

MSC Fishery Announcement

*Philippine Small-Scale Yellowfin Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) Handline Fishery*

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Table 1 – Fishery announcement

1	Fishery name
	Philippine Small-Scale Yellowfin Tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) Handline 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 v2.1 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments as it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 v2.1 7.4.2.1, 7.4.2.2, 7.4.3, 7.4.5) ✓ The fishery does not engage in shark finning, has mechanisms for resolving disputes (FCP v2.1 7.4.5.1), and has not previously failed assessment or had a certificate withdrawn. ✓ Is not an enhanced or IPI fishery, is not based on an introduced species (FCP v2.1 7.4.6, 7.4.7, 7.5.8-13) ✓ The fishery does overlap with other MSC certified or applicant fisheries, including: WPSTA Yellowfin and Skipjack Purse Seine Fishery, North Buru and Maluku Fair Trade Fishing Associations, Indonesian Handline Yellowfin Tuna, and Tri Marine Western and Central Pacific Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna Overlap with another MSC certified or applicant fishery has been considered and scores will be harmonized for the relevant principles. ✓ And does not include an entity successfully prosecuted for violating forced labor laws (FCP v2.1 7.4.4) ✓ The units of assessment, certification, and eligible fishers have been defined, traceability risks characterized, and certificate sharing mechanisms decided (FCP v2.1 7.5.1-7.5.7)

5	Unit(s) of Assessment - UoA(s)														
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #709238; color: white;"> <th style="padding: 5px;">UoA 1</th><th style="padding: 5px;">Description</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Species</td><td style="padding: 5px;">Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Stock</td><td style="padding: 5px;">Western and Central Pacific Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)</td><td style="padding: 5px;">Handline (hook and line) – Free sets & anchored FAD sets</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Client group</td><td style="padding: 5px;">Philippine Tuna Handline Partnership (PTHP)</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Other eligible fishers</td><td style="padding: 5px;">Other municipal vessels (>3GT) licensed and registered in the Philippines</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Geographical area</td><td style="padding: 5px;">Municipal (territorial) and EEZ waters of the Philippines</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	UoA 1	Description	Species	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Stock	Western and Central Pacific Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Handline (hook and line) – Free sets & anchored FAD sets	Client group	Philippine Tuna Handline Partnership (PTHP)	Other eligible fishers	Other municipal vessels (>3GT) licensed and registered in the Philippines	Geographical area	Municipal (territorial) and EEZ waters of the Philippines
UoA 1	Description														
Species	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)														
Stock	Western and Central Pacific Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)														
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Handline (hook and line) – Free sets & anchored FAD sets														
Client group	Philippine Tuna Handline Partnership (PTHP)														
Other eligible fishers	Other municipal vessels (>3GT) licensed and registered in the Philippines														
Geographical area	Municipal (territorial) and EEZ waters of the Philippines														
6	Certificate sharing statement														
	Certificate Sharing is not applicable.														
7	Name of proposed team leader														
	<p><u>Brian Ahlers – SCS Global Services – Principle 2 Expert and Team Lead</u></p> <p>Mr. Brian Ahlers has eight years' experience in fisheries, marine conservation, and marine resource management. He holds an MSc in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University, and a BS in Biology from Dalhousie University with a particular focus on fisheries. Brian supports academic, government, non-profit, and private organizations through his efforts on marine resource management issues, which includes over four years of research experience regarding endangered, threatened, or protected species, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fisheries, and aquatic ecosystem habitats. At Oregon State University, Brian conducted a value-chain approach to investigate perceptions and attitudes within the West Coast US Seafood industry regarding product traceability as a tool to address social, economic, and environmental needs and opportunities within the seafood industry. Using social science techniques including interviews, focus groups, and questionnaires, Brian engaged over 300 diverse stakeholders representing a wide range of firms involved with industrial and smaller scale operations in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii for both wild-capture and aquaculture production. Building on his graduate research, Brian applies his interdisciplinary expertise in fisheries policy and management, marine policy, fishery information systems, and food systems to help organizations achieve social and environmental outcomes related to fisheries and seafood. Brian demonstrates specialized knowledge in seafood traceability architecture as a researcher and industry professional, including his role</p>														

	<p>as an independent reviewer of proposals for traceability systems implementation. Through his work in South Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, South Pacific, and US West Coast, Brian developed expertise with the MSC Standard, Fair Trade Standard, other market-driven tools, and regulatory drivers of global fisheries and seafood sustainability improvements.</p> <p>The proposed team leader meets the MSC Team leader qualifications in that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Completed training meeting requirements in Table 1 of GCRV2.4, as evidenced by the certificate of passing auditor training for the ISO course 19011 ✓ Relevant degree and/or equivalent experience in the fisheries sector related to tasks under responsibility of a team leader (Evidence: MSc in Marine Resource Management) ✓ Completed of the latest MSC training modules applicable to this assessment (V2.2 Team Leader MSC modules) within the past five years (June 26, 2020) ✓ 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. (June 26, 2020) ✓ Has undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last 5 years, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 full assessment 2. 2 Surveillance Audits ✓ 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. ✓ Has affirmed he holds no conflict of interest
8	<p>Name(s) of proposed team members</p> <p>All Team Members meet the following Team Member requirements:</p> <p><u>Gerard Dinardo, Senior Technical Specialist at SCS, Responsible for Principles 1</u></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 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 published 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</p>

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

- ✓ With relevant degree (PhD from the University of Maryland) and over 5 years of research experience in a marine conservation biology and fisheries
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules (FCP v2.2) for Team Members within the last 5 years.
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.
- ✓ The team member will be onsite (or remote due to COVID-19 travel restrictions)

Brian Ahlers – SCS Global Services – Principle 2 Expert and Team Lead

See bio above.

Mr. Ahlers' experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.2):

- ✓ With relevant degree (MS in Marine Resource Management, Oregon State University) 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.
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.
- ✓ The team member will be offsite (due to COVID-19 travel restrictions)

Dr. Michael Harte – Professor in Oregon State University – Principle 3 Expert

Dr Michael Harte is a Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University in the USA, having trained in physical geography and economics in New Zealand and Canada. He is recognized internationally as a fisheries and marine policy adviser, researcher, educator and program leader. He has held senior positions in the private, public, academic and NGO sectors in Australia, the US, the Falkland Islands, Canada and New Zealand.

Dr Harte has extensive policy and economic analysis experience working with commercial and small-scale fisheries, ecosystem-based fisheries management, bio-economic analysis of fisheries, climate impacts on fisheries, eco-labelling, cost recovery and resource rents in fisheries, and the development of policies and regulations associated with the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries, as well as work on seafood markets and traceability. His work spans both academic and practical fishery management domains.

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

- ✓ With relevant degree a PhD in Geography from University of Victoria, and over 5 years of research experience in management or research experience in a marine conservation biology, fisheries, and natural resources
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members (FCP v2.2 within the last 5 years (September 2020).
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.
- ✓ The team member will be onsite (or remote due to COVID-19 travel restrictions)

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

- ✓ Dr. 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. 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. 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.
- ✓ Brian Ahlers 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 his expertise in IUU, fishery information systems, marine conservation, and fisheries management over the last eight years.
- ✓ Dr. Harte 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 Prof. Harte's efforts on the Science and Statistical Committee of the US Pacific Fisheries Management Council since 2016. He serves on the Social and Economics, Highly Migratory Species, Ecosystem, and Salmon subcommittee where he reviews a wide range of technical analysis that is provided to the US Pacific Fisheries Management Council. He has provided Fisheries Advice since 1998 working for Industry, Govt and academia.
- ✓ Dr. Harte has current knowledge of the Philippines , language and local fishery context. As evidenced by several years of experience working on MSC pre-assessments in the region, and other past projects in the Philippines and WCPO on fisheries improvement projects.
- ✓ Understanding of the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements. As evidenced by Team Member Brian Ahlers completing the MSC's Traceability training module on August 2020.
- ✓ Use of the RBF as evidenced by Team Member Dr. Gerard DiNardo completing the MSC's RBF training course on July 2019.

9	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>The following are the the opportunities for stakeholders to participate during the assessment process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Announcement Comment Draft Report</i> – 60 days for stakeholder input (30 days if Re-Assessment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The consultation period ends November 29, 2020 at 17:00 UTC. 2. <i>Site Visit</i> – (Details in section 12 of this Announcement)- All members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders in person or remotely. 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. 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) 5. <i>Objection to Final Draft Report and Determination</i>– 15 calendar days open to objections from stakeholders that participated in previous consultation opportunities. <p>The following are the input methods for stakeholders to participate during the assessment process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 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>Click here for the hyperlink to the: MSC Template for Stakeholder Input Fishery Assessment</p>
10	Assessment tree to be used
	<p>The default V2.0 assessment tree is to be used without modification.</p>
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 July 2021, 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 is tentatively scheduled for the weeks of November 30 and December 6, 2020. 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 bahlers@scsglobalservices.com with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ your name and contact details; ■ your association with the fishery; and ■ the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation). <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 http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework, 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: Brian Ahlers

Date: September 23, 2020

Template information and copyright

The Marine Stewardship Council's 'MSC Fishery Announcement Template v2.01' and its content is copyright of "Marine Stewardship Council" - © "Marine Stewardship Council" 2019. All rights reserved.

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

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

Senior Policy Manager
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