

**THE PNA WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC
UNASSOCIATED PURSE SEINE SKIPJACK TUNA
(*Katsuwonus pelamis*) AND YELLOWFIN TUNA
(*Thunnus albacares*) FISHERY**

4th Surveillance Audit (Skipjack tuna)

1st Surveillance Audit (Yellowfin tuna)

F-SCS 0090

SCS Global Services

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Glossary

CAB	Conformity Assessment Body
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMM	Conservation and Management Measures
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ETP	Endangered, Threatened or Protected species
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCM	Fisheries Certification Methodology
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quota
ITQ	Individual Transferable Quota
Kg	kilogram
Lb.	Pound, equivalent to roughly 2.2 kg
LOA	Length Over-All
M	Million (lbs.)
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
nm	nautical mile
OFL	Over-Fishing Level
PNA	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
SCS	SCS Global Services
SPC	Pacific Community (originally called the South Pacific Commission)
SPC-OFP	SPC Offshore Fisheries Program
SSB	Spawning Stock Biomass
t and mt	metric ton
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
UoC	Unit of Certification
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPO	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1. General Information

Fishery name	PNA Western and Central Pacific unassociated purse seines skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) and yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) fishery.		
Unit(s) of assessment	UoA 1: Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) UoA 2: Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) Western and Central Pacific in the EEZs of Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Unassociated Purse Seine.		
Date certified	Skipjack tuna: 21 st Dec 2011 Yellowfin tuna: Feb 2016	Date of expiry	20 th June 2017
Surveillance level and type	Normal, annual, on-site		
Date of surveillance audit	10 th May 2016		
Justification	<i>The justification for the delayed surveillance audit was provided as part of the surveillance audit announcement and posted on the fisheries website. The audit however occurred within the allowable 6 months past the anniversary date with CR v 2.0 for audit process. The main reason to postpone the surveillance audit was the MSC harmonization workshop of all the CABs with Western Pacific tuna fisheries in assessment or certified which took place in April 2016. The outcome of this workshop are now considered during the re-assessment of the fishery.</i>		
Surveillance stage (tick one)	1st Surveillance		
	2nd Surveillance		
	3rd Surveillance		
	4th Surveillance	X	
	Other (expedited etc)		
Surveillance team	Lead assessor: Dr. Sabine Daume Assessor: Alexander Morison		
CAB name	SCS Global Services		
CAB contact details	Address	99 Drummond Street, Carlton 3053 Victoria, Australia	
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	Email	Maurice@pnatuna.com	
	Contact name(s)	Maurice Brownjohn OBE	

2. Background

The PNA Western and Central Pacific unassociated purse seine skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) fishery was certified on 21st December 2011 (Skipjack), with yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) expedited and certified in February 2016.

The MSC requires that each certified fishery undergo regular surveillance audits to ensure the basis of certification is maintained and that the fishery continues to address any conditional requirements identified during the full assessment process.

The fourth surveillance audit (skipjack) and first surveillance audit (yellowfin) focused on changes since the previous surveillance audit, and on monitoring continued compliance with the MSC Principles and Criteria. These fisheries were assessed using the MSC developed default assessment tree with two units of certification (Table 1). The skipjack tuna fishery was certified in December 2011 with 6 Conditions and 7 Recommendations. Previous annual surveillance audits were carried out in November 2012, December 2013, and December 2014. After the third surveillance audit one condition remained open, for PI 1.2.2. The yellowfin tuna fishery was added to the certificate in February 2016 after an expedited assessment with conditions on PI 1.2.1 and PI 1.2.2.

Table 1. Units of Certification.

Units of Certification	
Species	UoC1: Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) UoC2: Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus alabcares</i>)
Geographical Area	Western and Central Pacific in the EEZs of Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesias (FSM), Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
Gear Type	Unassociated ¹ Purse seine
Management System	PNA implementing arrangements, Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) administered minimum terms and conditions, National Management Plans and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).
Client	PNA Office (PNAO) on behalf of Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Federal states of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau and Tuvalu

¹ An unassociated set is defined as fishing on a free school, which may include a free school feeding on bait fish. There are no associations with objects (natural or manmade), with set distances from such objects of 1 nautical mile or greater.

Table 2. Summary of Assessment Conditions.

Performance Indicator	UoC 1: Skipjack		UoC 2: Yellowfin	
	Status of Condition/ Non-Conformance	Rescored	Status of Condition/ Non-Conformance	Rescored
1.1.2	Closed at 3 rd audit	90	N/A	-
1.2.1	N/A	-	Open, on target	-
1.2.2	Open, behind target	-	Open, on target	-
2.2.2	Closed at 1 st audit	80	N/A	-
2.3.1	Closed at 2 nd audit	100	N/A	-
3.2.1	Closed at 2 nd audit	80	N/A	-
3.2.2	Closed at 2 nd audit	80	N/A	-

3. Assessment Process

3.1 MSC Certification and Conditions for Continued Compliance

An MSC certificate is valid for a period of 5 years. During the initial certification for skipjack tuna 6 conditions were raised (see final report on MSC website), of which 5 have been closed out. During the expedited certification for yellowfin tuna 2 conditions were raised. There is one remaining condition for skipjack on PI 1.2.2 and two conditions for yellowfin tuna on PI 1.2.1 and 1.2.2. The re-assessment of the PNA Unassociated Purse Seine fishery for skipjack and yellowfin tuna will start this year and the audit will therefore need to be conducted onsite.

The conditions were addressed with the client action plan. The action plan includes the actions to be undertaken, responsible parties and timeframe for meeting milestone goals. During this and each surveillance audit, the audit team will check progress against these milestones. The surveillance team will also “spot check” other performance indicators from the original assessment to verify that the fishery is still in compliance with the MSC requirements. In this case all recommendations that were made as part of the certification were checked and have been reported on as part of this report. Results from the audit are published in the form of a report to the MSC website 30 days after the onsite visit. The client group has the opportunity to review the report and respond before publication.

The audit team evaluates progress toward closing the condition as “ahead of target”, “on target”, or “behind target”. This is based on whether there is enough evidence that sufficient progress is being made relative to the client action plan timeframe for milestones. If a “spot check” of performance indicators reveals that the Performance Indicator (PI) no longer meets all scoring elements of the Scoring Guidepost 80 (SG80), and additional “condition” will be raised that must be addressed within the life of the certificate.

3.2 Consequences for Non-Compliance

Where a fishery is determined to be ‘behind target’ for a condition, the surveillance team will work with the client representatives to determine a new timeframe for closing of the condition within the original certification period and will include interim milestones for completion. The client must provide evidence that the fishery is working toward compliance and identify the reason that the condition timelines are not met.

SCS reserves the right to enact 7.4 of the MSC Certification Requirements where a fishery certificate may be revoked or suspended if a condition is not back “on target” within 12 months of falling “behind target” following the MSC certification requirements 27.22.9.

3.3 Surveillance Audit Timing and Frequency

N.A. The re-assessment of the fishery will start this year.

3.4 Surveillance team

The same team conducted the expedited P1 assessment for yellowfin tuna and the previous annual surveillance audit of the skipjack tuna fishery.

As outlined below the surveillance team meet the requirements in the Certification Requirements v 2.0 (2014). Team members are clearly experienced and comparably qualified to the original assessment team.

Dr. Sabine Daume, SCS Global Services (SCS), Regional Director Australasia

Dr. Daume is the Regional Director for the SCS Sustainable Seafood Program in Australia and New Zealand, which covers MSC, ASC and Fisheries Improvement programs. Since 2009, Dr. Daume has led numerous MSC evaluation audits on behalf of SCS, including several large and controversial assessments.

Dr. Daume is a marine biologist with special expertise in the biology and ecology of exploited marine resources. Dr. Daume has over 13 years’ experience working closely with the fishing and aquaculture industry in Australia. She holds a PhD in marine biology from La Trobe University in Victoria, Australia and an MSc in Marine Biology and Marine Chemistry from Kiel University in Germany. Prior to joining SCS, Dr. Daume worked as a Senior Research Scientist at the Research Division of the Department of Fisheries in Western Australia. She has extensive experience working with diverse groups, often in remote marine temperate and tropical environments. She has worked with industry personnel at all levels (divers, technicians, managers, executive officers) as well as policy makers and managers in government departments. Dr. Daume led the WA rock lobster re-assessment in 2011 and Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) icefish re-assessment in 2010 and 2015 as well as the South Australian Lakes and Coorong annual surveillance and re-assessment in 2013. She also led the HIMI toothfish assessment in 2010 and Macquarie Island toothfish assessment in 2011, as well as numerous audits in

USA, Canada, Mexico and Japan. Dr. Daume has been trained by the MSC to use the Risk Based Framework (RBF) of the MSC Certification Requirements (v1.4 and v2.0 Oct 2014). She is a certified lead auditor under the ISO 9001:2008 standard.

Alexander “Sandy” Morison – Morison Aquatic Sciences, Lead auditor SCS Global Services

Mr. Morison is a consultant specializing in fisheries and aquatic sciences. He has over 30 years’ experience in fishery science and assessment at state, national and international levels and has held senior research positions for state and national organizations in Australia. He is currently chair of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna and has been engaged in the Kobe process for harmonisation of measures across the tuna RFMOs.

Mr Morison was the facilitator for an assessment of the ecological risks from Queensland’s East Coast Trawl Fishery that looked at the full range of ecological components. He was senior author of the report that synthesised background information and the results of an expert workshop, and was co-author of the summary and technical reports that described the results of the project. He was subsequently engaged to assist with an assessment of this fishery’s vulnerability to climate change.

Mr. Morison has participated as part of a team undertaking MSC pre-assessments for several fisheries and has been the Principle 1 expert for the MSC certification assessments or surveillance audits of assessments of the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Icefish Fishery, the HIMI Toothfish Fishery, the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery, the Kyoto Danish Seine Fishery, the Western Australian Rock Lobster Fishery and the Lakes and Coorong Fishery. Mr Morison is also trained as a lead auditor for MSC assessments by SCS.

Sandy is also contracted by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to chair the Slope Fisheries Resource Assessment Group, the Shelf Fisheries Resource Assessment Group and is the Scientific Representative on the South East Fishery Management Advisory Committee. He has also been the scientific representative on other Resource Assessment Groups. Sandy has experience with the assessment of invertebrate, chondrichthyan and teleost fisheries including commercial and recreational fisheries in freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats and fisheries operating in tropical, temperate and polar environments.

He has particular expertise with fish age and growth and has been involved in the development and implementation of harvest strategies for several fisheries. He has over 20 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals (8 as senior author), 8 book chapters, and over 100 project reports, technical reports, client reports and papers in workshop and conference proceedings.

3.5 Surveillance meeting

The surveillance audit was carried out in accordance with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification Requirements v 2.0 for the audit process.

The issues for the certifier are whether the fishery has sufficiently acted on the required conditions set forth in the original certification report, and whether a random check on the performance of the fishery verifies continued compliance with the MSC standards.

The annual surveillance audit process is comprised of four general parts:

1. The certification assessment body (CAB) provides questions around areas of inquiry to determine if the fishery is maintaining the level of management observed during the original certification. In addition, the surveillance team requires that the client provide evidence that the fishery management system has taken the necessary actions to meet all conditions placed on the fishery during the initial certification assessment or any previous surveillance audits.
2. The surveillance/assessment team meets with the client fishery to allow the client to present the information gathered to answer the questions asked by the surveillance team. The surveillance team can then ask questions about the information provided to ensure its full understanding of how well the fishery management system is functioning and if the fishery management system is continuing to meet the MSC standards.
3. The surveillance team presents its findings to the client fishery at the end of the site visit. The results outline the assessment team's understanding of the information presented and its conclusion regarding the fishery management system's continued compliance with MSC standards. Where indicated, the surveillance team may provide the client fishery with additional time to supplement the information provided if the surveillance team finds that there are still issues requiring clarification.
4. Where appropriate, the client fishery submits final information to the surveillance/assessment team for consideration in the surveillance findings and report. The surveillance team then reviews the final information and submits a final report to the client fishery and the MSC for posting on the MSC website. If there are continued compliance concerns, these are presented as non-conformances that require further action and audits as specified in the surveillance report.

The surveillance audit for 2016 comprised:

1. An audit plan was provided to the client, management and scientists before the meeting. The opening meeting with the client included an exchange of information relevant to the surveillance audit.
2. A meeting took place on 10th May 2016, with client representatives Maurice Brownjohn, Richard Banks, Les Clark, Dr Sangaa Clark and Melino Bain-Vete present, and MSC representative Adrian Gutteridge as an observer.
3. Necessary documents were sent to SCS by the client prior to and during the meetings.

Table 3. Meeting Attendees.

Meeting Attendees	Role	Organization
Sabine Daume	Lead	SCS
Sandy Morison	P1 Expert	SCS
Richard Banks	Client representative	PNAO
Maurice Brownjohn	Client representative	PNAO
Melino Bain-Vete	Client representative	PNAO
Sangaa Clark	Client representative	PNAO
Les Clark	Client representative	PNAO
Adrian Gutteridge	Observer	MSC

3.6 Data submitted

Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2011-04 (2012). Conservation and Management Measure for oceanic whitetip sharks.

Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2014-01 (2014). Conservation and Management Measure for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Commission Twelfth Regular Session. Agreed work plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-16. Bali Indonesia, 3-8 December 2015.

Harley, S., Williams, P., Nicol, S., Hampton, J. & Brouwer, S. (2015). The Western and Central Pacific tuna fishery: 2014 Overview and stock status. Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Oceanic Fisheries Programme. Tuna Fisheries Assessment Report No. 15.

PNA (2015). Revised PS VDS TAE for 2015-2017. PA20/WP.4 Rev.2. Parties to the Palau Arrangement. 20th Annual Meeting. 6 - 7 March 2015, Yap, FSM.

PNA (2015). Review of the PNA Purse Seine Vessel Day Scheme Final Report.

PNA (2016). Evaluation of Candidate Harvest Control Rules for the WCPO Skipjack Purse Seine Fishery. VDS-T&SC5/WP.7. VDS Technical & Scientific Committee 5th Meeting 28 - 30 March 2016 Tarawa, Kiribati.

PNA (2016). PA21/WP.1: Report of the Purse Seine VDS Administrator. Parties to the Palau Arrangement. 21st Annual Meeting. 31 March – 1 April 2016. Tarawa, Kiribati.

Rice, J. & Harley, S. (2012). Stock assessment of oceanic whitetip sharks in the western and central Pacific Ocean. WCPFC-SC9-2013/ SA-WP-03.

National Gazette Mo. G436. (2014). National tuna fishery management and development plan. Pp28

Note: In addition, all papers presented to meetings of WCPFC and its subsidiary bodies are publically available on the WCPFC website (www.wcpfc.int) and were also available to the audit team.

4. Results

4.1 Principle 1: Stock status and harvest control rules

Catch

Catches of skipjack tuna from 2005 to 2014 (Table 4) show that catches in the WCPFC convention area have continued to increase but that catches by the UoC have stabilized at levels lower than in 2010. The total WCPFC catch of skipjack tuna reached almost 2 million tonnes in 2014 and was the highest ever recorded. Catches of skipjack tuna by purse seine from PNA countries continue to represent over 60% of the total WCPFC catches (average 64% over the last 4 years) and the Unit of Certification (UoC) constitutes about half of the total WCPFC catch (average 48% over the last 4 years).

Table 4. Catch of skipjack tuna from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area (WCPFC) by all gears and by purse seines, by purse seine (PS) from all PNA waters, and from the Unit of Certification (PNA unassociated purse seine catch excluding archipelagic waters) (2005-2014). (WCPFC catches from SPC-OFP 2015, PNA and UoC catches provided by SPC).

Year	WCPFC catch	WCPFC PS catch		PNA PS catch		Unit of Certification catch		
	(tonnes)	(tonnes)	% of WCPFC	(tonnes)	% of WCPFC	(tonnes)	% of WCPFC	% of PNA
2005	1,404,443	1,056,573	75%	654,339	47%	318,779	23%	49%
2006	1,505,961	1,154,297	77%	771,610	51%	263,619	18%	34%
2007	1,657,565	1,277,592	77%	820,376	49%	353,533	21%	43%
2008	1,629,258	1,235,550	76%	802,753	49%	355,117	22%	44%
2009	1,793,700	1,416,844	79%	919,415	51%	370,373	21%	40%
2010	1,695,584	1,307,476	77%	1,086,959	64%	674,783	40%	62%
2011	1,540,313	1,178,489	77%	1,005,275	65%	400,427	26%	40%
2012	1,774,705	1,413,974	80%	1,160,642	65%	565,987	32%	49%
2013	1,842,472	1,481,754	80%	1,146,537	62%	616,410	33%	54%
2014	1,982,578	1,599,770	81%	1,237,565	62%	617,870	31%	50%

Catches of yellowfin tuna from 2005 to 2014 (Table 5) show that catches in the WCPFC convention area have continued to increase but that catches by the UoC have been lower in 2013 and 2014 and remain lower than the maximum in 2010. The total catch of yellowfin tuna exceeded 600,000 tonnes in 2014 and was the highest ever recorded. Catches of yellowfin tuna by purse seine from PNA countries represents just under 50% of the total WCPFC catch in 2014 (average 54% over the last 4 years) and the Unit of Certification (UoC) constituted 21% of the total WCPFC catch in 2014 (average 27% over the last 4 years).

Table 5. Catch of yellowfin tuna from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area (WCPFC) by all gears and by purse seines, by purse seine (PS) from all PNA waters, and from the Unit of Certification (PNA unassociated purse seine catch excluding archipelagic waters) (2005-2014). (WCPFC catches from SPC-OFP 2015, PNA and UoC catches provided by SPC).

Year	WCPFC catch	WCPFC PS catch		PNA PS catch		Unit of Certification catch		
	(tonnes)	(tonnes)	% of WCPFC	(tonnes)	% of WCPFC	(tonnes)	% of WCPFC	% of PNA
2005	547,574	363,775	66%	264,522	48%	111,454	20%	42%
2006	479,788	298,926	62%	235,672	49%	86,320	18%	37%
2007	511,711	323,554	63%	232,558	45%	101,261	20%	44%
2008	603,244	417,574	69%	311,865	52%	165,670	27%	53%
2009	537,301	310,038	58%	245,579	46%	83,279	15%	34%
2010	556,135	340,181	61%	335,479	60%	206,250	37%	61%
2011	519,923	298,791	57%	300,385	58%	131,817	25%	44%
2012	588,078	359,073	61%	354,640	60%	202,843	34%	57%
2013	551,177	340,492	62%	286,779	52%	141,605	26%	49%
2014	611,876	365,713	60%	287,945	47%	131,250	21%	46%

Effort

Limits on the number of days fished continues to be the main tool used by the PNA to limit total catch. This is implemented through the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) administered by the PNA Office (PNAO). The Total Allowable Effort (TAE) set under the VDS has been set at 2010 levels to prevent any increases in fishing effort but the scope of the VDS has been expanding. It now includes an allowance for Tokelau (1000 days) and the US fleet came under the VDS for part of 2013 and all of 2014.

Furthermore, the assessment team were advised that some countries, including the Solomon Islands and PNG (see section 4.3 for a complete list), have made changes to domestic management arrangements with the intention of bringing all purse seine effort in their EEZs under this TAE, including all effort by domestic vessels and all effort by foreign fleets that had previously been managed outside the TAE. These new pieces of legislation have not been reviewed in detail but this will occur at re-assessment when the level of additional control on fishing effort provided by these instruments will be determined.

The restriction of effort levels to 2010 levels was endorsed by WCPFC in 2012 in Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2012-01 and has been incorporated into subsequent CMMs 2013-01, 2014-01 and 2015-01 (WCPFC 2013, 2014, 2015). In each of these CMMS it states that “Coastal States within the Convention Area that are Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) shall restrict the level of purse seine effort in their EEZs to 2010 levels through the PNA Vessel Days Scheme” (paragraph 20). The CMMs adopted by the WCPFC have also gradually increased their scope to include skipjack tuna and to remove exemptions for purse seine fishing within EEZs initially granted for effort by domestic fleets or foreign fleets fishing under existing access arrangements.

An issue that had previously been identified (SPC-OFP 2013) about the accuracy in reporting of non-fishing days (NFDs) was considered at the last surveillance audit. The audit team had concluded that this

weakness in the VDS was not currently considered sufficient to compromise the effectiveness of the VDS as a tool for limiting fishing effort to the desired levels. No new information has come to light to suggest that this conclusion does not remain valid.

The levels of purse seine fishing effort within PNA EEZs and archipelagic waters have remained relatively constant at around the 2010 levels as intended by the VDS (Figure 1). This is in contrast to effort levels from other waters (Figure 2) and demonstrates the effectiveness of the VDS for constraining fishing effort.

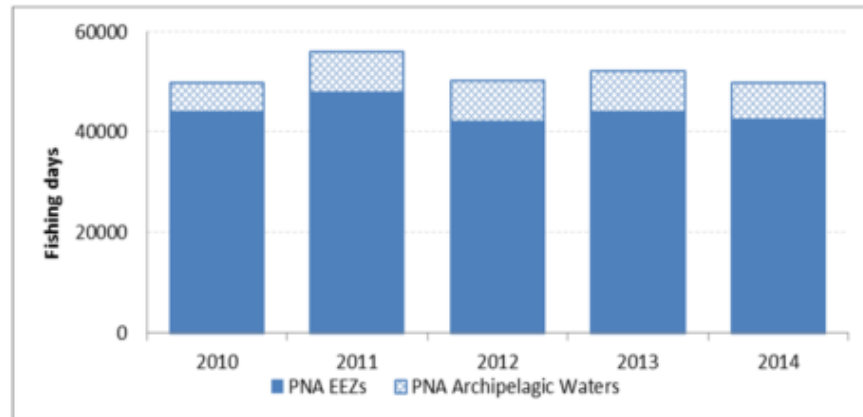


Figure 1. Purse seine effort (fishing days) in PNA waters. (from PNA 2015).

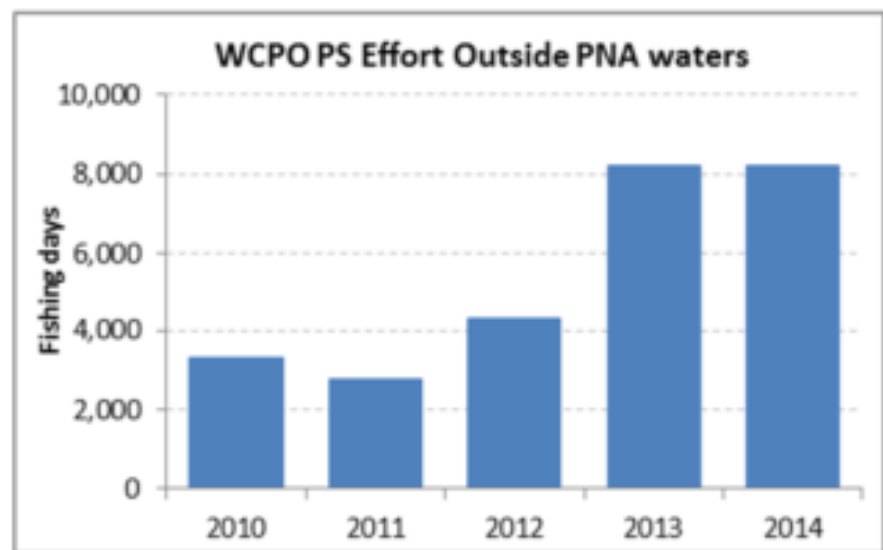


Figure 2. WCPO purse seine fishing effort outside PNA waters (from PNA 2015).

Stock assessment

At its meeting in 2015 the Scientific Committee noted that no stock assessments had been conducted for either skipjack or yellowfin tuna in 2015 and that the stock status descriptions from its previous meeting were still current (WCPFC 2015a).

Results of these assessments are represented as in Figure 3 for skipjack tuna and Figure 4 for yellowfin tuna.

Additional stochastic projections were undertaken in 2015 (Scott *et al.* 2015a) to assess the potential consequences of recent (2013 and 2014) catches on the current biological status of these stocks using three year stochastic projections (2013 to 2015) and catch multipliers for future years calculated as the ratio of 2013 and 2014 to 2012 catches. The results were the same for both skipjack and yellowfin tuna:

- the current spawning stock biomasses of each species were likely to be slightly greater than those estimated from the respective 2014 assessments, and
- it was exceptionally unlikely (<1%) that either stock would fall below the LRP in 2015 (95% confidence limits for SB/SB F=0,2002–2011 were 0.40 – 0.64 for skipjack tuna and 0.35 – 0.58 for yellowfin tuna).

Although there were no updates to the assessments there were a number of papers presented to the SC meeting that may have implications for future assessments of these tuna species. These include work on the methods of estimating purse seine catches (Hampton & Williams 2015), the potential for range contraction in skipjack tuna (Pilling *et al.* 2015), stock structure of yellowfin tuna (Aguilla *et al.* 2015), and alternative CPUE indices for purse seines (Scott *et al.* 2015b).

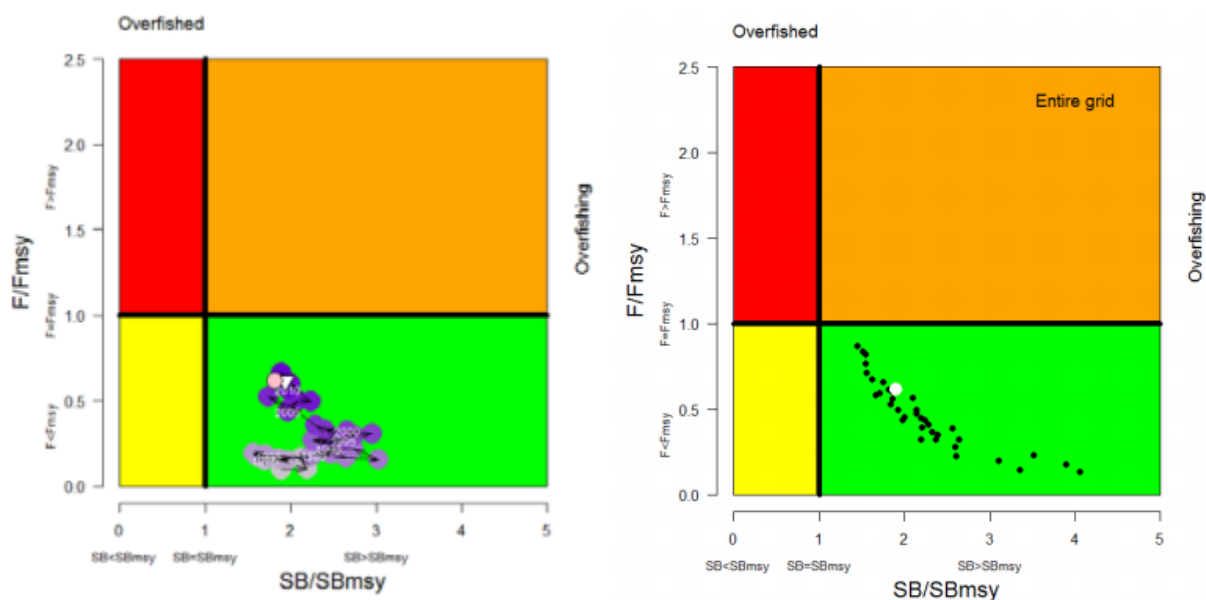


Figure 3. Skipjack tuna: Temporal trend in stock status (spawning biomass SB), relative to SB_{MSY} (x-axis) and F_{MSY} (y-axis) from the reference case (left) and summary of the latest stock status (2011) for the reference case (white dot) and the entire grid of sensitivities that were explored (right) (from Rice *et al.* 2014).

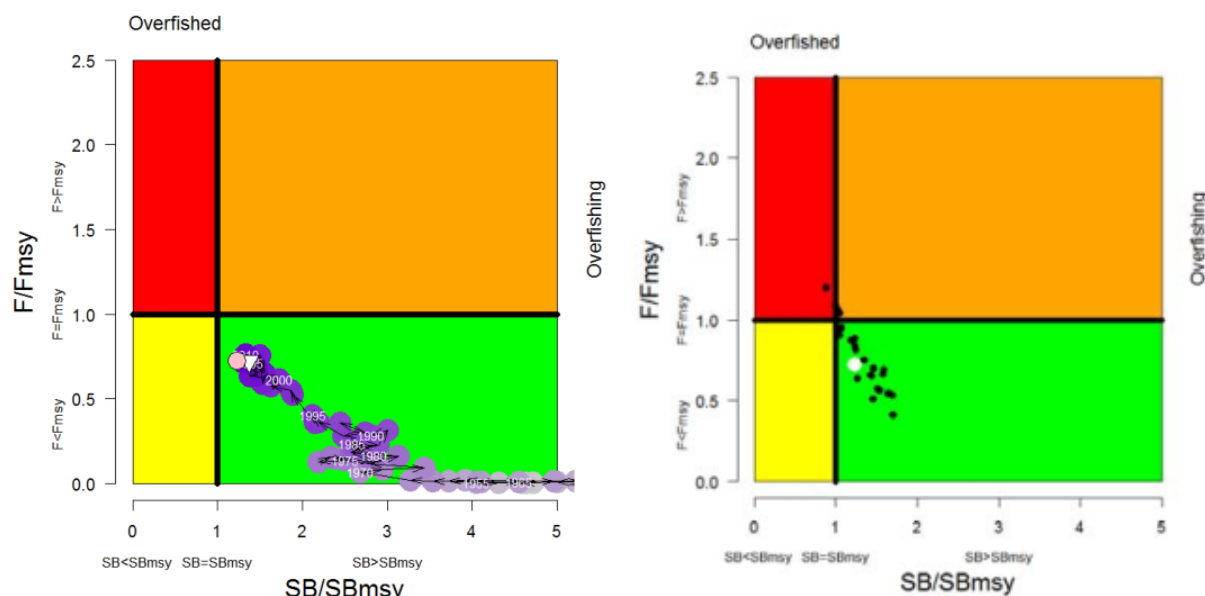


Figure 4. Yellowfin tuna: Temporal trend in stock status (spawning biomass SB), relative to SB_{MSY} (x-axis) and F_{MSY} (y-axis) from the reference case (left) and summary of the latest stock status (2011) for the reference case (white dot) and the entire grid of sensitivities that were explored (right) (from Davies *et al.* 2014).

Harvest Strategy and Harvest Control Rules

Since the last surveillance audit, there has been further progress on the development of a harvest strategy and harvest control rules for tuna species managed by the WCPFC. A fourth Harvest Strategy Workshop was held in December 2015 (<http://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/wcpfc-harvest-strategy-workshop>). An important step was the agreement at WCPFC 12 on a Workplan for the adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 (WCPFC 2015b-Attachment Y). The Commission also tasked the Scientific Committee with support from the Scientific Service Provider (SPC) to undertake the activities specified in the agreed workplan.

For skipjack tuna this workplan specifies that by the end of 2015, the Commission should firstly have recorded management objectives for skipjack noting advice provided by the Scientific Committee on a range of target reference points, and secondly agree to a Target Reference Point for skipjack. There is an objective specified in CMM 2015-01 (and its recent predecessors) to manage skipjack tuna so that “the Fishing Mortality Rate (F) for skipjack will be maintained at a level no greater than F_{msy} , i.e. $F/F_{msy} \leq 1$ ”. Also, at its December meeting, the Commission adopted CMM 2015-16 which specifies that the target reference point for the WCPO skipjack tuna stock shall initially be 50 per cent of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing, ($SB_{F=0, t1-t2}$). So, for skipjack tuna at least, the elements of the workplan are being delivered as expected. This reference point matched the interim target reference point previously adopted by PNA members at the PNA AGM in Ponape in June 2015.

There were no specific requirements in the workplan for progress for yellowfin tuna in 2015.

Harmonisation with other MSC Certified Fisheries

Since the PNA skipjack fishery was originally certified there have been a number of important developments that are relevant to the scores assigned to this fishery for Performance Indicators under Principle 1, and in particular for PI 1.2.1 and 1.2.2:

- The certification of several other WCPFC managed purse seine skipjack fisheries in which conditions were imposed for PI 1.2.1 (**Error! Reference source not found.**),
- Harmonization discussions among members of CABs undertaking the assessments of these fisheries,
- Objections to certification and a ruling upholding the objection by an Independent Adjudicator on the certification of a tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean,
- Additional guidance from MCS about the interpretation of these PIs, and
- A harmonization meeting of P1 experts in Hong Kong in April 2016.

Table 6. Summary of scores in most recent reports for WCPFC skipjack tuna fisheries.

Date published	Version	Fishery Name	1.1.1	1.1.2	1.2.1	1.2.2	1.2.3	1.2.4	Principle
PCR 2011	FAM v2	PNA Purse seine	100	90	80	60	85	95	84
PCDR Dec 2015	CR v1.3 (PI1.2.2 use v2)	Trimarine Purse seine	100	90	70	60	90	95	86.9
PCDR March 2016	CR v1.3 (PI1.2.2 use v2)	Solomon Islands Purse seine	100	90	70	60	90	95	86.9
CDR August 2015	CR v1.3 (PI1.2.2 use v2)	Japan Pole & Line	100	90	70	60	90	95	86.9

A key outcome of all this activity has been a review of the requirements for meeting SG 80 requirements for PI 1.2.1 and agreement among relevant CAB personnel that, for the WCPFC tuna fisheries, including those under the PNA's VDS, a score of only 70 is warranted and a condition is required. Rationales in support of this conclusion are contained in the PCRs for the relevant fisheries, which can be found on the MSC website. This score reflects the view that scoring issue "a" is not met as there is insufficient evidence that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.

This result would normally require that the score for the PNA skipjack fishery be revised to ensure consistency with these recent developments and the more recently scored fisheries. At the on-site meeting this position was raised with the client and additional discussion took place about the basis for the lower recent scores. The client proposed that these other assessments, and the discussions at the Hong Kong meeting, had not paid due weight to the basis for the original scores and in particular that

this score had also been subject to an objection but that the objection was not upheld by the Independent Adjudicator who considered the matter. Consequently, a further round of harmonization discussions took place among key assessors involved in the Hong Kong meeting. All the arguments were considered again, including the additional issues raised by the client, but the final agreement among the assessors remained in support of a score of 70 for PI 1.2.1.

Nevertheless, the assessment team were of the view that there was little to be gained from re-scoring the skipjack fishery at the final surveillance audit in the life of the current certificate. Therefore a Variation Request was submitted to MSC to allow that PI 1.2.1 not be re-scored for skipjack tuna at the 4th annual surveillance audit and proposed that the re-evaluation be deferred to the reassessment. This request was made because the reassessment for PNA Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna Fishery is due to start this year when a more detailed consideration could be given to the outcome of these recent harmonisation meetings. This request has been accepted by MSC and therefore no rescoring of PI 1.2.1 is being undertaken as part of this surveillance audit.

We note, however, that the client has remained firmly of the view that a condition on PI 1.2.1 is not warranted. A full evaluation of the arguments for and against this position is not presented here as no change to the score is being suggested at this stage. Such an evaluation will occur during re-assessment and the report of that assessment will contain a detailed rationale for the score determined.

4.2 Principle 2: Ecosystem Impacts from Fishing

The audit team was not advised of any changes to fishing operations that would have led to any material changes to the fishery's impact on retained species, bycatch, Endangered Threatened or Protected (ETP) species or the broader ecosystem.

Retained species

There is only one remaining retained species, bigeye tuna which will be considered a main retained species due to its vulnerability (yellowfin tuna has now been assessed under Principle 1). Percentage of total catch by weight estimated by observers from spill/ grab samples in 2011-2015 are very low (Table 9). The catches of bigeye tuna from the WCPFC for all gears in comparison to purse seiners, and from the Unit of Certification only are shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Catches of bigeye tuna from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area (WCPFC) by all gears and by purse seines, and from the Unit of Certification (PNA unassociated purse seine catch excluding archipelagic waters) in 2014 (WCPFC catches from SPC-OFP 2015, PNA and UoC catches provided by SPC).

Year	WCPFC catch	WCPFC PS catch		Unit of Certification catch		
	(tonnes)	(tonnes)	% of WCPFC	(tonnes)	% of WCPFC	% of PNA
2014	66547.54	52621.19	79%	6628	10%	13%

The stock assessment of bigeye tuna in 2014 (Harley *et al.* 2014) concluded that

- that recent levels of spawning potential are most likely at (based on 2008-11 average) or below (based on 2012) the level which will support the MSY;

- that recent levels of spawning potential are most likely at (based on 2008-11 average) or below (based on 2012) the limit reference point of $20\%SB_{F=0}$ agreed by WCPFC; and
- that recent levels of spawning potential are lower than candidate biomass-related target reference points currently under consideration for skipjack tuna, i.e., 40-60% $SB_{F=0}$.

The assessment also estimated the contribution of different sectors of the fishery to the reduction in spawning potential which confirmed previous analyses that also indicated that catches from the UoC were of minor importance compared to other sectors (Table 7).

Thus, although bigeye tuna is not highly likely to be within biologically based limits, the UoC is still not hindering the recovery or rebuilding of this species, as is required for continuing to meet the SG80 requirements of PI 2.1.1.

Bycatch species

The original assessment considered silky shark and blue marlin as main bycatch species due to their vulnerability. Percentage of total catch by weight estimated by observers from spill/ grab samples in 2011-2015 are very low (Table 9). The first surveillance audit in 2012 concluded that blue marlin is not considered outside biological limits and catch levels are low. Catches of blue marlin did not change significantly and remained low levels of 0.03% of total catch by weight in 2015.

However, the stock assessment of silky sharks in 2013 concluded that the species was overfished and subject to overfishing (Rice & Harley 2013). They are therefore still considered “main” bycatch species due to vulnerability. In response, a revised CMM has been introduced by WCPFC on silky sharks (CMM 2013-08). Catches of silky sharks have declined significantly from 2011-2015 however the CMM may have contributed little to this is not know because the decline from 2012 before the CMM was implemented to 2015 is only small (Table 8).

Table 8. Catch of Silky shark and Oceanic sharks (tonnes) from the Unit of Certification (PNA unassociated purse seine catch) (2011-2015) provided by SPC.

Year	Silky sharks	Oceanic sharks
2011	10013	60
2012	4351	56
2013	5202	50
2014	6266	71
2015	1770	35

The last stock assessment for oceanic whitetip sharks was completed in 2012 (Rice and Harley, 2012). Oceanic whitetip sharks are of concern and the latest SPC report by Harley *et al.* (2015) noted that assessments have shown that they are severely depleted. They are therefore considered “main” bycatch species due to vulnerability. In response the Conservation and Management Measure (CMM 2011-04) for oceanic whitetip sharks was released. Catches of oceanic sharks were lower in 2015 compared to any of the previous 4 years (Table 8). The re-assessment of the fishery will need to consider if the strategy to protect all shark species are effective.

Table 9: Top 20 species caught in PNA purse seine freeschool sets excluding archipelagic waters in kg and as % of total catch by weight. The data was collected by observers from spill/grab sample taken between 2011-2015. Main bycatch due to vulnerability –grey; ETP species –orange.

	Species name	kg	%
1	Skipjack	354487.8	84.40%
2	Yellowfin	59860.28	14.30%
3	Bigeye	4147.774	1.00%
4	Whale shark	580.415	0.10%
5	Silky shark	202.704	0.00%
6	Blue marlin	108.919	0.00%
7	Black marlin	86.671	0.00%
8	Tuna (no-ID)	64.343	0.00%
9	Rainbow runner	59.834	0.00%
10	Olive ridley turtle	41.451	0.00%
11	Mobula	37.407	0.00%
12	Giant manta	36.025	0.00%
13	Striped marlin	26.636	0.00%
14	Manta rays	25.327	0.00%
15	Mahi mahi	22.767	0.00%
16	Kawakawa	20.513	0.00%
17	Frigate tuna	17.971	0.00%
18	Albacore tuna	10.385	0.00%
19	Mackerel scad/ saba	9.301	0.00%
20	Sailfish (Indo-pacific)	8.119	0.00%

ETP species

The number of observed ETP interactions have declined in all species groups from 2011-2014 (Table 10). The condition related to ETP species set as part of the original assessment of the fishery in 2011 and closed out during the 2nd surveillance audit focussed on whale sharks. It is unclear if sets that interact with whale sharks (Table 10 below) would be disqualified as unassociated sets and therefore not eligible to carry the MSC logo. The re-assessment will need to consider sets that are truly classified as “unassociated” and number of ETP interactions encountered for those.

Table 10. Number of ETP interactions in the PNA unassociated purse seine fishery (excluding archipelagic waters) based on observer data (2011-2016) of ca. 30,000 free-school sets.

Year	Marine Mammals	Manta rays	Whale shark	Turtles
2011	12	493	41	89
2012	16	934	108	67
2013	14	905	85	114
2014	6	587	44	42

4.3 Principle 3: Fishery management

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the tuna RFMO for the WCPO, the Parties to the Nauru Agreements regional organisation that provide management services to the WCPFC and the PNA, including the FFA and the SPC and the PNA national governments are the key fisheries management and governance institutions. There have been no changes in key staff affecting this fishery at any of the involved agencies or institutions since the last surveillance audit.

National legislation of several countries have been updated recently and since the last surveillance audit. These include:

- The (PNG) Fisheries Management (amendment) Act, 2015
- The (Solomon Islands) Fisheries Management, 2015
- Title 51 of the Marshall Islands Fisheries Code
- The (Tuvalu) Marine Resources Amendment Act, 2015
- The (Kiribati) Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2015.

Revisions are also in process to update the Nauru Fisheries Act.

Revision have been made to strengthen the commitments to international conventions and international codes of conduct, the application of national licensing rules, the powers of inspectors, and the use of penalties, including an increase in fine schedules to reflect the economic gains from non-compliance.

A full review of these updates will occur as part of the re-assessment.

A range of new CMMs were adopted at WCPFC10 in 2014 and 2015. Others that are concerned with other species or other aspects of the Commission's operations are available at

<http://www.wcpfc.int/conservation-and-management-measures>

National Management Plans have been updated to embrace the application of WCPFC CMMs, PNA implementation arrangements and specific measures to implement compatible measures (Vessel days) for Archipelagic Waters. New management plans are in place for FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, PNG, RMI, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

All national licensing regulations incorporate FFA Minimum Terms and Conditions, and these incorporate amendments to the WCPFC Management Measures.

Most of the PNA countries, Federated States of Micronesia, PNG, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Tuvalu have set out National Plans of Action against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing. These are now being rolled out in each country with the development of inspection plans.

As part of the strengthening of inspection and reporting, the Parties are strengthening the application of the Fisheries Integrated Management System (FIMS), with a move port-to-port data sharing, enhanced asset tracking (through standalone VMS, e-reporting, observer real time reporting, shared boarding and compliance applications and processing data using e-Catch Document Scheme (e-CDS). Seven of the 9 PNA countries (including Tokelau) have signed a data sharing MoU, allowing access to all fishing vessel, offloading and transshipment data.

Conditions

Skipjack tuna 1.2.2

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	Skipjack tuna 1.2.2	There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place.	70
Condition	<p>By the fourth annual surveillance and within 5 years of certification, PNA and/or WCPFC must be in a position to demonstrate that the SG80 requirements have been met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. The selection of the harvest control rules shall take into account the main uncertainties. 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 		
Milestones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for the development and adoption of appropriate HCRs for skipjack, including scientific analysis to assess the scope for SG80 requirements applying to the whole stock to be met by PNA actions and consideration of the main uncertainties, should be in place by the first surveillance audit. If the analysis to be undertaken in Year 1 demonstrates that adoption of appropriate HCRs for the WCPO skipjack stock by PNA will be effective, proposals for adoption of appropriate HCRs by PNA should be prepared and under consideration by PNA by the second annual surveillance audit. PNA should promote the adoption of appropriate HCRs for skipjack by the WCPFC; if the analysis in Year 1 shows that WCPFC action is necessary, and then this promotion within WCPFC will be essential in meeting this condition. By the third surveillance audit, PNA should either adopt appropriate HCRs for the WCPO skipjack stock or support specific proposals for adoption of appropriate HCRs by the WCPFC. HCRs within PNA (and/or WCPFC) should be in place by the fourth surveillance audit. 		

<p>This meets the requirements of the SG 60 level.</p>	<p>In response to the first year conclusion, the client revised their action plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The PNA Parties also commit to commissioning an external review of the integrity of the VDS. Harvest Control Rules are in the process of being developed, and are planned to be in place by the end of year 4. In addition, in order to ensure that the rules and tools applied, are effective and more specifically are consistent with the VDS text, and that parties comply with the PAE restriction set, PNA is arranging for an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the VDS in 2014. ■ Once the TRP has been set, PNA has also arranged, as part of their ongoing support to PNA, for SPC to undertake a separate evaluation of the effectiveness of the tools in use, and to demonstrate their effectiveness, or otherwise in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules. This is scheduled be completed by 2015. <p>These commitments represent part of a continuous and ongoing review of management systems within the PNA, in which experts are engaged at regular intervals to explore all aspects of tuna fisheries management. In the event that there are changes to the harvest control tools, PNA plans to engage experts to evaluate the effectiveness of any changes made.</p>
<p>Progress on Condition</p>	<p>The client was assessed as being on target for meeting this condition at the first three surveillance audits. The agreed milestone for the 4th annual audit was that “ HCRs within PNA (and/or WCPFC) should be in place by the fourth surveillance audit.”</p> <p>Neither PNA nor WCPFC have adopted HCRs. A workplan for their development was agreed at WCPFC 12 in December 2015. This workplan indicates that, for skipjack tuna, in 2018 the Commission will “consider advice on progress towards harvest control rules”. It does not specify a timetable for agreeing these HCRs. This workplan represents important progress but cannot be considered sufficient to meet the milestone and to close out the condition. The condition is therefore considered to be behind target.</p>
<p>Status of condition</p>	<p>Behind target.</p> <p>Progress at WCPFC has been slower than was envisaged under the Client Action Plan. Harvest control rules are the fifth of six elements required in the WCPFC workplan for each species. The workplan has been agreed to, but its timeframe allows more time for their development than was allowed under the Client Action Plan. This condition required that, by the fourth surveillance audit, “HCRs within PNA (and/or WCPFC) should be in place”. HCRs are not yet in place either within PNA or WCPFC.</p> <p>One of the outcomes of recent harmonisation discussions was the proposal to align all relevant Client Action Plans with this WCPFC workplan. This would require a revision to the current Client Action Plan. Such a revision has not been contemplated in this surveillance audit but would be appropriate after the re-assessment when all scores and conditions would be reviewed.</p>

Yellowfin tuna 1.2.1

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	Yellowfin tuna 1.2.1	There is a robust and precautionary harvest strategy in place.	70
Condition	By the 4 th surveillance audit, the client shall demonstrate that 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>At the 1st annual surveillance audit and at each subsequent surveillance audit if appropriate, the client will submit evidence that it is working actively to ensure that the harvest strategy for WCPO yellowfin tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements are working together to achieve the management objectives, including a summary of the actions taken by the client and other members of the WCPFC to achieve this outcome. Score 70.</p> <p>By the fourth annual surveillance audit (2020), the client will provide evidence that 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. Score 80.</p>		
Client action plan	<p>In order to ensure that a harvest strategy for WCPO yellowfin tuna is implemented which is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements are working together to achieve the management objectives, the client will provide evidence of:</p> <p>Year 1-2017</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support by PNA for the implementation of a harvest strategy process for the WCPO, including the adoption of a harvest strategy for WCPO yellowfin tuna. 2. Support by PNA for the adoption of a WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan that includes a process for development of a harvest strategy for WCPO yellowfin tuna. 3. Promotion by PNA of consideration by the WCPFC the effectiveness of measures for WCPO yellowfin tuna management. <p>Year 2-2018</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support by PNA for the implementation of a harvest strategy process for the WCPFC, including the adoption of a harvest strategy for WCPO yellowfin tuna. 2. Support by PNA for work towards the adoption of a formal harvest strategy for WCPO yellowfin tuna. 3. Actions to by PNA to raise awareness of the need for any additional WCPFC yellowfin management measures among PNA Members. 4. Activities undertaken either directly by PNA or through FFA to ensure appropriate focus is given to more effective measures for WCPO yellowfin tuna management at the 13th Session of the WCPFC (December 2016). 5. Support by PNA for the undertaking of a new assessment for WCPO yellowfin tuna in 2017 (at latest). <p>Year 3-2019</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support by PNA for work towards the adoption of a formal harvest strategy for WCPO yellowfin tuna. 2. Actions by PNA to raise awareness of the need for any additional WCPFC yellowfin management measures among PNA Members. 3. Activities undertaken by PNA either directly or through FFA to include appropriate measures for the effective management of WCPO yellowfin tuna in the CMM for 		

	<p>tropical tunas that replaces the current CMM 2014-01 which is scheduled to terminate in December 2017.</p> <p>4. Preparation by PNA or SPC of an assessment of how the elements of the harvest strategy for WCPO yellowfin tuna work together to achieve the management objectives for this fishery.</p> <p>5. Actions by PNA Members to promote the adoption by PNA and/or the WCPFC of any additional management measures needed for WCPO yellowfin tuna.</p> <p>Year 4-2020</p> <p>The harvest strategy for WCPO yellowfin tuna being responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy working together towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.</p>
Progress on Condition	<p>The PNA has been engaged in and supportive of the process for the development of the a harvest strategy for yellowfin through a range of measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proponents (with other FFA Members) of the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan (seeWCPFC12-2015-DP09_rev1 • Participation in the 2015 Harvest Strategy Workshop in Bali • Support for the WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan CMM and associated resourcing at WCPFC • Requested that future evaluations of the Tropical Tuna CMM should include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the measure for yellowfin (see para 266 of the WCPFC12 Report
Status of condition	Open, on target

Yellowfin tuna 1.2.2

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	Yellowfin tuna 1.2.2	There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place.	60
Condition	<p>By the fourth surveillance audit (2020) for the fishery, PNA and/or WCPFC shall demonstrate that:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The selection of the harvest control rules shall take into account the main uncertainties.</p> <p>Evidence shall be provided that indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p>		
Milestones	<p>At the 1 st annual surveillance audit (2017) and at each subsequent surveillance audit until the adoption of control rules, the client will submit evidence that it is working actively to promote the adoption by the WCPFC of well-defined harvest control rules for WCPO yellowfin tuna, including a summary of the actions taken by the client and other members of the WCPFC to achieve this outcome. Score 65.</p> <p>By the fourth annual surveillance audit (2020), the client will provide evidence that the harvest control rules and associated management actions are put in place. Score 80.</p>		
Client action plan	<p>To support the development of appropriate harvest control rules for the WCPO yellowfin tuna stock the respective years the client will provide evidence of:</p> <p>Year 1-2017</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreement by PNA to support and promote the implementation of a harvest strategy process for the WCPO, including the adoption of harvest control rules for WCPO yellowfin tuna. 2. Promotion by PNA of the adoption of harvest control rules for WCPO yellowfin tuna taking into account the main uncertainties at the WCPFC and relevant subsidiary bodies, including the Scientific Committee. 3. Support by PNA for the adoption of a WCPFC Harvest Strategy Workplan that includes a process for development of harvest control rules for WCPO yellowfin tuna <p>Year 2-2018</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support by PNA at the WCPFC and its subsidiary bodies for work towards the development of harvest control rules for WCPO yellowfin tuna. 2. Provision by PNA of any requested support and data for SPC analyses on harvest control rules for WCPO yellowfin tuna to support any further discussions at PNA, FFA and the WCPFC Scientific Committee. 3. Actions by PNA to raise awareness of the need for any additional WCPFC yellowfin management measures among PNA Members. <p>Year 3-2019</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support by PNA at the WCPFC and its subsidiary bodies for work towards the development of harvest control rules for WCPO yellowfin tuna. 2. Provision by PNA of any requested support and data for SPC analyses on harvest control rules for WCPO yellowfin tuna to support any further discussions at PNA, FFA and the WCPFC Scientific Committee. 3. Actions by PNA Members to promote the adoption of any additional management measures needed for WCPO yellowfin tuna. 		

	Year 4-2020 Appropriate harvest control rules for WCPO yellowfin tuna being in place and associated management actions being taken. Score 80.
Progress on Condition	<p>There are no specific milestones required for 2016 for yellowfin tuna as the species was added to the certificate only recently, in February 2016.</p> <p>Neither PNA nor WCPFC have adopted HCRs. A workplan for their development was agreed at WCPFC 12 in December 2015. This workplan indicates that, for yellowfin tuna, in 2018 the Commission will “agree performance indicators to evaluate harvest control rules”. It does not specify a timetable for agreeing these HCRs. This workplan represents important progress but cannot be considered sufficient to meet the milestone required to close out the condition. The condition therefore remains open.</p>
Status of condition	<p>Open, on target</p> <p>One of the outcomes of recent harmonisation discussions was the proposal to align all relevant Client Action Plans with this WCPFC workplan. This would require a revision to the current Client Action Plan. Such a revision has not been contemplated in this surveillance audit but should be reviewed after the re-assessment when all scores will be determined including for yellowfin tuna.</p>

Recommendations (all for skipjack tuna)

Recommendation 1.

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	1.2.1	There is a robust and precautionary harvest strategy in place.	
Recommendation	PNA to draw up a management strategy for PNA which integrates existing elements to apply specifically to the skipjack harvest and is linked to limit and target reference points established as per Condition 1 and 2. PNA vigorously pursues the adoption of a management strategy for WCPO skipjack in WCPFC.		
Progress (June 2016)	. PNA is not looking to develop its own management strategy but has promoted the adoption of a management (harvest) strategy for WCPFC through support for the series of Management Objectives Workshops and the workplan that has been adopted.		

Recommendation 2.

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	1.2.3	Relevant information is collected to support the harvest strategy	

Recommendation	Encouragement of, and support through the WCPFC, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam to further develop their fisheries information systems, largely within the framework of ongoing initiatives.
Progress (June 2016)	The audit team was advised that PNA has continued to actively support the Western Pacific East Asian Oceanic Fisheries Programme funded by GEF through SPC, which seeks to strengthen information systems in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam.

Recommendation 3.

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	2.1.2	There is a strategy in place to manage retained species that is designed to ensure that the fishery does not pose a risk of serious irreversible harm to retained species.	
Recommendation	PNA provide documented evidence that the partial strategy continues to be implemented successfully for bigeye and yellowfin tuna.		
Progress (June 2016)	PNA has actively participated in the development of management actions as part of CMM 2013-01 and the more recent CMM 2014-01, and will develop specific activities over the period 2015-2017. Yellowfin is now assessed as a P1 species.		

Recommendation 4.

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	2.2.3	Information on the nature and amount of bycatch species taken is adequate to determine the risk posed by the fishery and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage bycatch species.	
Recommendation	<p>Stock assessments for silky shark and blue marlin (ISC, 2013) will provide greater understanding of the status of these stocks as will planned shark assessments for WCPFC. Results of these should be reviewed. The PNA Parties have also commissioned an external review of the integrity of the VDS. Harvest Control Rules are in the process of being developed, and are planned to be in place by the end of year 5. In addition, in order to ensure that the rules and tools applied, are effective and more specifically are consistent with the VDS text, and that parties comply with the PAE restriction set, PNA is arranging for an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the VDS in 2014.</p> <p>Once the TRP has been set, PNA has also arranged, as part of their ongoing support to</p>		

	PNA, for SPC to undertake a separate evaluation of the effectiveness of the tools in use, and to demonstrate their effectiveness, or otherwise, in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules. This is scheduled be completed by 2015.
Progress (June 2016)	<p>A stock assessment for silky shark has been completed and has resulted in measures to protect this species being adopted at WCPFC10 in December 2013.</p> <p>The effectiveness of the strategies in achieving and other tools have not been investigated for the retained species.</p>

Recommendation 5.

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	3.1.3	The management policy has clear long-term objectives to guide decision-making that are consistent with MSC Principles and Criteria, and incorporates the precautionary approach.	
Recommendation	The PNAO will also review the Nauru agreement and related instruments to ensure that the appropriate principles including the precautionary approach are required to be applied.		
Progress (June 2016)	Revisions are in process to update the Nauru Fisheries Act. National Management Plans have been updated to embrace the application of WCPFC CMMs, PNA implementation arrangements and specific measures to implement compatible measures (Vessel days) for Archipelagic Waters. New management plans are in place for FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, PNG, RMI, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.		

5. Conclusion

SCS finds that the PNA Unassociated Purse Seine fishery continues to meet the standards of the MSC and complies with the 'Requirements for Continued Certification.' In this audit cycle, the one remaining condition for skipjack (on PI 1.2.2) was judged to be behind target. The conditions for yellowfin tuna (1.2.1 and 1.2.2) were judged to be on target and to remain open with the timelines set for yellowfin tuna. Progress toward closing the remaining condition will be re-evaluated at the re-assessment of the fishery.

6. References

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Appendix 1. Revised Surveillance Program

Table A 1.1 : Surveillance level rationale

Year	Surveillance activity	Number of auditors	Rationale
4	On-site audit	2 Auditors	<i>The fishery has conditions only related to one Principle (Principle 1). Information needed to verify progress towards conditions 1.2.1, 1.2.2. will be provided remotely ahead of the audit. The CAB proposes to have an on-site audit with 2 auditors meeting with relevant client representatives as well as scientists and stakeholders in Brisbane, Australia to ensure that all information is collected and can be discussed face to face.</i>

Table A 1.2: Timing of surveillance audit

Year	Anniversary date of certificate	Proposed date of surveillance audit	Rationale
4	20 June 2017 (with approved certificate extension)	May 2016	<p><i>The fishery has currently one remaining open condition for PI 1.2.2. for skipjack tuna and PI 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 for yellowfin tuna.</i></p> <p><i>The MSC has developing new guidance on 1.2.2 clarifying the intent of the scoring guidepost which will influence the rescoring of the PI and the re-scoring of the whole fishery at the reassessment which will commence after the 4th annual surveillance audit.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the guidance, the MSC is also proposing to align scores and Action Plans for tuna fisheries under WCPFC management. MSC plans to convene a harmonization meeting in April of all the CABs with Western Pacific tuna fisheries in assessment or certified. The outcome of this workshop is also going to influence the re-assessment of the fishery.</i></p> <p><i>SCS proposes to postpone the annual audit and the start of the re-assessment to include findings of the harmonization workshop in relation to the PI 1.2.2.</i></p>

Table A1.3: Fishery Surveillance Program

Surveillance Level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
5	<i>On-site surveillance audit</i>	<i>On-site surveillance audit</i>	<i>On-site surveillance audit</i>	<i>On-site surveillance audit</i>