



29/10/2020

## **Stakeholder Notification: Confirmation of condition deadlines for Tuna stocks covered under the multi-fishery variation request accepted 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

### **Affected fisheries in Appendix 1.**

All Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) held a harmonisation meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to consider the request from the WCPO MSC Tuna Alignment Group and clients to amend the WCPFC Harvest Strategy workplan deadlines stated in the MSC-approved Mega Variation request (MEGVAR), which was accepted by the MSC on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019. This letter is written in response to the request received by each CAB from their respective clients (see appendix 3), noting that effects on other RFMO deadlines also need to be considered as part of this WCPFC-specific request.

Within the accepted MEGVAR the deadlines (Appendix 1) by stock were agreed and based on the RFMO workplans; for instance for the WCPFC the 2017 workplan for CMM 2014-06. The purpose of the deadline approach was to ensure consistency in timeframes for fisheries entering MSC assessment as well as encouraging MSC clients to work together to encourage the RFMO to keep to the agreed deadlines.

This notification is to confirm that, as informed by the applicable requirements of the current MSC fisheries standard and certification procedures:

- a. The CABs agree that the deadlines detailed in Appendix 1 (here and in the original MEGVAR Request) should remain as the deadlines for those conditions.

- b. However, given the MSC's March 2020 derogation extending all deadlines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CABs are required to extend these deadlines by 6 months. In Appendix 2 of this document this extension has been applied and must now be considered the deadlines for these conditions.
- c. CABs will consider that evidence for whether the deadlines are met will be taken from the report which follows the relevant RFMO annual meeting for that stock (details of which are provided in Appendix 2). CABs will consider this evidence by organising a harmonised set of audits for all relevant fisheries which hold that certified stock.
  - 1. Will hold a harmonisation meeting to consider meeting reports from meetings conducted by the deadline stated in Appendix 2, to determine whether there is sufficient evidence that the conditions on the relevant PIs have met the agreed deadlines and can be rescored to pass the MSC Standard at SG80. As per MSC GCR v.2.4.1. § 7.4.2.b, a CAB shall suspend a fishery certificate if a client has not made adequate progress towards meeting conditions. (*"adequate progress"* in this case meaning the achievement of SG80 by the deadlines outlined in the MEGVAR request)
  - 2. As per MSC GCR v.2.4.1 § 7.4.3, CABs shall set the effective date for the fishery certificate suspension 30 days after the CABs' decision to suspend. The effective date for suspension will be harmonised between all UoAs for where that stock is the target species.
  - 3. As per MSC GCR v.2.4.1 § 7.4.3.e, clients shall provide CABs with a corrective action plan which is acceptable to the CAB as being able to address the cause for suspension, within 90 days from the date the Notice of Suspension is published on the MSC website.
  - 4. As per MSC GCR v.2.4.1 § 7.4.5, only when the CAB has verified that the fishery certificate holder has addressed the reason for suspension, the CAB shall reinstate the certificate.

This notification does not aim to judge the merit of the WCPO MSC Tuna Alignment Group request but sets out the CAB position in relation to the MEGVAR as it currently stands and updates it based on the [MSC COVID derogation](#). Any further interpretation, change of process or standard as prescribed by the MSC will be applied by CABs in line with relevant normative requirements associated with the MSC accreditation.

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## Appendix 1 – list of fisheries under the MEGVAR.

**Table 1. List of all tuna fisheries (both in assessment and certified). Original MEGVAR condition deadlines and the actions required for each listed. \*\* WPO-BET was not part of the MSC program when MEGVAR was accepted by MSC but is included now as part of this revision.**

Fishery name	CAB	Stock	P1 upgrade required?	P1 upgrade type	Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline	Part of variation request?	Action required
<b>North West Atlantic Canada Harpoon swordfish</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	AO-SWO-N	Yes	Full	n/a	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity (no alignment of condition timelines required)
<b>North West Atlantic Canada Longline swordfish</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	AO-SWO-N	Yes	Full	n/a	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity (no alignment of condition timelines required)
<b>US North Atlantic swordfish, yellowfin and albacore</b>	MRAG Americas, Inc.	AO-SWO-N	Yes	Full	n/a	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity (no alignment of condition timelines required)
<b>North Atlantic albacore artisanal fishery</b>	Bureau Veritas Certification	AO-ALB-N	Yes	Reduced	n/a	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity (no alignment of condition timelines required)
<b>US North Atlantic swordfish, yellowfin and albacore</b>	MRAG Americas, Inc.	AO-ALB-N	Yes	Reduced	n/a	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity (no alignment of condition timelines required)
<b>Sant Yago TF Unassociated purse seine Atlantic yellowfin tuna fishery</b>	Bureau Veritas Certification	AO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2023	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.1

Fishery name	CAB	Stock	P1 upgrade required?	P1 upgrade type	Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline	Part of variation request?	Action required
US North Atlantic swordfish, yellowfin and albacore	MRAG Americas, Inc.	AO-YFT	Yes	Full for swordfish, reduced for YFT and ALB	2023	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity (no alignment of condition timelines required)
AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	AO-YFT	n/a	n/a	n/a	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment
ANABAC Atlantic unassociated purse seine yellowfin tuna	Bureau Veritas Certification	AO-YFT	n/a	n/a	n/a	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment
AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	AO-SKJ	n/a	n/a	n/a	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment
AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	AO-BET	n/a	n/a	n/a	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment
Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine SKJ and YFT	Control Union UK	EPO-SKJ	Yes	Full*	n/a	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity (no alignment of condition timelines required)
AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	EPO-SKJ	n/a	n/a	n/a	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment

Fishery name	CAB	Stock	P1 upgrade required?	P1 upgrade type	Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline	Part of variation request?	Action required
<b>AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	EPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	n/a	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment
<b>Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine SKJ and YFT</b>	Control Union UK	EPO-YFT	Yes	Reduced	n/a	Yes	No conditions expected therefore no action
<b>French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery</b>	Control Union UK	EPO-YFT	No	n/a	n/a	Yes	No P1 upgrade or alignment of condition timelines required
<b>AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	EPO-BET	n/a	n/a	n/a	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment
<b>Echebatar Indian Ocean Purse Seine Skipjack Tuna</b>	Bureau Veritas Certification	IO-SKJ	No	n/a	n/a	Yes	No P1 upgrade or alignment of condition timelines required
<b>CFTO Indian Ocean Purse Seine Skipjack fishery</b>	Control Union UK	IO-SKJ	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment
<b>Maldives Pole and Line Tuna Skipjack</b>	SAI Global	IO-SKJ	No	n/a	n/a	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at surveillance audit following FPC v2.1. Note that there was no condition on HS and HCR at the time of the MEGVAR.

Fishery name	CAB	Stock	P1 upgrade required?	P1 upgrade type	Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline	Part of variation request?	Action required
<b>AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	IO-SKJ	n/a	n/a	n/a	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment
<b>AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	IO-BET	n/a	n/a	n/a	No	Pending assessment
<b>AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	IO-YFT	n/a	n/a	n/a	No	Pending assessment
<b>AAFA and WFOA North Pacific albacore tuna</b>	MRAG Americas, Inc.	PO-ALB-N	No	n/a	2023	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
<b>Ishihara Marine Products albacore and skipjack pole and line fishery</b>	Control Union UK	PO-ALB-N	n/a	n/a	2023	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery</b>	Control Union UK	PO-ALB-N	n/a	n/a	2023	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>CHMSF British Columbia albacore tuna North Pacific</b>	SAI Global	PO-ALB-N	Yes	Reduced	2023	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity AND condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline

Fishery name	CAB	Stock	P1 upgrade required?	P1 upgrade type	Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline	Part of variation request?	Action required
Japanese skipjack and albacore pole and line	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	PO-ALB-N	Yes	Reduced	2023	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity AND condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline
Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery	Control Union UK	PO-ALB-N	n/a	n/a	2023	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
Kochi and Miyazaki Offshore Pole and Line Albacore and Skipjack fishery	Control Union UK	PO-ALB-N	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
American Samoa EEZ Albacore and Yellowfin Longline Fishery	Control Union UK	PO-ALB-S	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
Fiji albacore, yellowfin and bigeye longline	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	PO-ALB-S	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
Solomon Islands longline albacore and yellowfin tuna fishery	SCS Global Services	PO-ALB-S	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	Control Union UK	PO-ALB-S	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit

Fishery name	CAB	Stock	P1 upgrade required?	P1 upgrade type	Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline	Part of variation request?	Action required
New Zealand Albacore Troll Fishery	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	PO-ALB-S	No	n/a	2021	Yes	No P1 upgrade or alignment of condition timelines required
AAFA and WFOA South Pacific albacore tuna	MRAG Americas, Inc.	PO-ALB-S	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery	Control Union UK	PO-ALB-S	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
SZLC, CSFC & FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore & yellowfin longline	Control Union UK	PO-ALB-S	Yes	Reduced	2021	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity AND condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline
Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery	Control Union UK	PO-ALB-S	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
New Zealand Talley's skipjack purse seine	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	WPO-SKJ	No	n/a	2021	Yes	No P1 upgrade or alignment of condition timelines required
AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	WPO-SKJ	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment



Fishery name	CAB	Stock	P1 upgrade required?	P1 upgrade type	Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline	Part of variation request?	Action required
<b>PNA skipjack and yellowfin tuna</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	WPO-SKJ	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
<b>WPSTA purse seine free school yellowfin and skipjack</b>	SCS Global Services	WPO-SKJ	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
<b>Ishihara Marine Products albacore and skipjack pole and line fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-SKJ	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>PT Citraraja Ampat, Sorong pole and line Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna</b>	DNV GL	WPO-SKJ	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>Tropical Pacific yellowfin and skipjack free-school purse seine fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-SKJ	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>Japanese skipjack and albacore pole and line</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	WPO-SKJ	Yes	Reduced	2021	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity AND condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline
<b>Solomon Islands skipjack and yellowfin tuna</b>	SCS Global Services	WPO-SKJ	Yes	Reduced	2021	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity AND condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline

<b>Fishery name</b>	<b>CAB</b>	<b>Stock</b>	<b>P1 upgrade required?</b>	<b>P1 upgrade type</b>	<b>Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline</b>	<b>Part of variation request?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
<b>TriMarine Western and Central Pacific Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna</b>	SCS Global Services	WPO-SKJ	Yes	Reduced	2021	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity AND condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline
<b>Indonesia pole-and-line skipjack and yellowfin tuna of the Western and Central Pacific archipelagic waters</b>	SAI Global	WPO-SKJ	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
<b>Micronesia Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Purse Seine Fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-SKJ	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
<b>Kochi and Miyazaki Offshore Pole and Line Albacore and Skipjack fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-SKJ	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
<b>American Samoa EEZ Albacore and Yellowfin Longline Fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-YFT	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
<b>Solomon Islands skipjack and yellowfin tuna</b>	SCS Global Services	WPO-YFT	Yes	Reduced	2021	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity AND condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline
<b>SZLC, CSFC &amp; FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-YFT	Yes	Reduced	2021	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity AND condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline

Fishery name	CAB	Stock	P1 upgrade required?	P1 upgrade type	Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline	Part of variation request?	Action required
albacore & yellowfin longline							
TriMarine Western and Central Pacific Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna	SCS Global Services	WPO-YFT	Yes	Reduced	2021	Yes	P1 rescored against v2.0 at first opportunity AND condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline
WPSTA purse seine free school yellowfin and skipjack	SCS Global Services	WPO-YFT	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
Fiji albacore, yellowfin and bigeye longline	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	WPO-YFT	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	WPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment
French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	Control Union UK	WPO-YFT	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
PNA skipjack and yellowfin tuna	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	WPO-YFT	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery	Control Union UK	WPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within

<b>Fishery name</b>	<b>CAB</b>	<b>Stock</b>	<b>P1 upgrade required?</b>	<b>P1 upgrade type</b>	<b>Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline</b>	<b>Part of variation request?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
							assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>PT Citraraja Ampat, Sorong pole and line Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna</b>	DNV GL	WPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>SZLC CSFC &amp; FZLC FSM EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>Tropical Pacific yellowfin and skipjack free-school purse seine fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>Solomon Islands longline albacore and yellowfin tuna fishery</b>	SCS Global Services	WPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>Indonesia pole-and-line skipjack and yellowfin tuna of the Western and Central Pacific archipelagic waters</b>	SAI Global	WPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment

Fishery name	CAB	Stock	P1 upgrade required?	P1 upgrade type	Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline	Part of variation request?	Action required
<b>Micronesia Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Purse Seine Fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
<b>Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
<b>MIFV RMI EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-YFT	n/a	n/a	2021	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
<b>Fiji albacore, yellowfin and bigeye longline</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	WPO-BET	No	n/a	2021	Yes	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline at next surveillance audit
<b>Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-BET	n/a	n/a	2021**	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2
<b>AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	WPO-BET	n/a	n/a	2021**	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline within assessment
<b>SZLC CSFC &amp; FZLC FSM EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-BET	n/a	n/a	2021**	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment if possible or at 1st SA following FCP 2.2

Fishery name	CAB	Stock	P1 upgrade required?	P1 upgrade type	Original MEGVAR Agreed condition deadline	Part of variation request?	Action required
<b>Micronesia Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Purse Seine Fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-BET	n/a	n/a	2021**	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
<b>SZLC, CSFC &amp; FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore &amp; yellowfin longline</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-BET	n/a	n/a	2021**	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
<b>Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-BET	n/a	n/a	2021**	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment
<b>MIFV RMI EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna</b>	Control Union UK	WPO-BET	n/a	n/a	2021**	No	Condition timelines to be aligned with relevant proposed deadline, within assessment

**Table 2. Details of all tuna fisheries, including certification status, date certified and expiry date given the MSC March 2020 COVID-19 derogation.**

<b>Fishery Name</b>	<b>CAB</b>	<b>Fishery status</b>	<b>Species Certified</b>	<b>FAO Area(s)</b>	<b>Date first certified</b>	<b>Certified until (6 month extension)</b>
<b>Solomon Islands longline albacore and yellowfin tuna fishery</b>	SCS Global Services	Certified	Albacore tuna, Yellowfin tuna	71 (Pacific, Western Central), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	28 Nov 2019	28 Nov 2024
<b>Sant Yago TF Unassociated purse seine Atlantic yellowfin tuna fishery</b>	Bureau Veritas Certification	Certified with Skipjack under assessment via Scope Extension (from P2 to P1)	Yellowfin tuna and Skipjack tuna (under assessment)	Eastern Central Atlantic (FAO Area 34), Southeast Atlantic (FAO Area 47)	05 Mar 2019	04 Sep 2024
<b>ANABAC Atlantic unassociated purse seine yellowfin tuna fishery</b>	Bureau Veritas Certification	In assessment	Yellowfin tuna	Atlantic Ocean Stock (FAO areas 34 and 47)		
<b>Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine yellowfin and skipjack tuna fishery</b>	Control Union UK	Certified	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77)	07 Sep 2017	06 Mar 2023
<b>AAFA and WFOA North Pacific albacore tuna</b>	MRAG Americas, Inc.	Certified	Albacore tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Northeast Pacific (FAO Area 67)	24 Aug 2007	13 Dec 2023
<b>AAFA and WFOA South Pacific albacore tuna</b>	MRAG Americas, Inc.	Certified	Albacore tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Southwest Pacific (FAO Area 81)	04 Sep 2007	14 024May 2
<b>SZLC, CSFC &amp; FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore, yellowfin and bigeye longline</b>	Control Union UK	Certified	Albacore tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Southwest Pacific (FAO Area 81)	09 Jun 2015	11 Feb 2026
<b>Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery</b>	Control Union UK	Certified	Albacore tuna, Bigeye tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Southwest Pacific (FAO Area 81), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	26 Jun 2020	25 Dec 2025
<b>Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery</b>	Control Union UK	In Assessment	Albacore tuna, Bigeye tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)		

<b>Fishery Name</b>	<b>CAB</b>	<b>Fishery status</b>	<b>Species Certified</b>	<b>FAO Area(s)</b>	<b>Date first certified</b>	<b>Certified until (6 month extension)</b>
<b>French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery</b>	Control Union UK	Certified	Albacore tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	19 Jun 2018	18 Dec 2023
<b>Fiji Albacore, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna longline</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	Certified (with components in assessment)	Albacore tuna, Yellowfin tuna, Bigeye tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	13 Dec 2012	22 Jul 2023
<b>PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin, unassociated / non FAD set, tuna purse seine</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	Certified	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	21 Dec 2011	21 Sep 2023
<b>Tri Marine Western and Central Pacific Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna</b>	SCS Global Services	Certified	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	02 Jun 2016	01 Jun 2021
<b>WPSTA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin free school purse seine</b>	SCS Global Services	Certified	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	21 Jun 2018	20 Jun 2023
<b>WPSTA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin free school purse seine</b>	SCS Global Services	Certified	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	21 Jun 2018	20 Jun 2023
<b>PNG Fishing Industry Association's purse seine Skipjack &amp; Yellowfin Tuna Fishery</b>	SCS Global Services	Certified	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Eastern Central Pacific (FAO Area 77), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	11 May 2020	10 Nov 2025
<b>Echebatar Indian Ocean purse seine skipjack tuna</b>	Bureau Veritas Certification	Certified	Skipjack tuna	Eastern Indian Ocean (FAO Area 57), Western Indian Ocean (FAO Area 51)	09 Nov 2018	08 May 2024
<b>North Atlantic albacore artisanal fishery</b>	Bureau Veritas Certification	Certified	Albacore tuna	Northeast Atlantic (FAO Area 27)	07 Jun 2016	06 Dec 2021
<b>Canada Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) British Columbia Albacore Tuna North Pacific</b>	SAI Global	Certified	Albacore tuna	Northeast Pacific (FAO Area 67)	23 Mar 2010	07 Dec 2025



Fishery Name	CAB	Fishery status	Species Certified	FAO Area(s)	Date first certified	Certified until (6 month extension)
<b>US North Atlantic swordfish, albacore tuna and yellowfin tuna</b>	MRAG Americas, Inc.	Certified	Albacore tuna, Swordfish, Yellowfin tuna	Northwest Atlantic (FAO Area 21), Western Central Atlantic (FAO Area 31)	28 Mar 2013	05 Sept 2023
<b>Ishihara Marine Products albacore and skipjack pole and line fishery</b>	Control Union UK	Certified	Albacore tuna, Skipjack tuna	Northwest Pacific (FAO Area 61), Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	12 Mar 2019	11 Nov 2024
<b>ACTEMSA-LEAL SANTOS pole and line West Atlantic skipjack fishery</b>	Bureau Veritas Certification	Exiting	Skipjack tuna	Southwest Atlantic (FAO Area 41)		
<b>New Zealand albacore tuna troll</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	Certified	Albacore tuna	Southwest Pacific (FAO Area 81)	16 May 2011	13 Aug 2022
<b>Australian Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (albacore tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and swordfish)</b>	q.inspecta	Certified	Albacore tuna, Swordfish, Yellowfin tuna, Bigeye tuna	Southwest Pacific (FAO Area 81)	27 Aug 2020	26 February 2026
<b>American Samoa EEZ Albacore and Yellowfin Longline Fishery</b>	Control Union UK	Certified	Albacore tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Southwest Pacific (FAO Area 81)	24 Nov 2017	23 May 2023
<b>Talleys New Zealand Skipjack Tuna Purse Seine</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	Certified	Skipjack tuna	Southwest Pacific (FAO Area 81)	28 Aug 2017	16 Feb 2023
<b>Japanese Pole and Line skipjack and albacore tuna fishery</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	Certified	Albacore tuna, Skipjack tuna	Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	17 Oct 2016	16 Apr 2022
<b>SZLC CSFC &amp; FZLC FSM EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna</b>	Control Union UK	Certified	Bigeye tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	05 Oct 2018	06 Sep 2024
<b>MIFV RMI EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna</b>	Control Union UK	Certified	Bigeye tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	07 Oct 2019	06 Apr 2025

Fishery Name	CAB	Fishery status	Species Certified	FAO Area(s)	Date first certified	Certified until (6 month extension)
<b>Tropical Pacific yellowfin and skipjack free-school purse seine fishery</b>	Control Union UK	Certified	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	18 Oct 2019	17 Apr 2025
<b>PT Citraraja Ampat, Sorong pole and line Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna</b>	DNV GL	Certified	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	22 Nov 2018	22 May 2024
<b>Solomon Islands skipjack and yellowfin tuna purse seine and pole and line</b>	SCS Global Services	Certified	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)	12 Jul 2016	11 Jul 2021
<b>North Buru and Maluku Fair Trade Fishing Associations, Indonesian Handline Yellowfin Tuna</b>	SCS Global Services	In Assessment	Yellowfin tuna	Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)		
<b>Indonesia pole-and-line skipjack and yellowfin tuna of the Western and Central Pacific archipelagic waters</b>	SAI Global	In Assessment	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna	Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)		
<b>Maldives pole &amp; line skipjack tuna</b>	SAI Global	Certified	Skipjack tuna	Western Indian Ocean (FAO Area 51)	29 Nov 2012	28 May 2023
<b>North West Atlantic Canada Harpoon Swordfish</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	Certified	Swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> )	Atlantic, Northwest (FAO Area 21)	18 June 2010	11 Jun 2023
<b>North West Atlantic Canada Longline Swordfish</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	Certified	Swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> )	Atlantic, Northwest (FAO Area 21)	19 Apr 2012	11 Jun 2023
<b>Owasebussan Co. Ltd. North Pacific Longline Tuna Fishery for Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna &amp; Bigeye Tuna</b>	SCS Global Services	In Assessment	Albacore tuna, Skipjack tuna, And Bigeye tuna	Western Central Pacific (FAO Area 71)		
<b>AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery</b>	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	In Assessment	Yellowfin tuna, Skipjack tuna, and Bigeye tuna	31 (Atlantic, Western Central), 34 (Atlantic, Eastern Central), 41 (Atlantic, Southwest), 47 (Atlantic, Southeast), 51 (Indian Ocean, Western), 57 (Indian Ocean, Eastern), 71 (Pacific, Western)		

Fishery Name	CAB	Fishery status	Species Certified	FAO Area(s)	Date first certified	Certified until (6 month extension)
				Central), 77 (Pacific, Eastern Central), 87 (Pacific, Southeast)		
<b>Micronesia Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Purse Seine Fishery</b>	Control Union UK	In Assessment	Yellowfin tuna, Skipjack tuna, and Bigeye tuna	FAO Area 71: Exclusive Economic Zone of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and WCPFC High Seas		
<b>Kochi and Miyazaki Offshore Pole and Line Albacore and Skipjack fishery</b>	Control Union UK	In Assessment	Albacore and Skipjack tuna	Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) high seas and Japanese EEZ		
<b>CFTO Indian Ocean Purse Seine Skipjack fishery</b>	Control Union UK	In Assessment	Skipjack tuna	Indian Ocean (FAO 51 and 57) to include the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the Seychelles, Mauritius, France (Mayotte and French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF)) and the High Seas		

**Appendix 2 – Overview of RFMO workplan deadlines for HMS stocks (note: for certified stocks only for which a RFMO workplan is in place to address RPs and HCRs). The six month extension to conditions is applied.**

RFMO	Stock	RFMO workplan completion date at time of MEGVAR	Original condition end date as per the MEGVAR	Revised condition end date based on the MSC's March 2020 COVID-19 derogation
ICCAT	AO-SKJ-W	2020	2022 (HCR adopted)	
ICCAT	AO-YFT	2020	HCR adopted at the Regular Session of the Commission – November 2023	May 2024
IATTC/WCPFC	PO-ALB-N		HCR adopted at the Regular Session of the Commission – December 2023	May 2024
WCPFC/IATTC	PO-ALB-S	2021	HCR adopted at the Regular Session of the Commission – December 2021	June 2022
WCPFC	WPO-SKJ	2021	HS in place at the Regular Session of the Commission – December 2021	June 2022
WCPFC	WPO-YFT	2021	HCR adopted at the Regular Session of the Commission – December 2021	June 2022
WCPFC	WPO-BET	2021	HCR adopted at the Regular Session of the Commission – December 2021	June 2022
IOTC	SKJ	N/A (well-defined HCRs adopted in 2016)	N/A (well-defined HCRs adopted in 2016)	N/A (well-defined HCRs adopted in 2016)

				Note that new condition was raised due to the lack of evidence that tools are appropriate and effective in controlling exploitation.
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### Appendix 3 Letter from individual clients to their respective CABs.

In November 2018, all Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) - accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) filed with MSC, and MSC subsequently approved, a variation request to harmonise the Principle 1 conditions and deadlines for MSC certified highly migratory species globally where multiple certified fisheries existed on the same stock. In the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area, this included fisheries for albacore, skipjack and yellowfin tunas. With this change, all MSC certified tuna fisheries in this region are required to align harvest strategy milestones and deadlines as set out in WCPFC's Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2014-06, as revised by WCPFC14 in 2017, with the milestones and deadlines in their client action plans.

As clients of the MSC certified Tuna fishery (clients specified their fishery in each letter) we support the harmonisation of Principle 1 conditions and deadlines and remain strongly committed to use our unified voice to pursue having WCPFC put robust harvest strategies in place as soon as possible. However, the variation request was flawed in not recognizing and accounting for WCPFC's intent for the Harvest Strategy Workplan to serve as a living document, to periodically adapt the content and schedule. WCPFC recognised that the preliminary schedule included in the early versions of the Workplan would require adjustment, as substantial research and evaluation of alternative terms for each Harvest Strategy element, and negotiation amongst WCPFC's parties, would be necessary to develop and adopt robust Harvest Strategies.

It was therefore inappropriate and unrealistic for the Variation Request to adopt static deadlines pinned to WCPFC's CMM 2014-06 as revised by WCPFC14 in 2017. WCPFC has amended the Harvest Strategy Workplan annually since its adoption in 2014, including revisions to the schedule in all but one of the five years since adoption. In fact, the revised version of the workplan that WCPFC adopted in 2018 explicitly planned for changes again in 2019: "A more substantial review of the Harvest Strategy Workplan, with inclusion of more detail, is anticipated during SC15 and WCPFC16." At the December 2019 annual session of the commission (WCPFC16), WCPFC agreed to transition from developing single-stock harvest strategies to instead work to adopt harvest strategies that account for mixed fisheries interactions using a hierarchical approach based on a collection of single species models. With this major change to a more robust approach, WCPFC16 once again modified the Harvest Strategy Workplan, including the schedule, which is appropriate for a living document. WCPFC16 added a preamble to the Workplan, explicitly explaining that the Commission deliberately included an ambitious schedule in the initial version of the Harvest Strategy Workplan and always intended to update the plan annually, and thus, as a living document, the planned completion dates for individual harvest strategy elements should reasonably be expected to change as the commission annually adapts the Workplan.

We therefore request that the MSC-accredited CABs submit a new joint variation request to MSC that recognises that the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan is a living document and that the Workplan deadlines were never intended by WCPFC to be static. While the tuna stocks of this region remain in a healthy state, the variation request should allow for adjustments to the harmonised deadlines for P1 milestones of WCPO tuna MSC certified fisheries when WCPFC amends the deadlines of their Harvest Strategy Workplan.

Unlike in other regions, all principal market tuna stocks within the WCPFC Convention Area are currently healthy (none are overfished nor are experiencing overfishing), reducing the urgency for MSC-defined harvest strategies to be put in place. Suspending MSC certified WCPFC tuna fisheries would result in a major disruption to the global supply of MSC certified tuna products and the growing global retail market for MSC certified seafood products and would disincentivise future participation by tuna fisheries in the MSC programme. Mass suspension of WCPFC tuna fisheries would result in a tremendous loss in environmental sustainability if gradual improvements to address identified deficiencies against the MSC fisheries standard ceased to progress.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. We look forward to your feedback and to continuing our joint efforts to improve the sustainability of global tuna fisheries.

Regards