

MSC Fishery Announcement

*Tuna Alliance Atlantic Albacore Longline fishery
 June 10, 2022*

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Table 1 – Fishery announcement

1	Fishery name
	Tuna Alliance Atlantic Albacore Longline fishery
2	Assessment number
	Initial assessment
3	Reduced reassessment (Yes/No)
	No
4	Statement that the fishery is within scope
	<p>The fishery under assessment has been found to meet scope requirements (FCP v2.2 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments as it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Does not operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement, use destructive fishing practices, target amphibians, birds, reptiles or mammals and is not overwhelmed by dispute; (FCP v2.2 7.4.2.1, 7.4.2.2, 7.4.3, 7.4.5) ✓ The fishery does not engage in shark finning, has mechanisms for resolving disputes (FCP v2.2 7.4.5.1), and has not previously failed assessment or had a certificate withdrawn. ✓ Is not an enhanced or IPI fishery, is not based on an introduced species (FCP v2.2 7.4.6, 7.4.7, 7.5.8-13) ✓ The fishery does overlap with other MSC certified or applicant fisheries. Overlap with another MSC certified or applicant fishery has been considered and scores will be harmonized for the relevant principles. For a complete list of overlapping fisheries, please see the Harmonization appendix in the report. ✓ And does not include an entity successfully prosecuted for violating forced labor laws (FCP v2.2 7.4.4) ✓ The units of assessment, certification, and eligible fishers have been defined, traceability risks characterized, and certificate sharing mechanisms decided (FCP v2.2 7.5.1-7.5.7)

5 Unit(s) of Assessment - UoA(s)

UoA 1	Description
Species	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Stock	North Atlantic
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Pelagic longline flagged to Taiwan
Client group	Tuna Alliance Inc.
Other eligible fishers	Vessels that target the same species and meet the characteristics described in the UoA, but are not currently part of the client group are considered as 'other eligible fishers'. See certificate sharing mechanism in Section 6.10 in the report.
Geographical area	Northern Atlantic Ocean – high seas
UoA 2	Description
Species	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Stock	South Atlantic
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Pelagic longline flagged to Taiwan
Client group	Tuna Alliance Inc.
Other eligible fishers	Vessels that target the same species and meet the characteristics described in the UoA, but are not currently part of the client group are considered as 'other eligible fishers'. See certificate sharing mechanism in Section 6.10 in the report.
Geographical area	Southern Atlantic Ocean – high seas

6 Certificate sharing statement

Fishers that are part of the UoA are considered as 'other eligible fishers', which may be able to access the certificate at the discretion of the Client Group. Please see the certificate sharing statement in Appendix 1: Certificate Sharing Statement

7 Name of proposed team leader

Mr. Peter Trott, Team Lead

Peter is the co-founder and Director of two international seafood consultancy companies. Firstly, FishListic, an independent sustainable seafood consultancy, offering practical and realistic solutions and strategies catering for all stakeholders ranging from fishery and farm level, governments, supply chains, and end market users. Secondly, On-Board Social Accountability International, a not-for-profit to address the abuse of workers on board fishing vessels and in aquaculture operations by enabling seafood companies to develop and implement effective social accountability management systems. Peter has over 20 years' experience in fisheries management, resource sharing, ecosystem principles, aquaculture systems, project management, seafood markets, supply chains and traceability. Prior to co-founding FishListic, Peter had been with WWF-Australia fisheries program. During the eight years at WWF, Peter led on international and domestic seafood markets, providing technical expert advice concerning imported and domestic seafood products, environmental assessments, supply chains and traceability. Peter led key strategic seafood market partnerships with retailers, brand owners and aquaculture companies. He has been involved in the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and with fishery certifications across the globe, including as co-client. He is a certified MSC Chain of Custody auditor, Program Manager, fishery team-member, fishery team-leader, and peer reviewer, certified SA8000 social auditor and ISO19011-2018 accredited. He has sat on the MSC Board of Trustees, and several Australian fisheries Management and Research Advisory Committees. He has attended numerous international fisheries forums as a member of Australian Government delegations. Peter was a fisheries manager with two fisheries agencies for eight years, managing sharks, squid, octopus, small pelagics, rock lobster, and scalefish. Peter holds a Bachelor of Science (Fisheries Management and Aquaculture) with an honors degree in Aquatic Sciences from Deakin University.

Mr. Peter Trott meets the MSC Team leader qualifications in that:

- ✓ Completed training meeting requirements in Table 1 of GCRV2.4, as evidenced by the certificate of passing auditor training for the ISO course 19011 (2019).
- ✓ Relevant degree and/or equivalent experience in the fisheries sector related to tasks under responsibility of a team leader (Evidence: BS, Fisheries Management and Aquaculture with an honors degree in Aquatic Sciences from Deakin University).
- ✓ Completed of the latest MSC training modules applicable to this assessment (V2.2 Team Leader MSC modules) within the past five years (2020).
- ✓ Has undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last 5 years (2017 Full Assessment Australian Western Rock Lobster Fishery; MSC 2018 Year 2 Annual Surveillance Report Walker Seafood Australian albacore, yellowfin tuna, and swordfish longline Fishery; 2018 Full assessment – SZLC CSFC & FZLC FSM EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Fishery; 2019 Full assessment Tropical Pacific yellowfin and skipjack tuna free-school purse seine fishery).
- ✓ Has demonstrated experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques, as verified by SCS records and previous audit reports.
- ✓ Is competent in the MSC Standard and current Certification Requirements, auditing techniques, and communication and stakeholder facilitation techniques, as verified by his completion of ISO 19011 auditor training (2019).
- ✓ Has affirmed he holds no conflict of interest.

8	Name(s) of proposed team members
	<p>All Team Members meet the following Team Member requirements:</p> <p>Dr. Gerard DiNardo, Responsible for Principle 1</p>

Dr. Gerard DiNardo has over 25 years of experience as a research fishery scientist and senior manager for NOAA Fisheries in the United States, as well as extensive knowledge, understanding, and involvement in fishery issues and processes of tuna-RFMOs and RFOs. Ensuring sustainable development and management of fisheries, including the identification of research and plans of action to support effective management decision making has been the focus throughout his career, and with a strong background and understanding of international fisheries and MSC. He holds an MSc from Long Island University, C.W. Post Center and a Ph.D from University of Maryland, where his dissertation topic was FISHMAP: An Expert System for Sampling Fish Populations.

Gerard was appointed as the Fisheries Resources Division Director of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in San Diego, CA from 2015 to 2019. Previously, he held several positions at NMFS, including Supervisor of the Stock Assessment Program in the Fisheries Research and Monitoring Division at the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. Dr. DiNardo has multiple publications related to the assessment of pelagic species, including tuna. He's held positions as Co-Chair of the Joint PICES/ISC Working Group on Ocean Conditions and the Distribution and Productivity of Highly Migratory Fish for the North Pacific Marine Science Organization, standing member of the NMFS National Stock Assessment Methods Steering Committee, science expert on the U.S.A. Delegation to the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and Chair of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC).

Dr. Gerard DiNardo's experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.2):

- ✓ With relevant degree (Ph.D., University of Maryland) and over 5 years of research experience in management or research experience in a marine conservation biology, fisheries, natural resources or environmental management position.
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2019).
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.

Ms. Jessica Melgey, Responsible for Principle 2

Ms. Melgey has a Bachelor of Science in Biology, an M.S. in Fisheries Science, and more than twelve years of experience as a professional in fisheries science, policy, and management. She is widely experienced in the impacts of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems including to habitat, endangered and threatened species, and non-target bycatch. She has spent time in both the public and private sectors, and is familiar with permitting, policy, and regulatory issues in large- and small-scale fisheries. As a fisheries observer and observer data editor and later as a fishery analyst for the New England Fishery Management Council, she gained familiarity with a wide range of vessel and gear types and understands much of the inner workings of commercial fisheries. She spent time aboard commercial vessels as an observer, a contract survey scientist, and a graduate student, and maintains a strong interest in collaborative research and fisheries sustainability.

Ms. Jessica Melgey's experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.2):

- ✓ With relevant degree (Bachelor of Science in Biology, Boston College; Master of Science in Living Marine Resources Science and Management, University of Massachusetts School for Marine Science and Technology) and over 5 years of research experience in management or research experience in a marine conservation biology, fisheries, natural resources or environmental management position.

- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2022).
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.

Mr. Andy Bodsworth, Responsible for Principle 3

Mr. Andy Bodsworth has extensive fisheries management experience; principally with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) managing tropical, sub-tropical and temperate commercial fisheries across a wide range of gear types. More recently he has worked as Principal Consultant and CEO of sustainable fisheries consulting firm Cobalt Marine Resource Management Pty Ltd. Andy holds a SCS Global Services Report Graduate Certificate in Environmental Management from the University of Queensland, with a focus on fisheries policy, economics and management. Since 1999, Andy has worked extensively with small and large fishing businesses, federal and state government agencies, environmental NGO's, and other stakeholders to develop, implement and review best practice fisheries management and marine conservation policies and strategies. He has managed purse seine and mid-water trawl fisheries for schooling small pelagic species, including skipjack tuna; and purse seine and pelagic longline fisheries for tropical and temperate tuna and billfish species subject to international management agreements and treaties. He has also worked extensively with Regional Fisheries Management Organisation's (RFMO's) in Australia's area of interest.

As program manager for Australia's larger northern fisheries, including traditional fisheries in Torres Strait managed under treaty with Papua New Guinea, he has worked closely with traditional inhabitant fishers over many years to enable sustainable fishing businesses in these remote areas. Mr. Bodsworth's principal expertise lies in the evaluation of fisheries management performance against contemporary sustainability guidelines. He was the fisheries management representative on a multidisciplinary team that developed Australia's initial Harvest Strategy Policy Framework and supporting operational guidelines. He also has extensive experience with development of fishery specific harvest strategies to improve economic, environmental and social performance for large and small commercial fisheries. He has a particular interest and expertise in ESD based risk assessment and using this to guide development of fishery improvement strategies. Andy has managed several larger scale projects to formally evaluate ESD performance for higher value commercial fisheries, as well as high profile marine conservation and recovery strategies such as Australia's National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA Sharks). He has worked extensively with Australian government fisheries and environment agencies, fishing industry peak bodies and businesses, and conservation NGO's such as WWF Australia over many years.

Mr. Andy Bodsworth's experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.2):

- ✓ With relevant degree (Graduate Certificate of Environmental Management (Distinction) - University of Queensland) and over 5 years of research experience in management or research experience in a marine conservation biology, fisheries, natural resources or environmental management position
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2019).
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment

The team collectively meets the MSC Table PC3 team qualification and competency criteria:

- ✓ Dr. Gerard DiNardo meets the qualifications for "Fish stock assessment" with a) 3 years' or more experience of applying relevant stock assessment techniques being used by the fishery under assessment, or b) Primary authorship of 2 peer-reviewed stock assessments of a type used by the fishery under assessment. This is evidenced by his experience as a stock assessment scientist and leader of the Stock Assessment Group at the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center

(2006-2015). Dr. DiNardo used production models to assess the status of North Pacific swordfish in 2014 and 2009, blue marlin in 2013, striped marlin in 2005 (<http://isc.fra.go.jp/index.html>). He was also an author on numerous analyses used as input to the assessments (Wang et al., 2007; Su et al., 2009, Piner et al., 2011 – this can be found on the ISC website). From 2010-2017, Gerard DiNardo chaired the ISC, and a major aspect of his duties was to ensure that all documents published by the ISC were considered best available science, particularly published stock assessments. During his tenor in this role novel blue and shortfin mako shark assessments were completed employing a production modeling platform. This experience is verified on his CV.

- ✓ Dr. Gerard DiNardo meets the qualifications for “Fish stock biology/ecology” with 3 years’ or more experience working with the biology and population dynamics of the target species or species with similar biology. This is evidenced by his research and publications on post release mortality and development of the HI longline observer program. Dr. DiNardo also Chaired the International Scientific Committee (2010-2017), an RFO tasked with completing stock assessments for the WCPFC on highly migratory stocks in the North Pacific Ocean. This is verified on his CV.
- ✓ Ms. Jessica Melgey meets the qualifications for “Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems” with 3 years’ or more experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems including at least two of the following topics: i. Bycatch. ii. Endangered, threatened, or protected (ETP) species. iii. Habitats. iv. Ecosystem interactions. As evidenced by her more than 12 years of professional experience in fisheries including conducting numerous impacts analyses for threatened and endangered species and essential fish habitat. This experience is verified by her CV.
- ✓ Mr. Andrew Bodsworth meets the qualifications for ‘Fishery management and operations ‘with 3 years’ or more experience as a practising fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst/consultant. This is evidenced by over twenty years of fishery management experience with small and large fishing businesses, federal and state government agencies, environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders to develop, implement and review best practice fisheries management and marine conservation policies and strategies. This is verified on his CV.
- ✓ Mr. Bodsworth has current knowledge of Taiwan and its distant water fisheries sector, particularly in a tuna longline context. This stems from his prior experience as Australia's Southern Bluefin Tuna Manager, including in-country experience, and regular liaison with Taiwan's government fisheries agencies and officials. He is also currently working as a P3 assessor on an SCS Global MSC assessment for a similar Taiwanese flagged longline fishery for Atlantic Albacore; as well as other assessments involving Taiwanese flagged vessels in the WCPO. These assignments are verified on his C.V.
- ✓ Understanding of the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements. As evidenced by Team Member, Brian Ahlers, completing the MSC’s Traceability training module (2019).
- ✓ Use of the RBF as evidenced by Team Member, Dr. Gerard DiNardo, completing the MSC’s RBF training course (2019).

9 Stakeholder opportunities

The following are the the opportunities for stakeholders to participate during the assessment process:

1. *Announcement Comment Draft Report* – 60 days for stakeholder input (30 days if Re-Assessment)
 - **The consultation period ends August 8, 2022 at 17:00 UTC.**
2. *Site Visit* – (Details in section 12 of this Announcement) - Inform stakeholders that all members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders in person or remotely.
3. *Peer Review College* – registered stakeholders can inform the Peer Review College regarding any potential conflicts of interest of the peer reviewers proposed.

	<p>4. <i>Public Comment Draft Report</i> – 30 days for stakeholder submissions of any new information relating to the fishery that the team should consider in the assessment of the fishery, from stakeholders who provided written input on the Announcement Comment Draft report or attended the site visit (in person or remotely).</p> <p>5. <i>Objection to Final Draft Report and Determination</i> – 15 calendar days open to objections from stakeholders that participated in previous consultation opportunities.</p> <p>The following are the input methods for stakeholders to participate during the assessment process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SCS will only accept stakeholder input as public record if submitted using the ‘MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments’, or if raised at the site visit in person or remotely (FCP v2.2, 7.15.3). ■ Stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact (FCP v2.2, 7.15.4). ■ SCS encourages stakeholders not to withhold information, and SCS will not permit use of confidential information for reference within an assessment, as basis for determination of an assessment outcome, or as basis for an objection to certification. Confidential information is restricted to defined exceptions listed in FCP v2.2 (4.3.3). <p>Click here for the hyperlink to the: MSC Template for Stakeholder Input Fishery Assessment</p>
10	Assessment tree to be used
	The default V2.0 assessment tree is to be used without modification.
11	Estimated timeline
	<p>The assessment is planned for completion within 10 months of the fishery announcement, with a certification date predicted for the start of April 2023, if the assessment result is positive.</p> <p>A separate assessment timeline is included in the announcement materials which includes projected approximate dates for key versions of the report.</p>
12	Site visit
	<p>Per Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing, the site visit will be remote due to “Health risks of conducting an in-person audit/assessment to anyone involved in the audit process”.</p> <p>SCS invites participants to attend the remote site visit tentatively scheduled for the week of August 15, 2022. All members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders remotely. If the site visit date changes, registered stakeholders will be informed.</p> <p>Any parties (individuals or organizations) interested in providing input at the on-site meetings or via email, and/or in being directly informed of future stakeholder announcements, please contact SCS at MSCstakeholders@scsglobalservices.com with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ your name and contact details; ■ your association with the fishery; and ■ the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation).

	<p><i>RBF:</i></p> <p>If the RBF is deemed necessary, any onsite meetings to meet requirements of the RBF will be announced separately. Any such meetings will comply with the following statement:</p> <p>A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and to speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC’s Risk Based Framework (RBF), if deemed applicable, see http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework, Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, we rely heavily on participation of a broad range of stakeholders with a balance of knowledge of the fishery. We encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these meetings.</p>
13	Assessment tree modifications
	N/A

Submitted by: Jessica Melgey

Date: June 10, 2022

Appendix 1: Certificate Sharing Statement



Tuna Alliance Inc

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21/March/2022

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATE SHARING MECHANISM - Tuna Alliance Inc

Tuna Alliance Inc confirms its willingness to share the MSC certification of the Atlantic Longline Albacore.

The applicants who are selected and approved by Tuna Alliance Inc will be eligible to enter into a certificate sharing agreement with the Tuna Alliance Inc based on:

1. Equitable sharing of internal and external costs incurred due to the assessment processes.
2. Full compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standards and Certification Requirements, including any conditions, terms, policies, and recommendations set for the certification and subsequent programs of corrective action to address such conditions and recommendations.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of Tuna Alliance Inc :

Jack Huang
Commercial & Compliance,
Tuna Alliance Inc.
21/March/2022

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Template version control		
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1.0	8 October 2014	Date of issue
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1
2.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability
2.1	25 March 2020	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.2

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](http://msc.org) (msc.org)

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