

## MSC Fishery Announcement

*Pingtairong Pacific Tuna Deep Set Longline Fishery*  
*April 30, 2023*

### Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

**Table 1 – Fishery announcement**

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has mechanisms for resolving disputes (FCP v2.2 7.4.5.1), and has not previously failed assessment or had a certificate withdrawn.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

5	Unit(s) of Assessment - UoA(s)															
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>UoA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Species and stock</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UoA 1: Albacore Tuna: South Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 2: Albacore Tuna: North Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 3: Bigeye Tuna: Western Central Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 4: Yellowfin Tuna: Eastern Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 5: Yellowfin Tuna: Western Central Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 6: Swordfish: North Central Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 7: Swordfish: Southwest Pacific stock</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)</td> <td>UoAs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 &amp; 7: Deep set longlines fishing vessels between 297 and 657 metric tons using longline gear with approximately 3,500 hooks per set and 22-26 hooks between floats.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management Considerations</td> <td>UoAs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 &amp; 7: Vessels flagged to China, and operating under management of the WCPO: WCPFC Commission and IATTC Commission.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Client group</td> <td>Pingtairong Ocean Fishery Group CO., LTD, China</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other eligible fishers</td> <td>The UoAs (1-6) and UoC (1-6) are the same size; there are no other eligible fishers.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geographical area</td> <td>WCPO high seas, EPO high seas, overlap area and Cook Islands EEZ</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	UoA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Description	Species and stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UoA 1: Albacore Tuna: South Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 2: Albacore Tuna: North Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 3: Bigeye Tuna: Western Central Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 4: Yellowfin Tuna: Eastern Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 5: Yellowfin Tuna: Western Central Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 6: Swordfish: North Central Pacific stock</li> <li>UoA 7: Swordfish: Southwest Pacific stock</li> </ul>	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	UoAs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7: Deep set longlines fishing vessels between 297 and 657 metric tons using longline gear with approximately 3,500 hooks per set and 22-26 hooks between floats.	Management Considerations	UoAs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7: Vessels flagged to China, and operating under management of the WCPO: WCPFC Commission and IATTC Commission.	Client group	Pingtairong Ocean Fishery Group CO., LTD, China	Other eligible fishers	The UoAs (1-6) and UoC (1-6) are the same size; there are no other eligible fishers.	Geographical area	WCPO high seas, EPO high seas, overlap area and Cook Islands EEZ	
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6	Certificate sharing statement															
	Certificate Sharing is not applicable.															
7	Name of proposed team leader															
	<p><b>Mr. Peter Trott – Independent Consultant, Team Lead &amp; Principle 3</b></p> <p>Peter is the co-founder and Director of two international seafood consultancy companies. Firstly, FishListic, an independent sustainable seafood consultancy, offering practical and realistic solutions and strategies catering for all stakeholders ranging from fishery and farm level, governments, supply chains and end market users. Secondly, On-Board Social Accountability International, a not-for-profit to address the abuse of workers on board fishing vessels and in aquaculture operations by enabling seafood companies to develop and implement effective social accountability management systems. Peter has over 20 years' experience in fisheries management, resource sharing, ecosystem principles, aquaculture systems, project management, seafood markets, supply chains and traceability. Prior to co-founding FishListic, Peter was with WWF-Australia fisheries program. During the eight years at WWF, Peter led on international and domestic seafood markets, providing technical expert advice concerning imported and domestic seafood products, environmental assessments, supply chains and traceability. Peter led key strategic seafood market partnerships with retailers, brand owners and aquaculture companies. He was involved in the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and with fishery certifications across the globe, including as co-client. He is a certified MSC Chain of Custody auditor, Program Manager, fishery team-member, fishery team-leader, and peer reviewer, certified SA8000</p>															

social auditor and ISO19011-2018 accredited. He sat on the MSC Board of Trustees and several Australian fisheries Management and Research Advisory Committees. He attended numerous international fisheries forums as an Australian Government delegations member. Peter was a fisheries manager with two fisheries agencies for eight years, managing sharks, squid, octopus, small pelagics, rock lobster, and scalefish. Peter holds a Bachelor of Science (Fisheries Management & Aquaculture) with an honors degree in Aquatic Sciences from Deakin University.

Mr. Peter Trott meets the MSC requirements for a Team Leader as described in PC2 (FCP v2.2):

- ✓ Completed training meeting requirements in Table 1 of GCRV2.4, as evidenced by the certificate of passing auditor training for the ISO course 19011 (2018).
- ✓ Relevant degree and/or equivalent experience in the fisheries sector related to tasks under responsibility of a team leader (Evidence: BS, Fisheries Management and Aquaculture with an honors degree in Aquatic Sciences from Deakin University).
- ✓ Completed of the latest MSC training modules applicable to this assessment (V2.2 Team Leader MSC modules) within the past five years.
- ✓ Has undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last 5 years (2017 Full Assessment Australian Western Rock Lobster Fishery; Full Assessment Australian Western Abalone Fishery; MSC 2018 Year 2 Annual Surveillance Report Walker Seafood Australian albacore, yellowfin tuna, and swordfish longline Fishery; 2018 Full assessment – SZLC CSFC & FZLC FSM EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna Fishery; 2019 Full assessment Tropical Pacific yellowfin and skipjack tuna free-school purse seine fishery; 2022 Full assessment Tuna Alliance Atlantic Albacore Longline Fishery; 2022 Full assessment WPSTA Western and Central Pacific Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna Purse Seine Fishery.
- ✓ Has demonstrated experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques, as verified by SCS records and previous audit reports.
- ✓ Is competent in the MSC Standard and current Certification Requirements, auditing techniques, and communication and stakeholder facilitation techniques, as verified by his completion of ISO 19011 auditor training (2018).
- ✓ Has affirmed he holds no conflict of interest.
- ✓ Will attend the site visit in person.

## 8 Name(s) of proposed team members

All Team Members meet the following Team Member requirements:

### **Dr. Gerard DiNardo, SCS Global Services, Responsible for Principle 1**

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

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

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

- ✓ With relevant degree (Ph.D. from the University of Maryland) and over 25 years of experience as a research fishery scientist and senior manager for NOAA Fisheries in the United States, verified by CV.
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2019).
- ✓ Affirms he has no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.
- ✓ Will attend the site visit remotely.

**Alison Johnson, SCS Global Services, Responsible for Principle 2**

Alison Johnson has 20 years of fisheries science experience, having received her bachelor's and Master's in Fisheries Biology from the University of New Brunswick in Canada. Her employment history includes nine years as a marine biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary where she managed fisheries independent monitoring and coral assessment and restoration. Alison also worked for three years as the Southeast Campaign Manager for Oceana where she coordinated campaigns to end over-fishing, protect endangered, threatened and protected species and defend fishery regulations.

Alison has over two and a half years of experience working directly with the Marine Stewardship Council as fisheries manager for the Gulf of Mexico. During this time, she gained advanced knowledge of the three core principles of the MSC fisheries standard including sustainable stocks, species/environmental impacts and fishery management. Her primary function was to work closely with the commercial fishing industry to interpret and guide them through the MSC fishery certification process. Much of this involved explaining how scoring is completed, what conditions will be implemented and whether fisheries will ultimately pass assessment. She also worked with currently certified fisheries to help them understand the surveillance audit process and make improvements to close conditions.

While at the MSC, Alison was also a member of the global fishery standards review team to make improvements to the MSC fisheries standard and provide input to implement MSC-FCP 3.0. This involved making recommendations about the changes to shark finning, bycatch/observer coverage levels and enhanced bivalve interpretation and communicated these to fishermen.

Alison was also appointed president of the American Fisheries Society Atlantic International Chapter and served for two years from 2006 to 2008.

Alison Johnson meets the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.2):

- ✓ With relevant degree (Master of Science (Fish Biology) - University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB.; Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology) - University of New Brunswick, Saint John, NB.) and over 5 years of research experience in management or research experience in a marine conservation biology, fisheries, natural resources or environmental management position, verified by CV.
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2022).
- ✓ Affirms she has no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.
- ✓ Will attend the site visit in person.

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

- ✓ Gerard DiNardo, meets the qualifications for fish stock assessment with:
  - Dr. Dinardo has Primary authorship of roughly 30 peer-reviewed stock assessments of a type used by the fishery under assessment. In addition, Dr. Dinardo has 26 years of experience with NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service as a stock assessment scientist and later Program Leader for the Stock Assessment Program at the Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center and later the Southwest Fisheries Science Center as Director of the Fisheries Resource Division. In this capacity he was responsible for conducting stock assessments on highly migratory species (i.e., tuna), demersal fish species (snappers and groupers), and crustaceans (lobsters) in the Pacific Ocean, and overseeing the application of modelling platforms to advance stock assessment research.
- ✓ Dr. Gerard DiNardo meets the qualifications for 'Fish stock biology/ecology' with 3 years' or more experience working with the biology and population dynamics of the target or species with similar biology as evidenced by his research and publications on post release mortality and development of the HI longline observer program. Dr. DiNardo also Chaired the International Scientific Committee (2010-2017), an RFO tasked with completing stock assessments for the WCPFC on highly migratory stocks in the North Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ Alison Johnson meets the qualifications for 'Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems' with 3 years' or more experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems including at least two of the following topics:
  - i. Bycatch: She meets bycatch qualifications through her work as Manager of the Fisheries Independent Monitoring Program at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (6 years) conducting fisheries abundance surveys. Also, through her work guiding fisheries through bycatch monitoring strategies at the Marine Stewardship Council (2+ years), verified by FWC's FIM annual reports and MSC correspondence and presentations as verified on her CV.
  - iii. Habitats: She meets habitat qualifications through her work at Oceana with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management council on Deep Sea Coral Amendment 9 to protect vulnerable DSC habitat from bottom trawling gear (3 years). This is evidenced by

	<p>multiple public comment letters available in the US Federal Registry as well as videos of oral comments at GMFMC meetings, verified on her CV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Peter Trott meets the qualifications for ‘Fishery management and operations ‘with 3 years’ or more experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst/consultant, as evidenced by his work as fisheries manager over eight years with the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE), with the Western Australian Department of Fisheries as well as a further one year as a Strategic Policy Analysts with the DPIWE. Peters experience and expertise as a consultant for the past eight years working on global fisheries also meets the required criteria. This has been verified by provided CV and is a matter of public record.</li> <li>✓ Mr. Peter Trott has current knowledge of country of the various tuna fishing nations within the WCPO, including China and the Cook Islands and local fishery context as evidenced by his work on tuna fisheries as a consultant for eight years as well as his time with WWF, leading the Asia Pacific team on tuna fisheries at the WCPFC and IOTC tuna RFMOs (eight years). This has been verified by CV, a matter of public record, and several MSC full assessments and surveillance audits and supply chain assessments.</li> <li>✓ Understanding of the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements. As evidenced by Team Member, Mr. Peter Trott, completing the MSC’s Traceability training module (2020). Use of the RBF as evidenced by Team Member, Gerard DiNardo, completing the MSC’s RBF training course (2019).</li> <li>✓ Use of the RBF as evidenced by Team Member, Gerard DiNardo, completing the MSC’s RBF training course (2019).</li> </ul>
9	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>The following are opportunities for stakeholders to participate during the assessment process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Announcement Comment Draft Report</i> – 60 days for stakeholder input (30 days if Re-Assessment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The consultation period ends July 1, 2023, at 17:00 UTC.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <i>Site Visit</i> – (Details in section 12 of this Announcement)- Inform stakeholders that all members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders in person or remotely.</li> <li>3. <i>Peer Review College</i> – Registered stakeholders can inform the Peer Review College regarding any potential conflicts of interest of the peer reviewers proposed.</li> <li>4. <i>Public Comment Draft Report</i> – 30 days for stakeholder submissions of any new information relating to the fishery that the team should consider in the assessment of the fishery, from stakeholders who provided written input on the Announcement Comment Draft report or attended the site visit (in person or remotely)</li> <li>5. <i>Objection to Final Draft Report and Determination</i> – 15 calendar days open to objections from stakeholders that participated in previous consultation opportunities.</li> </ol> <p>The following are the input methods for stakeholders to participate during the assessment process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ SCS will only accept stakeholder input as public record if submitted using the ‘MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments’, or if raised at the site visit in person or remotely (FCP v2.2, 7.15.3)</li> <li>■ Stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact (FCP v2.2, 7.15.4)</li> <li>■ SCS encourages stakeholders not to withhold information, and SCS will not permit use of confidential information for reference within an assessment, as basis for determination of an</li> </ul>

	<p>assessment outcome, or as basis for an objection to certification. Confidential information is restricted to defined exceptions listed in FCP v2.2 (4.3.3).</p> <p>Click here for the hyperlink to the: <a href="#">MSC Template for Stakeholder Input Fishery Assessment</a></p>
10	Assessment tree to be used
	The default V2.0 assessment tree is to be used without modification.
11	Estimated timeline
	<p>The assessment is planned for completion within 10 months of the fishery announcement, with a certification date predicted for the start of February/2024, if the assessment result is positive.</p> <p>A separate assessment timeline is included in the announcement materials which includes projected approximate dates for key versions of the report.</p>
12	Site visit
	<p>SCS invites participants to attend the site visit tentatively scheduled for June 2023, in Zhoushan, China. All members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders in person or remotely. If the site visit date changes, registered stakeholders will be informed.</p> <p>Any parties (individuals or organizations) interested in providing input at the on-site meetings or via email, and/or in being directly informed of future stakeholder announcements, please contact SCS at <a href="mailto:MSCstakeholders@scsglobalservices.com">MSCstakeholders@scsglobalservices.com</a> with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ your name and contact details;</li> <li>■ your association with the fishery; and</li> <li>■ the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation).</li> </ul> <p><i>RBF:</i></p> <p>If the RBF is deemed necessary, any onsite meetings to meet requirements of the RBF will be announced separately. Any such meetings will comply with the following statement:</p> <p>A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and to speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF), if deemed applicable, see <a href="http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework">http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework</a>, Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, we rely heavily on participation of a broad range of stakeholders with a balance of knowledge of the fishery. We encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these meetings.</p>
13	Assessment tree modifications
	NA

Submitted by: Alison Johnson

Date: April 30, 2023



## Template information and copyright

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

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

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