

# MSC Fishery Announcement

*TTKV WCPO skipjack and yellowfin tuna purse seine fishery  
 May 23, 2022*

## Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

**Table 1 – Fishery announcement**

1	Fishery name
	TTKV WCPO skipjack and yellowfin tuna purse seine 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has mechanisms for resolving disputes (FCP v2.2 7.4.5.1), and has not previously failed assessment or had a certificate withdrawn.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 (see Harmonization section in the report). Overlap with another MSC certified or applicant fishery has been considered and scores will be harmonized for the relevant principles.</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)

UoA	Stock/Species	Fishing fleet (MSC v2.01 7.4.7.3)	Method of Capture
1	Western and Central Pacific stock of Skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )	Purse seine vessels flagged to <b>Chinese-Taipei</b> licensed and registered to operate in the EEZ's of PNA signatories (Kiribati, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Palau), the Cook Islands' EEZ, and WCPFC high seas; managed under the WCPFC, PNA, and Taiwan Fisheries Agency (TFA).	Purse Seine (all set types included)
2	Western and Central Pacific stock of Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )		
3	Western and Central Pacific stock of Skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )	Purse seine vessels flagged to <b>Tuvalu</b> licensed and registered to operate in the EEZ's of PNA signatories (Kiribati, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Palau), the Cook Islands' EEZ, and WCPFC high seas; managed under the WCPFC, PNA, and Tuvalu Fisheries Department (TFD).	Purse Seine (all set types included)
4	Western and Central Pacific stock of Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )		
5	Western and Central Pacific stock of Skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )	Purse seine vessels flagged to <b>Kiribati</b> licensed and registered to operate in the EEZ's of PNA signatories (Kiribati, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Palau), the Cook Islands' EEZ, and WCPFC high seas; managed under the WCPFC, PNA, and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development (MFMRD).	Purse Seine (all set types included)
6	Western and Central Pacific stock of Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )		
7	Western and Central Pacific stock of Skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )	Purse seine vessels flagged to <b>Vanuatu</b> licensed and registered to operate in the EEZ's of PNA signatories (Kiribati, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Palau), the Cook Islands' EEZ, and WCPFC high seas; managed under the WCPFC and Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD).	Purse Seine (all set types included)
8	Western and Central Pacific stock of Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )		

6 Certificate sharing statement

Certificate Sharing is not applicable.

7 Name of proposed team leader

**Shelby Oliver – Technical Specialist at SCS – Lead Auditor**

Shelby Oliver has a Master of Environmental Science and Management degree from the Bren School at the University of California Santa Barbara. She specialized in coastal marine resources management with a focus on coastal and environmental policy, aquaculture, and natural resource economics. In addition, she holds a minor in strategic science communication. She has been involved with research projects assessing fisheries bycatch, marine resource management issues, aquaculture feed trails, and an economic assessment of seaweed aquaculture. She has published research in a scientific journal and has been a team member in several MSC fisheries assessments.

The proposed team leader meets the MSC Team leader qualifications in that:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Completed training meeting requirements in Table 1 of GCRV2.4, as evidenced by the certificate of passing auditor training for the ISO course 19011 - Lead Auditor Training (2019);</li> <li>✓ Relevant degree and/or equivalent experience in the fisheries sector related to tasks under responsibility of a team leader (Master of Environmental Science and Management, Coastal Marine Resources Management Specialization, Bren School of Environmental Science &amp; Management, University of California, Santa Barbara and 12 years of research experience in a fisheries and environmental management position);</li> <li>✓ Completed of the latest MSC training modules applicable to this assessment (V2.2 Team Leader MSC modules) within the past five years (2019);</li> <li>✓ Has passed new online training modules on modifications to the MSC Fisheries Standard before undertaking assessments using these modifications such as enhanced bivalves, salmon and other modifications that may be developed in the future (2019);</li> <li>✓ Has undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last 5 years: Annette Islands 2nd Year Surveillance, Sablefish and Halibut 3rd Year Surveillance, Iturup Island salmon fishery re-assessment and 4th surveillance audit;</li> <li>✓ Has demonstrated experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques, as verified by SCS records and previous audit reports; and</li> <li>✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.</li> </ul>
8	Name(s) of proposed team members
	<p>All Team Members meet the following Team Member requirements:</p> <p><b><u>Dr. Gerard DiNardo – Senior Technical Specialist at SCS – Principle 1 Expert</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Gerard DiNardo has over 25 years of experience as a research fishery scientist and senior manager for NOAA Fisheries in the United States, as well as extensive knowledge, understanding, and involvement in fishery issues and processes of tuna-RFMOs and RFOs. Ensuring sustainable development and management of fisheries, including the identification of research and plans of action to support effective management decision making has been the focus throughout his career, and with a strong background and understanding of international fisheries and MSC. He holds an MSc from Long Island University, C.W. Post Center and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, where his dissertation topic was FISHMAP: An Expert System for Sampling Fish Populations.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Dr. DiNardo’s experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 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;</li> </ul>

- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2019); and
- ✓ Affirms he has no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.

### Dr. Holly Rolls – Technical Specialist – Principle 2 Expert

Dr. Holly Rolls has over 15 years of experience in fisheries research and sustainability, with a background focused on the prioritization and effective management of marine habitats. Dr. Rolls earned her Ph.D. in Marine Resource Assessment from the University of South Florida’s College of Marine Science (2014). Her doctoral work focused on quantifying the suitability of coastal fish habitats as nursery grounds for ecologically and economically important species. Dr. Rolls has worked extensively across private and public sectors and has led numerous coastal sustainability initiatives with diverse stakeholders, including fishers, government, private industry, and NGOs. She has substantial field experience and has conducted fisheries monitoring (dependent and independent) of coastal and offshore environments.

Dr. Holly Rolls’ experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.2):

- ✓ With relevant degree (Ph.D., Marine Science, University of South Florida) and over 5 years of research experience in a marine conservation biology and fisheries;
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2021); and
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.

### Dr. Jocelyn Drugan – Fisheries Expert, Ocean Outcomes – Principle 3 Expert

Dr. Drugan is a fisheries scientist with Ocean Outcomes, a global fishery improvement organization that provides technical support to fisheries aiming to improve their sustainability. She has a B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Yale University and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Fisheries Science from the University of Washington. She was also a postdoctoral research associate at the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. Jocelyn has co-authored two MSC assessments and many MSC pre-assessments, primarily focusing on fisheries in Asia. She has completed MSC’s Lead Auditor training including units for the RBF, enhanced bivalve fisheries, and salmon fisheries. In addition to native proficiency in English, Jocelyn has language skills in Japanese and Mandarin Chinese.

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

- ✓ She has a relevant degree (Ph.D, Fisheries Science) and over 15 years of research experience in fisheries ecology and over 5 years of research experience in fisheries management;
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Leaders within the last 5 years (4 May 2021); and
- ✓ Affirms she has no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.

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

- ✓ Dr. Gerard DiNardo meets the qualifications for fish stock assessment with: 3 years’ or more experience of applying relevant stock assessment techniques being used by the fishery under assessment. As evidenced by his experience using production models as a stock assessment scientist and leader of the Stock Assessment Group at the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center (2006-2015), verified by CV. As a stock assessment scientist and leader of the Stock Assessment Group at the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center (2006-2015), Dr. DiNardo used production models to assess the status of North Pacific swordfish in 2014 and 2009,

blue marlin in 2013, striped marlin in 2005. (<http://isc.fra.go.jp/index.html>). He was also an author on numerous analyses used as input to the assessments (Wang et al., 2007; Su et al., 2009, Piner et al., 2011 – this can be found on the ISC website).

- ✓ 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, as well as his position as Chair of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), verified by CV.
- ✓ Dr. Holly Rolls meets the qualifications for ‘Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems’ with 3 years’ or more experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, the impact of fisheries on aquatic ecosystems including at least two of the following topics: i. Bycatch. ii. Endangered, threatened, or protected (ETP) species. iii. Habitats. iv. Ecosystem interactions. As evidenced by multiple publications and abstracts on the role of fish habitats and ecosystem services in sustaining fish populations, verified by CV.
- ✓ Dr. Jocelyn Drugan meets the qualifications for ‘Fishery management and operations ‘with 3 years’ or more experience as a practising fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst/consultant. As evidenced by working as a consultant for Ocean Outcomes for many years and working for NOAA as a research associate, verified by CV.
- ✓ Dr. Jocelyn Drugan has current knowledge of Japan, the Japanese language, and local fishery context. As evidenced by previously working with fisheries’ assessments of of eleven fishery species in Japan, including mackerels, tuna, and Japanese flying squid, verified by CV.
- ✓ Understanding of the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements. As evidenced by Team Lead, Dr. Holly Rolls, completing the MSC’s Traceability training module (2021).

9 Stakeholder opportunities

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

1. *Announcement Comment Draft Report* – 60 days for stakeholder input (30 days if Re-Assessment)
  - **The consultation period ends July 22, 2022 at 17:00 UTC.**
2. *Site Visit* – (Details in section 12 of this Announcement)- Inform stakeholders that all members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders in person or remotely.
3. *Peer Review College* – registered stakeholders can inform the Peer Review College regarding any potential conflicts of interest of the peer reviewers proposed.
4. *Public Comment Draft Report* – 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)
5. *Objection to Final Draft Report and Determination*– 15 calendar days open to objections from stakeholders that participated in previous consultation opportunities.

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

- SCS will only accept stakeholder input as public record if submitted using the ‘MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments’, or if raised at the site visit in person or remotely (FCP v2.2, 7.15.3)
- Stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact (FCP v2.2, 7.15.4)
- SCS encourages stakeholders not to withhold information, and SCS will not permit use of confidential information for reference within an assessment, as basis for determination of an

	<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 mid March 2023, if the assessment result is positive.</p> <p>A separate assessment timeline is included in the announcement materials which includes projected approximate dates for key versions of the report.</p>
12	Site visit
	<p>SCS invites participants to attend the remote site visit tentatively scheduled for the week of July 25 2022. All members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders remotely. If the site visit date changes, registered stakeholders will be informed.</p> <p>Any parties (individuals or organizations) interested in providing input at the on-site meetings or via email, and/or in being directly informed of future stakeholder announcements, please contact SCS at <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

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## 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)

Marine Stewardship Council  
Marine House  
1 Snow Hill  
London EC1A 2DH  
United Kingdom

Phone: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8900  
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8901  
Email: [standards@msc.org](mailto:standards@msc.org)