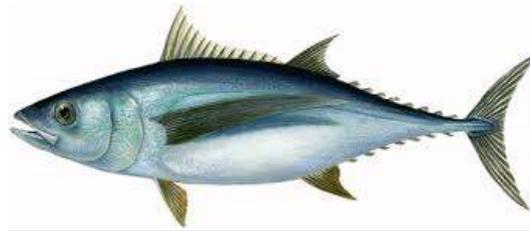


MSC SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES CERTIFICATION

On-Site Surveillance Visit – Report

Japanese Pole and Line skipjack and albacore tuna fishery



1st Surveillance stage

October 2017

Certificate Code	F-ACO-0111
Prepared For:	Meiho Gyogyo Co., Ltd
Prepared By:	Acoura Marine
Authors:	Jo Akroyd, Kevin Stokes & Kohei Nagano

Assessment Data Sheet

Fishery name	Japanese Pole and Line skipjack and albacore tuna fishery	
Species and Stock	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) North Pacific stock	
CAB name	Acoura Marine	
CAB contact details	Address	6 Redheughs Rigg Edinburgh EH12 9DQ
	Phone/Fax	0131 335 6662
	Email	fisheries@acoura.com
	Contact name(s)	Billy Hynes
Client contact details	Address	Meiho Gyogyo Co., Ltd 3-14-6 Shinhama-cho Shiogama-shi Miyagi 985-0001 Japan
	Contact name(s)	Kenji Matsunaga
	Email	C/o kohei.nagano@intertek.com

Contents

1	Introduction	4
1.1	Scope of Surveillance	4
1.2	Aims of the Surveillance	5
1.3	Certificate Holder Details	5
1.4	Findings of the original assessment	6
1.5	Surveillance Activity	6
1.5.1	Surveillance team details	6
1.5.2	Stakeholder consultation & meetings	6
1.5.3	What was inspected	7
1.5.4	Stakeholder Consultation	7
1.6	Surveillance Standards	7
1.6.1	MSC Standards, Requirements and Guidance used	7
1.6.2	Confirmation that destructive fishing practices or controversial unilateral exemptions have not been introduced	7
2	Updated Fishery Background	8
2.1	Changes in the management system	8
2.2	Changes in relevant regulations	8
2.3	Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry	9
2.4	Changes to scientific base of information including stock assessments	9
	Skipjack tuna	9
	North pacific albacore	9
2.5	Changes and updates on Ecosystem issues	9
2.6	Harmonisation	10
2.7	Any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish)	11
2.8	TAC and catch data	11
2.9	Summary of Assessment Conditions	12
3	Results	13
3.1	Condition 1	13
3.2	Condition 2	15
3.3	Condition 3	18
3.4	Condition 4	21
4	Conclusion	24
4.1	Summary of findings	24
	Appendix 1 – Re-scoring evaluation tables (if necessary)	25
	Appendix 2 - Stakeholder submissions (if any)	26
	Appendix 3 - Surveillance audit information (if necessary)	29
	Appendix 4 - Additional detail on conditions/ actions/ results (if necessary)	30

Appendix 5 - Revised Surveillance Program (if necessary) 31

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope of Surveillance

This report outlines the findings of the 1st Annual Surveillance of the Japanese Pole and Line skipjack and albacore tuna fishery. The scope of the certified fishery and therefore of this surveillance is specified in the Units of Certification set out below:

UoC 1:

Species	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Geographical range	0-40 degrees North and 140-170 degrees East. Fishing operations are in three distinct zones <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Southern quarter: 0- 25 degrees north in latitude, 145- 175 degrees east in longitude 2. Eastern off shore: 35 -45 degrees north in latitude, 165-176 degrees east in longitude 3. Adjacent Sea of Japan (from near Tanegashima to the southern quarter).
Fishing Method	Pole and Line
Stocks	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
Management System	Japan and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Client Group	Meiho Gyogyo Co. Ltd Vessels: Meiho Maru, Toyokuni Maru and Shoki-maru

UoC 2

Species	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Geographical range	0-40 degrees North and 140-170 degrees East. Fishing operations are in three distinct zones <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Southern quarter: 0- 25 degrees north in latitude, 145- 175 degrees east in longitude 2. Eastern off shore: 35 -45 degrees north in latitude, 165-176 degrees east in longitude 3. Adjacent Sea of Japan (from near Tanegashima to the southern quarter).
Fishing Method	Pole and Line
Stocks	Western Central and Eastern Pacific Ocean
Management System	Japan, WCPFC and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
Client Group	Meiho Gyogyo Co. Ltd Vessels: Meiho Maru, Toyokuni Maru and Shoki-maru

There are no other eligible fishers at the present time

1.2 Aims of the Surveillance

The purpose of the annual Surveillance Report is fourfold:

1. to establish and report on whether or not there have been any material changes to the circumstances and practices affecting the original complying assessment of the fishery;
2. to monitor the progress made to improve those practices that have been scored as below “good practice” (a score of 80 or above) but above “minimum acceptable practice” (a score of 60 or above) – as captured in any “conditions” raised and described in the Public Report and in the corresponding Action Plan drawn up by the client;
3. to monitor any actions taken in response to any (non-binding) “recommendations” made in the Public Report;
4. to re-score any Performance Indicators (PIs) where practice or circumstances have materially changed during the intervening year, focusing on those PIs that form the basis of any “conditions” raised.

Please note: The primary focus of this surveillance audit is assess changes made in the previous year. For a complete picture, this report should be read in conjunction with the Public Certification Report for this fishery assessment which can be found here:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/japanese-pole-and-line-skipjack-and-albacore-tuna-fishery/@@assessments>

1.3 Certificate Holder Details

The certificate holder is Meiho Gyogyo Co. Ltd.

The fishery was certified on 17th October 2016 and the expiry date is 16th October 2021.

This is the first annual surveillance.

The fishery has two units of certification as defined in the tables above.

There are two designated ports for the client vessels to land in eastern Japan, Yaizu and Shiogama.

The certificate applies to three vessels: Meiho Maru, Toyokuni Maru and Shoki-maru

Surveillance Process

1.4 Findings of the original assessment

As a result of the MSC assessment for this fishery, four conditions of certification were raised by the assessment team. The maintenance of the MSC certificate is contingent on the Japanese Pole and Line skipjack and albacore tuna fishery moving to comply with these conditions within the time-scales set at the time the certificate was issued.

The four conditions concern-

1. UoC 1 skipjack PI 1.2.1(a). Harvest strategy.
2. UoC 1 skipjack 1.2.2 (a) (b) and (c). Harvest control rules.
3. UoC 2 albacore PI 1.1.2 (b) and (c). Reference Points.
4. UoC2 albacore PI 1.2.2 (a), (b) and (c). Harvest control rules.

For each condition, by the fourth annual surveillance, the Client must be in a position to demonstrate that the SG80 requirements have been met for each scoring issue.

1.5 Surveillance Activity

1.5.1 Surveillance team details

Jo Akroyd and Kevin Stokes with Kohei Nagano as translator and Interpreter carried out this on-site surveillance visit. The Team Leader was Jo Akroyd.

The audit took place in Shiogama and Tokyo from 26- 28th September 2017.

1.5.2 Stakeholder consultation & meetings

Meetings took place with the client at Mehio Gyogyo Head office in Shiogama and with the Fisheries Agency of Japan, at their offices in Tokyo.

A list of meeting attendees is given below

Kenji Matsunaga	President	Meihi Gyogyo Co. Ltd
Kensuke Goto	Company Representative	Meihi Gyogyo Co. Ltd
Teruo Kitade	Section Chief for Large Scale Longline/Pole&Line Vessels	Fisheries Management Divn Fisheries Agency of Japan
Yurie Hosoda	Resource Management Dept	Fisheries Management Divn Fisheries Agency of Japan
Hiroki Takamitagi	Fisheries Officer	MSC
Kohei Nagano	Translator/Interpreter and Coordinator	Intertek Certification Japan Ltd.
Kevin Stokes	Team Member P1 and P2	Acoura UK
Jo Akroyd	Team Leader and P3	Acoura UK

1.5.3 What was inspected

- Review of target species- skipjack and albacore(northern pacific) - stock status,
- Review of the Japan anchovy bait fishery
- Review of fishing operations, including operation of the new vessel, fishing areas, fishing effort, reporting
- Review of impacts on the ecosystem
- Compliance with rules and regulations
- Main markets and traceability
- Progress on conditions

1.5.4 Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder organisations and individuals having relevant interest in the assessment were identified and consulted during this surveillance audit. The interest of others was solicited through the postings on the MSC website.

1.6 Surveillance Standards

1.6.1 MSC Standards, Requirements and Guidance used

This surveillance audit was carried out according to the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements FAM 1.3, and V2 was used for process.

1.6.2 Confirmation that destructive fishing practices or controversial unilateral exemptions have not been introduced

No indication was given or suggested during the surveillance audit to suggest that either of these practices is in evidence for this fishery. The client and Fishery agency of Japan confirmed that no such practices are used and also that no controversial unilateral exemptions have been introduced.

2 Updated Fishery Background

No changes have been identified in the operation of the existing two vessels (Toyokuni-maru and Maiho-maru). Catch data by trip for 2015 and 2016, and early 2017, suggest similar fishing patterns and catches as in previous years. Landings to the two ports (Yaizu and Shiogama) and flow of products as described at the PCR section 3.2.2 have also been similar.

As noted at section 3.5, below, catch and bait usage data by trip provided by the client suggest no change in operations or fishing outcomes.

A third vessel (Shoki-maru) was added to the certificate during the year. The vessel is of a similar length and capacity as the existing two vessels and it is expected to fish in the same areas and with similar provisioning and operations. Catch information by trip for the first half of 2017, provided by the client, confirms this. A fourth vessel is under construction with a view to being added to the certificate at a later time.

2.1 Changes in the management system

There were no changes to the overall structure of the management systems. The organisations and agencies involved in the regional and domestic management of tuna fisheries in the Western central Pacific Ocean and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and in Japan continue to be structured and to operate in the same fashion as described in the Public Certification Report.

2.2 Changes in relevant regulations

National

In August this year, licenses for pelagic pole and line and longline vessels were renewed. This is carried out every 5 years. Five years ago there were 313 pelagic P&L and longline vessels, now there are 240. As for P&L vessels only, 5 years ago there were 43 P&L vessels, whereas now there are 41 vessels. The reasons for this are economic and an ageing fishermen profile.

Regional

The WCPFC adopted five CMMs for 2016: (skipjack)

CMM 2016-01 Conservation and Management Measure For Bigeye, Yellowfin And Skipjack Tuna In The Western And Central Pacific Ocean (replaced CMM 2012-01, CMM 2013-01, CMM 2014-01 and CMM 2015-01).

CMM 2016-02 Conservation and Management Measure For The Eastern High-Seas Pocket Special Management Area to deal with measures to reduce or stop IUU fishing (replaced CMM 2010-02).

CMM 2016-03 Conservation and Management Measure For The Protection Of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers to deal with death, injury, assault, intimidation, threats, or harassment of observers.

CMM 2016-04 Conservation and Management Measure to establish a multi-annual rebuilding plan for Pacific bluefin tuna to establish measures to maintain or restore Pacific bluefin tuna stocks at levels capable of producing MSY and to implement a provisional Multi-Annual Rebuilding Plan.

CMM 2016-05 Conservation and Management Measure on Charter Notification Scheme apply to Commission Members and Participating Territories that charter, lease or enter into other mechanisms with vessels eligible to fish in the WCPFC region (replaced CMM-2015- 05)

There were no CMMs introduced for north pacific albacore stock. North Pacific albacore is not considered overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The WCPFC – northern committee is currently reviewing the North albacore under the MSE process.

None of these changes the status of this fishery's certification.

2.3 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry

No significant changes were identified.

2.4 Changes to scientific base of information including stock assessments

Skipjack tuna

Skipjack tuna stock assessments have been considered in a large number of recent assessments, reassessments and surveillances (see: <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/@@search?q=skipjack&search>). The most recent of these is the PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin, unassociated / non FAD set, tuna purse seine (see: <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/pna-western-and-central-pacific-skipjack-and-yellowfin-unassociated-non-fad-set-tuna-purse-seine/@@assessments>). That assessment reflects the currently harmonised Principle 1 assessment for skipjack tuna in the WCPFC and was published on 5 September 2017, three weeks prior to the site visit for this audit. The harmonised scoring for skipjack reflected in the PNA assessment is exactly as in the assessment of the client fishery being audited here. Conditions are also compatible. At this stage, there is no need to update scoring.

North pacific albacore

The Northern Committee of the WCPFC reassessed the stock of north Pacific albacore in 2017. This audit does not consider the stock assessment in detail, relying instead on discussions with the CAB (MRAG) currently completing the final surveillance and undertaking reassessment of the AAFA and WFOA North and South Pacific albacore. The final surveillance was in late draft stage during the site visit for Japanese Pole and Line fishery first surveillance. MRAG made the almost final draft available. It is now available on [MSC Track a Fishery pages](#). A summary report of the Northern Committee is available at: <https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/nc13>.

The Northern Committee summarised the stock status of north pacific albacore as *"The stock is likely not overfished relative to the limit reference point adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (20%SSB current F=0), and No F-based reference points have been adopted to evaluate overfishing. Stock status was evaluated against seven potential reference points. Current fishing intensity (F2012-2014) is below six of the seven reference points (see ratios in Table ES1), except F50%."*

Overall, taking account of the Northern Committee conclusions and the MRAG final surveillance report, there seems to be no need to update the stock status scoring for north pacific albacore.

The Northern Committee also proposed to the WCPFC a revised work plan, including provision for development of reference points and harvest control rules. The proposed work plan is based on a proposal from the USA and Canada and will be forwarded to the WCPFC for consideration at its 14th annual Meeting in December 2017. The proposed plan is relevant to WCPFC/IATTC progress against achieving Conditions 3 and 4 but does not impact on the progress expected at this surveillance under the CAP. At this stage, Northern Committee/WCPFC/IATTC progress against the work plan is delayed but still being made. There is no need to rescore condition 3 (PI1.1.2, reference points) or condition 4 (PI1.2.2, harvest control rules).

2.5 Changes and updates on Ecosystem issues

The original assessment overall Principle 2 score was 97.0. The pole and line fishery is highly selective and has little or very low impact. However, the fishery does take some species other than skipjack tuna and north Pacific albacore. Species caught include bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, dolphin fish, and yellowtail amberjack. Japanese anchovy caught in Japanese coastal waters is used as live bait. All species are retained and are scored at PI2.1. None were identified in the PCR as "main" species using the definitions at CR v1.3 CB3.5 and GCB3.5.2.

For the surveillance, the client provided updated records of all catches, by species, for each vessel and trip. For one vessel (Toyokuni Maru), bigeye comprised 1.1% of the total catch in 2017 but with that exception, retained species retained catch was generally a small fraction of one per cent in any year for any vessel.

The audit team did not reclassify any primary species caught in the pole and line operations as main. No rescoring is necessary for these species.

The fishery uses live bait, collected in Japanese waters. Nearly all bait is Japanese anchovy, purchased from a large, industrial small pelagic fishery. Bait usage was estimated at original assessment at about 2.5% of the total catch and anchovy was treated as a minor, retained species. For the audit, the client provided updated bait purchase estimates for each vessel and trip. Bait usage as a percentage of total catch was 2.7% in 2015 and 2.6% in 2016. For both vessels, from 2011-2016, bait usage varies from 2.0-3.0% of total catch. To date, in 2017, bait usage is slightly higher at 3.2%.

Based only on percentage usage, the audit team did not reclassify Japanese anchovy as a main species under CR V1.3. No rescoring is necessary.

Based on percentage criteria, no species are classified as main under CR V1.3. For completeness, however, the team did check on stock status of retained species and considered FCR V2 provisions at GSA3.4.2.2 (*Designating less resilient species as 'main' at 2%*).

There are stock assessment updates for bigeye tuna (WCPFC-SC13-2017/SA-WP-05 Rev1) and yellowfin tuna (WCPFC-SC13-2017/SA-WP-06 Rev1). Bigeye tuna is estimated above 20%B0 and yellowfin tuna is estimated circa 33%B0. The stock assessments may be found, respectively, at:

<https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/SC13-SA-WP-05%20%5Bbet-assessment%5D%20REV1.pdf>

https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/SC13-SA-WP-06%20YFT-stock-assessment_2017_REV1.pdf

Yellowtail amberjack has had a new stock assessment in 2016. The original paper, in Japanese, was translated for the audit. The current estimate of spawning biomass is circa 170,000 tonnes, above the limit of 130,000 tonnes. The paper is available at: <http://abchan.fra.go.jp/digests28/details/2842.pdf>.

Japanese anchovy was assessed in 2016 (see: <http://abchan.fra.go.jp/digests28/details/2824.pdf>). The stock is estimated to have declined markedly from when last assessed (and as reported in the fisheries certification assessment PCR). The agreed spawning biomass limit is 130,000 tonnes, based on a low value observed in 1988. The spawning biomass estimates for 2015 and 2016 are 67K tonnes and 62K tonnes. Given FCR V2 GSA3.4.2.2, the audit team asked the stock assessment team whether there is evidence that recruitment fluctuations are driven by environmental conditions or if there may be compensatory stock mechanisms. The stock assessment team noted a number of comments in the stock assessment report that clearly point to a history of cyclic, multi-decadal fluctuation for pelagic stocks, including sardines and anchovy. There seems to be strong agreement that the current anchovy decline is environment related.

Overall, the audit team was satisfied that i) using CR V1.3 definitions of main species, all retained species are currently not defined as main and there is no need to rescore, and ii) even considering criteria on FCR V2, all species would remain classified as not being main.

2.6 Harmonisation

Harmonisation of overlapping fisheries has taken place continuously since soon after the assessment site visit in 2015. Currently, the following fisheries overlap with the client fishery because they target (as a P1 stock) either skipjack tuna or north pacific albacore:

Fishery	Species	Status
PT Citraraja Ampat, Sorong pole and line Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna	Skipjack Yellowfin	In Assessment
Talley's New Zealand Skipjack Tuna Purse Seine	Skipjack	Certified
Japanese Pole and Line skipjack and albacore tuna fishery (This fishery)	Skipjack N Pacific albacore	Certified
PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin, unassociated / non FAD set, tuna purse seine	Skipjack	Certified

	Yellowfin	
Solomon Islands skipjack and yellowfin tuna purse seine and pole and line	Skipjack Yellowfin	Certified
Tri Marine Western and Central Pacific Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna	Skipjack Yellowfin	Certified
AAFA and WFOA South Pacific albacore tuna	N Pacific albacore	Certified

All assessment, surveillance, and reassessment files for these fisheries are available at the MSC Track a Fishery pages (<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/>).

Harmonisation for fisheries catching skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, north Pacific albacore, and south Pacific albacore took place continuously during 2015, 2016, and is ongoing. Harmonisation was carried out between assessment teams/CABs and during a pilot, dedicated harmonisation meeting in Hong Kong in March 2016. That meeting led to agreement on scoring and conditions for all species at Principle 1, including for skipjack tuna and north Pacific albacore. Since then there has been disagreement between some assessors on the scoring of skipjack tuna, PI1.2.1a (harvest strategies), with an objection to the agreed harmonised rational/score on the Talley's New Zealand Skipjack Tuna Purse Seine assessment. The objection was not upheld by the MSC-appointed Independent Adjudicator and all assessments for skipjack tuna are currently harmonised using the scores agreed in Hong Kong. These scores have been maintained at this surveillance as within the last month, a number of the overlapping fisheries have been audited, certified or recertified.

We note that for this surveillance, there have been no inputs from any overlapping client fisheries.

2.7 Any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish)

None identified by audit team or client.

2.8 TAC and catch data

There is no TAC set for skipjack tuna in the WCPFC. Catches in tonnes by the UoC in recent years are shown in the text table, below. Also shown are the total estimated WCPFC catches for skipjack as reported to the Scientific Committee in paper WCPFC-SC13-2017/ST-IP-1 (<https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29505>). North Pacific albacore catch estimates for the entire WCPFC are not readily available, and it is necessary to make assumptions on the split of north and south Pacific stocks as noted in the PCR.

YEAR	UoC Skipjack	UoC NP Albacore	WCPFC skipjack
2011	1,135	592	1,535,686
2012	751	567	1,754,691
2013	1,376	1,228	1,838,220
2014	2,308	942	1,977,019
2015	2,541	659	1,808,770
2016	2,801	303	1,816,640

Total UoC catches continue to total about 3,000 tonnes per year. In recent years, there has been an increase in the proportion of skipjack caught. Total WCPFC skipjack catches remain high. With the exception of the very high catch in 2014, catches of skipjack have fluctuated around 1.8M tonnes

since 2012. The UoC percentage of the total WCPFC skipjack catch remains very low. The highest percentage of 0.15% is in 2016. According to the client, the change in proportion of skipjack and albacore catch in recent years is not due to changes in fishery practice or targeting but is a reflection of species availability during operations. This is borne out by trip records, which show no change in timing or location by year.

2.9 Summary of Assessment Conditions

Condition number	Performance indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
1	Skipjack 1.2.1	<i>On target</i>	70	<i>Not revised</i>
2	Skipjack 1.2.2	<i>On target</i>	60	<i>Not revised</i>
3	Albacore 1.1.2	<i>On target</i>	70	<i>Not revised</i>
4	Albacore 1.2.2	<i>On target</i>	60	<i>Not revised</i>

3 Results

3.1 Condition 1

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	Skipjack 1.2.1 Scoring issue a	a) There are no formally agreed harvest control rules yet in place. The primary intended control on fishing mortality is through effort and capacity limitation, with the key constraints imposed through the PNA VDS. The processes for determining VDS Total Allowable Effort (TAE) and Party Allocations of Effort (PAE) are not transparent. More importantly, it is unclear how the TAE are determined, based on stock status advice. There is no clear linkage between potential catch and allocated effort. It is therefore not clear that the harvest strategy, utilizing high quality science and compliance information, and founded on high quality scientific advice, is responsive to the state of the skipjack stock; SG80 requirements are not met.	70
Condition	By the fourth annual surveillance, the client must be in a position to demonstrate that the SG80 requirements have been met: a) The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.		
Milestones	<p>It is recognized that the Client has limited ability directly to ensure the SG80 are met at each scoring issue. The Client will need to work through the FAJ and the JTFCA. The key issue is transparency of the linkage between catching opportunity (informed by scientific assessments) and the primary control in the fishery (the use of effort controls by the PNA).</p> <p>Milestone 1: By the first annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of advocacy within Japan for support of the WCPFC-agreed work plan for harvest control rules, adopted at WCPFC12 in support of WCPFC CMM 2014-06 (see Appendix 3). Advocacy is also required that the linkage between catching opportunity and effort limitations are made explicit. The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit - Interim score 60.</p> <p>Milestone 2: By the second annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of continued advocacy within Japan for participation in and support of the WCPFC-agreed work plan for harvest control rules, adopted at WCPFC12 in support of WCPFC CMM 2014-06, and any modifications to that work plan agreed by the WCPFC. The milestone associated with this surveillance audit</p>		

	<p>has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit - Interim score 60.</p> <p>Milestone 3: By third annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of continued advocacy within Japan for participation in and support of the WCPFC-agreed work plan for harvest control rules, adopted at WCPFC12 in support of WCPFC CMM 2014-06, and any modifications to that work plan agreed by the WCPFC. The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit - Interim score 60.</p> <p>Milestone 4: By the fourth annual surveillance, the client must be in a position to demonstrate that the SG80 requirements have been met: a) The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.</p>
<p>Client action plan</p>	<p>We have established our action plan to get the following done to meet the SG80 requirements by the fourth annual surveillance:</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>We will work to ensure that the harvest strategy for skipjack tunas is adopted at WCPFC annual meetings. As a first step, we will actively push the FAJ to let the Japanese delegation to the WCPFC establish a basis on which the awareness of the necessity to limit the catch of skipjack can be boosted at meetings of the commission in the foreseeable future and the development and adoption of appropriate harvest control rules can be encouraged there as outlined in CMM 2014-06 and the Commission work plan agreed in 2015</p> <p>Action plans established by the FAJ and relevant organizations such as the JTFA include examination of harvest strategies necessary to achieve their management objectives, which is necessary for appropriate management strategy to be created and submitted to WCPFC annual meetings in line with the agreed work plan. This examination will expressly demonstrate that such organizations in Japan support the process for the development of harvest strategies and harvest control rules.</p> <p>Year 2 and onwards</p> <p>TEXT IN PCR:</p> <p>We will assess each year progress of the WCPFC and PNA towards meeting the condition and will continue to seek dialogue with FAJ and JTFA to ensure Japanese involvement in and advocacy for development and implementation of a clear harvest strategy involving target and limit reference points (already set), harvest control rules (as in CMM 2014-06), and clear linkage between catch and effort.</p> <p>REPLACEMENT TEXT FOLLOWING FIRST SURVEILLANCE:</p> <p><i>Meiho Gyogyo cannot directly influence progress against this condition. However, Meiho Gyogyo will use all available mechanisms and relationships to influence the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) to promote progress. Meiho Gyogyo will ask FAJ to promote that the harvest strategy for skipjack tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.</i></p>

<p>Progress on Condition [2017]</p>	<p>It is noted that the client can have no direct influence on the international bodies which will need to act to close the condition. The CAP in the PCR therefore requires the client to advocate to the FAJ and other relevant organisations for progress towards meeting the condition. Evaluation of progress must therefore consider how the client has advocated for progress rather than measuring actual progress of work against the final condition outcome.</p> <p>During discussions, the FAJ confirmed that the client has participated in industry meetings to put forward views and that the client has additionally approached FAJ through phone calls. FAJ representatives were very positive about the certification and recognised the need for its support. Recollecting that the Ministry cannot provide a formal letter of support for reasons covered in the PCR, FAJ (as part of the Ministry) pointed out its strong, continuing support and desire to see progress in ensuring the condition is closed.</p> <p>It is concluded that the client has acted in good faith to advocate for progress against the MSC requirements at PI1.2.1.</p> <p>The audit team notes the difficulty in developing milestones and a CAP when the small scale UoC can have no direct influence on international fisheries bodies. Milestones and the CAP need to be realistic. The client proposed a simplification of the CAP for year 2 onwards to reflect i) its lack of ability directly to influence progress, ii) the need for it to try to promote progress by asking relevant Japanese agencies (FAJ) to promote progress on its behalf. A revised CAP was proposed and accepted by the audit team.</p> <p>The revised CAP for Year 2 onwards is as follows: <i>Meiho Gyogyo cannot directly influence progress against this condition. However, Meiho Gyogyo will use all available mechanisms and relationships to influence the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) to promote progress. Meiho Gyogyo will ask FAJ to promote that for skipjack tuna a) The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.</i></p> <p>Meiho Gyogyo also noted that it would keep a record of all communications related to progress against the condition.</p>
<p>Status of condition</p>	<p>On target</p>

3.2 Condition 2

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
<p>Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)</p>	<p>Skipjack 1.2.2 Scoring issue a, b and c</p>	<p>a) There are not yet any well-defined harvest control rules in place and SG80 is not met.</p> <p>b) HCR are still under development and neither SG80 nor SG100 is met.</p> <p>ci) CR v2.0 SA2.5.6 requires that as part of the evidence that tools are working, "...teams should include current levels of exploitation in the UoA, as measured by fishing mortality rate where available"</p> <p>cii) MSC CR v2.0 SA2.5.5b, related</p>	<p>60</p>

		<p>to when HCRs are recognized as being available at si(a) at the SG60 level (see above), requires "...a description of a formal or legal agreement to trigger the development of HCR".</p>	
<p>Condition</p>	<p>By the fourth annual surveillance, the client must be in a position to demonstrate that the SG80 requirements have been met: a) Well defined harvest control rules shall be in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached; b) The selection of the harvest control rules shall take into account the main uncertainties; c) Evidence shall be available that indicates that tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p>		
<p>Milestones</p>	<p>Milestones: It is recognised the Client has limited ability directly to ensure the SG80 are met at each scoring issue. The Client will need to work through the FAJ and the JTFCA.</p> <p>Milestones for Condition 2 parallel those for Condition 1, with the development of harvest control rules being a subset of harvest strategy development.</p> <p>It is recognised the Client has limited ability directly to ensure the SG80 are met at each scoring issue. The Client will need to work through the FAJ and the JTFCA. The key issue is transparency of the linkage between catching opportunity (informed by scientific assessments) and the primary control in the fishery (the use of effort controls by the PNA).</p> <p>Milestone 1: By the first annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of advocacy within Japan for support of the WCPFC-agreed work plan for harvest control rules, adopted at WCPFC12 in support of WCPFC CMM 2014-06. Advocacy is also required that the linkage between catching opportunity and effort limitations are made explicit. The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit - Interim score 60.</p> <p>Milestone 2: By the second annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of continued advocacy within Japan for participation in and support of the WCPFC-agreed work plan for harvest control rules, adopted at WCPFC12 in support of WCPFC CMM 2014-06, and any modifications to that work plan agreed by the WCPFC. The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit - Interim score 60.</p> <p>Milestone 3: By third annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of continued advocacy within Japan for participation in and support of the WCPFC-agreed work plan for harvest control rules, adopted at WCPFC12 in support of WCPFC CMM 2014-06, and any modifications to that work plan agreed by the WCPFC. The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit - Interim score 60.</p> <p>Milestone 4: By the fourth annual surveillance, the client must be in a position to demonstrate that the SG80 requirements have been met: a) Well defined harvest control rules shall be in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference</p>		

	<p>points are approached; b) The selection of the harvest control rules shall take into account the main uncertainties; c) Evidence shall be available that indicates that tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p>
<p>Client action plan</p>	<p>Consistent with (the same as) the CAP for Condition 1, we have established our action plan to get the following done to meet the SG80 requirements by the fourth annual surveillance:</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>We will work to ensure that the harvest strategy for skipjack tunas is adopted at WCPFC annual meetings. As a first step, we will actively push the FAJ to let the Japanese delegation to the WCPFC found a basis on which the awareness of the necessity to limit the catch of skipjack can be boosted at meetings of the commission in the foreseeable future and the development and adoption of appropriate harvest control rules as outlined in CMM 2014-06 and the Commission work plan agreed in 2015</p> <p>Action plans established by the FAJ and relevant organizations such as the JTFA include examination of harvest strategies necessary to achieve their management objectives, which is necessary for appropriate management strategy to be created and submitted to WCPFC annual meetings in line with the agreed work plan. This examination will expressly demonstrate that such organizations in Japan support the process for the development of harvest strategies and harvest control rules.</p> <p>TEXT IN PCR:</p> <p>We will assess each year progress of the WCPFC and PNA towards meeting the condition and will continue to seek dialogue with FAJ and JTFA to ensure Japanese involvement in and advocacy for development and implementation of a clear harvest strategy involving target and limit reference points (already set), harvest control rules (as in CMM 2014-06), and clear linkage between catch and effort.</p> <p>REPLACEMENT TEXT FOLLOWING FIRST SURVEILLANCE:</p> <p><i>Meiho Gyogyo cannot directly influence progress against this condition. However, Meiho Gyogyo will use all available mechanisms and relationships to influence the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) to promote progress. Meiho Gyogyo will ask FAJ to promote that for skipjack tuna a) well defined harvest control rules for skipjack tuna shall be in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached; b) the selection of the harvest control rules for skipjack shall take into account the main uncertainties; and c) evidence shall be available that indicates that tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</i></p>
<p>Progress on Condition [2017]</p>	<p>It is noted that the client can have no direct influence on the international bodies which will need to act to close the condition. The CAP in the PCR therefore requires the client to advocate to the FAJ and other relevant organisations for progress towards meeting the condition. Evaluation of progress must therefore consider how the client has advocated for progress rather than measuring actual progress of work against the final condition outcome.</p> <p>During discussions, the FAJ confirmed that the client has participated in industry meetings to put forward views and that the client has additionally approached</p>

	<p>FAJ through phone calls. FAJ representatives were very positive about the certification and recognised the need for its support. Recollecting that the Ministry cannot provide a formal letter of support for reasons covered in the PCR, FAJ (as part of the Ministry) pointed out its strong, continuing support and desire to see progress in ensuring the condition is closed.</p> <p>It is concluded that the client has acted in good faith to advocate for progress against the MSC requirements at PI1.2.2.</p> <p>The audit team notes the difficulty in developing milestones and a CAP when the small scale UoC can have no direct influence on international fisheries bodies. Milestones and the CAP need to be realistic. The client proposed a simplification of the CAP for year 2 onwards to reflect i) its lack of ability directly to influence progress, ii) the need for it to try to promote progress by asking relevant Japanese agencies (FAJ) to promote progress on its behalf. A revised CAP was proposed and accepted by the audit team.</p> <p>The revised CAP for Year 2 onwards is as follows:</p> <p><i>Meiho Gyogyo cannot directly influence progress against this condition. However, Meiho Gyogyo will use all available mechanisms and relationships to influence the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) to promote progress. Meiho Gyogyo will ask FAJ to promote that for skipjack tuna a) well defined harvest control rules for skipjack tuna shall be in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached; b) the selection of the harvest control rules for skipjack shall take into account the main uncertainties; and c) evidence shall be available that indicates that tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</i></p> <p>Meiho Gyogyo also noted that it would keep a record of all communications related to progress against the condition.</p>
Status of condition	On target

3.3 Condition 3

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Albacore 1.1.2 Scoring issue b and c	<p>Scoring Issue (b):</p> <p>The WCPFC LRP of 20%SBF=0 is arguably set by default following adoption of a hierarchical approach at the 8th Annual Session of the Commission. No equivalent exists as yet for the IATTC. Fmsy is an implicit LRP in both the WCPFC and IATTC, by Convention. However, while the WCPFC has explicitly agreed to use Fmsy as a LRP for skipjack tuna, it has not done so for North Pacific albacore. The ISC has adopted a working LRP of FSSB-ATHL but this has not been adopted in any formal sense by WCPFC or IATTC, though neither RFMO has rejected repeated advice based upon it.</p> <p>The SG requires that LRPs be 'set' rather than as at SI1.1.2c, where</p>	70

		<p>the language of requirement is more relaxed. As only one of the two RFMOs has in any sense 'set' an LRP (and acknowledging that the setting followed meta-analyses to ensure it was precautionary), and noting the need to harmonise assessments with CHMSF (2015), it is considered the SG80 requirements are not met.</p> <p>(NB CR v1.30 CB2.3.2.1 can be read to allow wider use of implicit reference points. However, the paragraph refers to usage within management procedures, management strategies or decision rules, and is therefore deemed not relevant here.)</p> <p>Scoring Issue (c):</p> <p>Both the WCPFC and IATTC Conventions use language suggesting all fish stocks covered by their Conventions should maintain or restore populations of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the MSY, inter alia, through the setting of the total allowable catch and/or the total allowable level of fishing capacity and/or level of fishing effort. Arguably, this creates an implicit MSY-related target.</p> <p>However, this argument, akin to that used above to support implicit LRPs, is not well-tested. Also, given the MSC requirement to harmonise assessments with CHMSF (2015), it is considered the SG80 requirements are not met.</p>	
<p>Condition</p>	<p>By the fourth annual surveillance, the client must be in a position to demonstrate that the SG80 requirements have been met: b) The limit reference point is set above the level at which there is an appreciable risk of impairing reproductive capacity; c) The target reference point is such that the stock is maintained at a level consistent with BMSY or some measure or surrogate with similar intent or outcome.</p>		
<p>Milestones</p>	<p>Milestones: It is recognised the Client has limited ability directly to ensure the SG80 are met at each scoring issue. The Client will need to work through the FAJ and the JTFCA.</p> <p>Milestone 1:</p> <p>By the first annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of advocacy within Japan for adoption of a clear and time bound plan to enable</p>		

	<p>adoption of limit and target reference points, for North Pacific albacore tuna (as already agreed under harvest strategy development in WCPFC CMM 2014-06 and IATTC, 2014). The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit - Interim score 60. Note that unlike skipjack, North Pacific albacore is not included explicitly in the WCPFC-agreed work plan agreed in December 2015 and will rely on input by the Northern Committee (see footnote 1 of CMM 2014-06).</p> <p>Milestone 2:</p> <p>By the second annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of continued advocacy within Japan for participation in and support of WCPFC and IATTC processes (as already agreed under harvest strategy development in WCPFC CMM 2014-06 and IATTC, 2014), and advice from the Northern Committee. The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit - Interim score 60.</p> <p>Milestone 3:</p> <p>By third annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of continued advocacy within Japan for participation in and support of WCPFC and IATTC processes (as already agreed under harvest strategy development in WCPFC CMM 2014-06 and IATTC, 2014), and advice from the Northern Committee. The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit - Interim score 60.</p> <p>Milestone 4:</p> <p>By the fourth annual surveillance, the Client must be in a position to demonstrate that the SG80 requirements have been met: b) The limit reference point is set above the level at which there is an appreciable risk of impairing reproductive capacity; c) The target reference point is such that the stock is maintained at a level consistent with BMSY or some measure or surrogate with similar intent or outcome.</p>
<p>Client action plan</p>	<p>We've established our action plan to get the following done to meet the SG80 requirements within 4 years.</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>By way of the JTFA, we will actively push the FAJ as the Japanese delegation to the WCPFC and IATTC to encourage each commission to develop and decide appropriate target reference points and limit reference points for the albacore stock in the North Pacific Ocean as required under WCPFC CMM 2014-06. This work will expressly demonstrate that there is support from Japanese organizations toward the commission's development of albacore harvest strategies.</p> <p>Year 2 and onwards</p> <p>TEXT IN PCR:</p> <p>We will assess each year progress of the WCPFC and PNA towards meeting the condition and will continue to seek dialogue with FAJ and JTFA to ensure Japanese involvement in and advocacy for development and implementation of a clear harvest strategy involving target and limit reference points (already set), harvest control rules (as in CMM 2014-06), and clear linkage between catch and effort.</p> <p>REPLACEMENT TEXT FOLLOWING FIRST SURVEILLANCE:</p>

	<p><i>Meiho Gyogyo cannot directly influence progress against this condition. However, Meiho Gyogyo will use all available mechanisms and relationships to influence the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) to promote progress. Meiho Gyogyo will ask FAJ to promote that for north Pacific albacore b) the limit reference point for albacore is set above the level at which there is an appropriate risk of impairing reproductive capacity; and c) the target reference point for albacore is such that the stock is maintained at a level consistent with BMSY or some measure or surrogate with similar intent or outcome.</i></p>
<p>Progress on Condition [2017]</p>	<p>It is noted that the client can have no direct influence on the international bodies which will need to act to close the condition. The CAP in the PCR therefore requires the client to advocate to the FAJ and other relevant organisations for progress towards meeting the condition. Evaluation of progress must therefore consider how the client has advocated for progress rather than measuring actual progress of work against the final condition outcome.</p> <p>During discussions, the FAJ confirmed that the client has participated in industry meetings to put forward views and that the client has additionally approached FAJ through phone calls. FAJ representatives were very positive about the certification and recognised the need for its support. Recollecting that the Ministry cannot provide a formal letter of support for reasons covered in the PCR, FAJ (as part of the Ministry) pointed out its strong, continuing support and desire to see progress in ensuring the condition is closed.</p> <p>It is concluded that the client has acted in good faith to advocate for progress against the MSC requirements at PI1.1.2.</p> <p>The audit team notes the difficulty in developing milestones and a CAP when the small scale UoC can have no direct influence on international fisheries bodies. Milestones and the CAP need to be realistic. The client proposed a simplification of the CAP for year 2 onwards to reflect i) its lack of ability directly to influence progress, ii) the need for it to try to promote progress by asking relevant Japanese agencies (FAJ) to promote progress on its behalf. A revised CAP was proposed and accepted by the audit team.</p> <p>The revised CAP for Year 2 onwards is as follows:</p> <p><i>Meiho Gyogyo cannot directly influence progress against this condition. However, Meiho Gyogyo will use all available mechanisms and relationships to influence the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) to promote progress. Meiho Gyogyo will ask FAJ to promote that for north Pacific albacore a) the limit reference point for albacore is set above the level at which there is an appropriate risk of impairing reproductive capacity; and b) the target reference point for albacore is such that the stock is maintained at a level consistent with BMSY or some measure or surrogate with similar intent or outcome.</i></p> <p>Meiho Gyogyo also noted that it would keep a record of all communications related to progress against the condition.</p>
<p>Status of condition</p>	<p>On target</p>

3.4 Condition 4

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	<p>Albacore PI 1.2.2 Scoring issues a, b and c</p>	<p>a) There are not yet any well-defined harvest control rules in place and SG80 is not met.</p> <p>b) HCR are still under</p>	<p>60</p>

		<p>development and neither SG80 nor SG100 is met.</p> <p>ci) CR v2.0 SA2.5.6 requires that as part of the evidence that tools are working, “...teams should include current levels of exploitation in the UoA, as measured by fishing mortality rate where available”</p> <p>cii) MSC CR v2.0 SA2.5.5b, related to when HCRs are recognized as being available at si(a) at the SG60 level (see above), requires “...a description of a formal or legal agreement to trigger the development of HCR”.</p>	
<p>Condition</p>	<p>By the fourth annual surveillance, the client must be in a position to demonstrate that the SG80 requirements have been met: a) Well defined harvest control rules shall be in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached; b) The selection of the harvest control rules shall take into account the main uncertainties; c) Evidence shall be available that indicates that tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p>		
<p>Milestones</p>	<p>Milestones: It is recognised the Client has limited ability directly to ensure the SG80 are met at each scoring issue. The Client will need to work through the FAJ and the JTFCA.</p> <p>Milestone 1: By the first annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of advocacy within Japan for adoption of a clear and timebound plan to enable adoption of a harvest strategy (including limit and target reference points and harvest control rules) for North Pacific albacore tuna (as already agreed under harvest strategy development in WCPFC CMM 2014-06 and IATTC, 2014). The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit - Interim score 60. Note that unlike skipjack, North Pacific albacore is not included explicitly in the WCPFC-agreed work plan agreed in December 2015 and will rely on input by the Northern Committee (see footnote 1 of CMM 2014-06).</p> <p>Milestone 2: By the second annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of continued advocacy within Japan for participation in and support of WCPFC and IATTC processes (as already agreed under harvest strategy development in WCPFC CMM 2014-06 and IATTC, 2014), and advice from the Northern Committee. The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit Interim score 60.</p> <p>Milestone 3: By third annual surveillance, the Client should show clear evidence of continued advocacy within Japan for participation in and support of WCPFC and IATTC processes (as already agreed under harvest strategy development in WCPFC CMM 2014-06 and IATTC, 2014), and advice from the Northern Committee. The milestone associated with this surveillance audit has been defined as a means to monitor progress. Meeting this milestone would likely not result in a change in score at this surveillance audit – Interim score 60.</p> <p>Milestone 4: By the fourth annual surveillance, the Client must be in a position</p>		

	<p>to demonstrate that the SG80 requirements have been met: b) The limit reference point is set above the level at which there is an appreciable risk of impairing reproductive capacity; c) The target reference point is such that the stock is maintained at a level consistent with BMSY or some measure or surrogate with similar intent or outcome.</p>
<p>Client action plan</p>	<p>Consistent with (the same as) the CAP for Condition 1, we have established our action plan to get the following done to meet the SG80 requirements by the fourth annual surveillance:</p> <p>We will work to ensure that the harvest strategy for albacore tuna in the North Pacific is adopted at WCPFC and IATTC annual meetings. As a first step, we will actively push the FAJ to let the Japanese delegation to the WCPFC found a basis on which the awareness of the necessity to limit the catch of albacore tuna can be boosted at meetings of the commission in the foreseeable future and the development and adoption of appropriate harvest control rules as outlined in CMM 2014-06. We will push in the first year for the FAJ to propose adding a specific work plan for albacore in the North Pacific (as it was not included in December 2015).</p> <p>Action plans established by the FAJ and relevant organizations such as the JTFA include examination of harvest strategies necessary to achieve their management objectives, which is necessary for appropriate management strategy to be created and submitted to WCPFC annual meetings in line with the agreed work plan. This examination will expressly demonstrate that such organizations in Japan support the process for the development of harvest strategies and harvest control rules.</p> <p>Year 2 and onwards</p> <p>TEXT IN PCR:</p> <p>We will assess each year progress of the WCPFC and PNA towards meeting the condition and will continue to seek dialogue with FAJ and JTFA to ensure Japanese involvement in and advocacy for development and implementation of a clear harvest strategy involving target and limit reference points (already set), harvest control rules (as in CMM 2014-06), and clear linkage between catch and effort.</p> <p>REPLACEMENT TEXT FOLLOWING FIRST SURVEILLANCE:</p> <p><i>Meiho Gyogyo cannot directly influence progress against this condition. However, Meiho Gyogyo will use all available mechanisms and relationships to influence the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) to promote progress. Meiho Gyogyo will ask FAJ to promote that for north Pacific albacore a) well defined harvest control rules for albacore shall be in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached; b) the selection of the harvest control rules for albacore shall take into account the main uncertainties; and c) evidence shall be available that indicates that tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</i></p>
<p>Progress on Condition [2017]</p>	<p>It is noted that the client can have no direct influence on the international bodies which will need to act to close the condition. The CAP in the PCR therefore requires the client to advocate to the FAJ and other relevant organisations for progress towards meeting the condition. Evaluation of progress must therefore consider how the client has advocated for progress rather than measuring actual progress of work against the final condition outcome.</p> <p>During discussions, the FAJ confirmed that the client has participated in industry meetings to put forward views and that the client has additionally approached FAJ through phone calls. FAJ representatives were very positive about the certification and recognised the need for its support. Recollecting that the</p>

	<p>Ministry cannot provide a formal letter of support for reasons covered in the PCR, FAJ (as part of the Ministry) pointed out its strong, continuing support and desire to see progress in ensuring the condition is closed.</p> <p>It is concluded that the client has acted in good faith to advocate for progress against the MSC requirements at PI1.2.2.</p> <p>The audit team notes the difficulty in developing milestones and a CAP when the small scale UoC can have no direct influence on international fisheries bodies. Milestones and the CAP need to be realistic. The client proposed a simplification of the CAP for year 2 onwards to reflect i) its lack of ability directly to influence progress, ii) the need for it to try to promote progress by asking relevant Japanese agencies (FAJ) to promote progress on its behalf. A revised CAP was proposed and accepted by the audit team.</p> <p>The revised CAP for Year 2 onwards is as follows:</p> <p><i>Meiho Gyogyo cannot directly influence progress against this condition. However, Meiho Gyogyo will use all available mechanisms and relationships to influence the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) to promote progress. Meiho Gyogyo will ask FAJ to promote that for north Pacific albacore a) well defined harvest control rules for albacore shall be in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached; b) the selection of the harvest control rules for albacore shall take into account the main uncertainties; and c) evidence shall be available that indicates that tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</i></p> <p>Meiho Gyogyo also noted that it would keep a record of all communications related to progress against the condition.</p>
<p>Status of condition</p>	<p>On target</p>

4 Conclusion

4.1 Summary of findings

In this first annual surveillance

- There were no material changes to the circumstances and practices affecting the original complying assessment of the fishery;
- This fishery continues to meet the MSC Standard
- Progress on conditions is on target

Acoura Marine confirms that the Japanese Pole and Line skipjack and albacore fishery remain certified following the completion of this surveillance. No changes occurred in this fishery that would result in a change to the surveillance schedule.

Appendix 1 – Re-scoring evaluation tables (if necessary)

None

Appendix 2 - Stakeholder submissions (if any)

Meeting Record –Japan Skipjack and Albacore Pole and Line MSC fishery

Date	26th Sept. 2017
-------------	-----------------------------------

Location Start Time/ Finish Time	Fisheries Agency Japan (FAJ), Tokyo
---	--

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Role	
Jo Akroyd	Acoura Assessment Team	P3 expert & TL	
Kevin Stokes	Acoura Assessment Team	P 1 and 2 expert	
Teruo Kitade	Fisheries Agency Fisheries Management Div	Section Chief: Large Scale Longline/Pole and Line Vessels	
Yurie Hosoda	Fisheries Agency Fisheries Management Div	Resource Management and Licensing	
Hiroki Takamitagi	MSC Japan	Observer	
Kenji Matsunaga	Meihi Gyogyo Co. Ltd	President	
Kensuke Goto	Meihi Gyogyo Co. Ltd	Company representative	
Kohei Nagano	Intertek Certification Japan Ltd.	Translator/Interpreter and Coordinator, Acoura Team Member	

Meeting Notes:

Acoura Team Leader

- Introduced team members & Acoura's role in the process
- Explained purpose of meeting – 1st annual surveillance
 - o Review of any changes in the management system, regulations, personnel changes in science management, industry, potential changes in scientific base of information and fishing fleet. Also to review performance against the four conditions for certification etc.
- Confirmed FAJ was willing to have an MSC present at the meeting as an observer.

- Confirmed that the Fishery under first annual surveillance is skipjack tuna and north Pacific albacore caught by 3 vessels belonging to the client group Meiho Gyogyo Co. Ltd. The third vessel was added to the original certificate this year.
- Described MSC Procedures, Principles, Criteria and scoring, as the FAJ participants were new to the MSC process.
- Invited the FAJ participants to introduce themselves.

FAJ

- Introduced themselves. Both participants are from the Fisheries Management Division of FAJ. Teruo Kitade is the FAJ, section chief for large scale LL/P&L Vessels. He took up this function (operations and international affairs) in June 2017. Yurie Hosoda is with the Resource Management Dept. She started in April working on licensing. Both staff report to Fukui San who not available.

- Confirmed
 - o no use of destructive fishing practices
 - o no changes in the management system
 - o no changes in national regulations
 - o no changes WCPFC CMMs with regard to PL fisheries
 - o No change in stock status for either skipjack tuna or north Pacific albacore
 - o No compliance issues

Other FAJ issues

- Observer requirements in Western and central pacific were explained. Pole and line vessels are not required to have observers on board by WCPFC, while they have to receive observers from coastal countries when operating within the EEZ of these countries under bilateral fisheries agreement..
- In August this year, licenses for pelagic P&L and longline vessels were renewed. This is carried out every 5 years. Five years ago there were 313 pelagic P&L and longline vessels, now there are 240. As for P&L vessels only, 5 years ago there were 43 P&L vessels, whereas now there are 41 vessels. The reasons for this are economic and an ageing fishermen profile.
- WCPFC and IATTC meetings: Staff from FAJ's International Division attend the meetings and fishery management (FAJ) also attend.
- The main concerns are CPUE decline and availability of stock in coastal waters.

P1 Conditions

Acoura Team member Kevin Stokes explained the harmonization process for P1 stocks This concerned the four conditions placed on this fishery for assessment (SKJ 1.2.1, 1.2.2; NP ALB 1.1.2, 1.2.2). To meet these conditions the client must seek dialogue with FAJ and JTFCA to ensure Japanese involvement in and advocacy at regional meetings. FAJ or JTFCA holds session to receive input from fisheries prior to regional meetings.

JTFCA have been unwilling to advocate on the client's behalf as they do not want to support one sector of the tuna industry alone. However, the relationship between the client and FAJ has been very positive. The client can directly contact FAJ and has frequently visited or been in contact

Meiho Gyogyo cannot directly influence progress against this condition. However, Meiho Gyogyo will use all available mechanisms and relationships to influence the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) to promote progress.

P2

The bait issue was discussed. In particular, the decline of Japanese anchovy stocks.

Anchovy is still imperative for PL fishery even though it requires considerable work to be transported and used alive because other fishing methods which don't need this species have not yet been developed. Stock assessment information was provided to the team prior to the site visit. At this stage, it is not a major concern in terms of MSC scoring – the main reasons for decline appear to be environmental.

Conclusion

The Team Leader

- Explained how the information will be used in the report.
- Asked FAJ to confirm that there is nothing confidential that cannot be used.
- Explained the next steps of the audit process including timetable.

Notes were sent to FAJ for confirmation. Confirmation received from Teruo Kitade Email 2nd October 2017.

Jo Akroyd

Team Leader

Acoura

Appendix 3 - Surveillance audit information (if necessary)

N/A

Appendix 4 - Additional detail on conditions/ actions/ results (if necessary)

N/A

Appendix 5 - Revised Surveillance Program (if necessary)

None proposed