reached in each clauses to meet the requirements. After done, I would recommend the approval of the by-product.

### Notes for On-site Auditor

Note: This table should be completed for whole fish assessments only.

## 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]

## 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>	Western Atlantic	N/A	ICCAT	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.

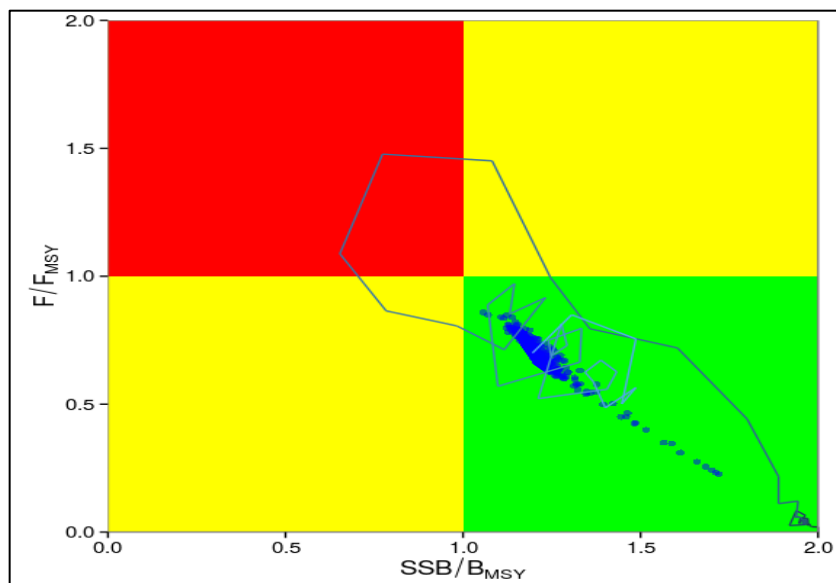
Clause C1 should be completed for **each** Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

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>
<p><b>C1.1:</b>  <b>Stock Assessments:</b>            Stock assessments (Eastern and Western Atlantic skipjack tuna) were conducted by ICCAT in 2014 using 2013 data. The next assessment (Western Stock) is due in 2020.</p> <p>Traditional stock assessment models are difficult to apply to skipjack tuna because of their characteristics (continuous spawning, spatial variation in growth, discrimination of effort for fishing on free schools and on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)). The ICCAT Committee has expressed its concern regarding uncertainties which the underreporting of skipjack catches may have on the perception of the state of stocks.</p> <p>Surplus production models deal with the entire stock, the entire fishing effort and total yield obtained from the stock, without entering into any details such as the growth and mortality parameters or the effect of mesh size on the age of fish capture. This model was used in conjunction with a stock assessment based on catches for the Western Atlantic skipjack tuna stock. For the Brazilian fishery a method based on the development of average size of individuals captured over time was used to determine fishing mortality. Several biomass indicators were also analysed in order to track the development of the state of the stock over time.</p> <p>Fishery removals of Skipjack tuna in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, such as catches and effort (Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)). The stock passes Clause C1.1.</p> <p><b>C1.2:</b></p> <p>Preliminary estimates of catches (Western Atlantic stock) in 2014 amounted to 26,317t (against the historic record of 40,200 t in 1985). This sharp decrease in 2014 (following large catches reported by Brazilian bait boats in 2012) is due to incomplete reporting by Brazil in 2013. As the fishing effort of this fleet has not increased, these variations could be the result of changes in catchability at local level of this fishery. No marked trend regarding the structure of catches by size has been observed (ref ICCAT Report 2014-2015 pp 50-67 <b>R3</b>).</p> <p>The CPUEs in the Western Atlantic stock were those of a) the Brazilian bait boat fleet b) the Venezuelan purse seiner c) the US pelagic longline and d) a larval index.</p>			

Models based on catch and non-equilibrium surplus biomass production estimated respectively MSY at 30,000 t - 32,000t (which remains close to previous estimates of 34,000 t). Catches in 2014 (provisional data) amounted to 26,317t. The fishing mortality vector estimated by a method based on the development of average size of individuals captured over time (mainly from Brazilian catches) shows a profile which is very close to that estimated by the non-equilibrium surplus biomass model. All analyses rest on the assumption of a single western stock from the US coast to Brazil and correspond to the current geographic coverage of this fishery.

**R1**

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), for the western Atlantic stock, in light of the information provided by the trajectory of B/B<sub>MSY</sub> and F/F<sub>MSY</sub> ratios (1.3 and 0.7 respectively (2013 catch data) it is unlikely that the current catch is larger than the replacement yield (**Figure 1**):



**Figure 1:** Western skipjack stock status: trajectories of B/B<sub>MSY</sub> and F/F<sub>MSY</sub> from the ASPIC surplus production model (Schaefer type). **R1**

Stock status (based on 2014 catch data) was concluded by ICCAT to be probably not overfished and probably not subjected to overfishing.

**Management Recommendations:**

For the West Atlantic stock ICCAT have not formulated any management recommendations, and has only indicated that the catches should not be allowed to exceed the MSY. Despite recent progress,

**References**

**R1:** Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (ICCAT): Skipjack tuna update (2017): Executive Summary: [https://iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/SKJ\\_ENG.pdf](https://iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/SKJ_ENG.pdf)

**R2:** FAO Species Fact Sheets (Skipjack tuna) <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2494/en>

**R3:** Stock Assessment Skipjack tuna (Western Atlantic Stock): ICCAT Report (Anon) 2014-2015 pp 23-47  
[https://iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/DetRep/SKJ\\_SA\\_ENG.pdf](https://iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/DetRep/SKJ_SA_ENG.pdf)

**R4:** CITES Species Endangered list: <http://checklist.cites.org/#/en> (accessed 27.05.19)

**R5:** IUCN Red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search> (accessed 27.05.19)

**R6:** MSC Track a Fishery:  
<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/search?q=certified+skipjack+tuna&start> (accessed 27.05.19)

**R7:** Fishsource: Atlantic Skipjack tuna: Updated February 2016:  
[https://www.fishsource.org/stock\\_page/1038](https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/1038)

*Standard clauses 1.3.2.2*

## **SOCIAL CRITERION**

In addition to the scored criteria listed above, applicants must commit to ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery adhere to internationally recognised guidance on human rights. They must also commit to ensuring there is no use of enforced or unpaid labour in the fleet(s) operating upon the resource.