

MSC Fishery Announcement

Owasebussan Co. Ltd. North Pacific Longline Tuna Fishery for Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna & Bigeye Tuna

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Table 1 – Fishery announcement

1	Fishery name																		
	Owasebussan Co. Ltd. North Pacific Longline Tuna Fishery for Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna & Bigeye Tuna																		
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has mechanisms for resolving disputes (FCP v2.1 7.4.5.1), and has not previously failed assessment or had a certificate withdrawn.✓ Is not an enhanced or IPI fishery, is not based on an introduced species (FCP v2.1 7.4.6, 7.4.7, 7.5.8-13)✓ The fishery does overlap with other MSC certified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: <p>Harmonized fisheries Western Pacific Yellowfin tuna</p> <table><tr><th>Fishery name</th><th>Status</th><th>CAB</th></tr><tr><td>Japanese Pole and Line skipjack and albacore tuna fishery</td><td>Certified</td><td>Lloyds Register (Acoura)</td></tr><tr><td>SZLC CSFC & FZLC FSM EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna</td><td>Certified</td><td>Control Union</td></tr><tr><td>MIFV RMI EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna</td><td>Certified</td><td>Control Union</td></tr><tr><td>Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery</td><td>In Assessment</td><td>Control Union</td></tr><tr><td>Walker Seafood Australian albacore, yellowfin tuna, and swordfish longline</td><td>Certified</td><td>q.inspecta GmbH</td></tr></table>	Fishery name	Status	CAB	Japanese Pole and Line skipjack and albacore tuna fishery	Certified	Lloyds Register (Acoura)	SZLC CSFC & FZLC FSM EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna	Certified	Control Union	MIFV RMI EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna	Certified	Control Union	Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery	In Assessment	Control Union	Walker Seafood Australian albacore, yellowfin tuna, and swordfish longline	Certified	q.inspecta GmbH
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American Samoa EEZ Albacore and Yellowfin Longline Fishery	Certified	Control Union
Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery	In Assessment	Control Union
SZLC, CSFC & FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore, yellowfin and bigeye longline	Certified	Control Union
Fiji Albacore and Yellowfin Tuna longline	Certified	Lloyds Register (Acoura)
Solomon Islands longline albacore and yellowfin tuna fishery	In Assessment	SCS Global Services
North Buru and Maluku Fair Trade Fishing Associations, Indonesian Handline Yellowfin Tuna	In Assessment	SCS Global Services
French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	Certified	Control Union

Harmonized fisheries Western Pacific Albacore

Fishery name	Status	CAB
Japanese Pole and Line skipjack and albacore tuna fishery	Certified	Lloyds Register (Acoura)
Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery	In Assessment	Control Union
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Fiji Albacore and Yellowfin Tuna longline	Certified	Lloyds Register (Acoura)
Solomon Islands longline albacore and yellowfin tuna fishery	In Assessment	SCS Global Services
New Zealand albacore tuna troll	Certified	Lloyds Register (Acoura)
French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	Certified	Control Union

Harmonized fisheries for Bigeye

Fishery name	Status	CAB
SZLC CSFC & FZLC FSM EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna	Certified	Control Union
MIFV RMI EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna	Certified	Control Union
Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery	In Assessment	Control Union
Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery	In Assessment	Control Union
SZLC, CSFC & FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore, yellowfin and bigeye longline	Certified	Control Union

- ✓ 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)

UoA 1	Description
Species	North Pacific Albacore, Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna
Stock	North Pacific Ocean

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Geographical area</td><td>North Pacific Ocean region of the WCPFC Convention Area</td></tr> <tr> <td>Harvest method / gear</td><td>Pelagic Longline</td></tr> <tr> <td>Client group</td><td>Owasebussan Co. Ltd.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other eligible fishers</td><td>None anticipated</td></tr> </table>	Geographical area	North Pacific Ocean region of the WCPFC Convention Area	Harvest method / gear	Pelagic Longline	Client group	Owasebussan Co. Ltd.	Other eligible fishers	None anticipated
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Harvest method / gear	Pelagic Longline								
Client group	Owasebussan Co. Ltd.								
Other eligible fishers	None anticipated								
6	Certificate sharing statement								
	Certificate Sharing is not applicable.								
7	Name of proposed team leader								
	<p>Gabriela Anhalzer-Program Manager at SCS Global Services, Team Lead</p> <p>Gabriela Anhalzer received a Masters degree in coastal environmental management from Duke University. Ms. Anhalzer has several years of experience in marine conservation and fisheries, she has worked as an independent consultant conducting evaluations of fishery improvement projects and as a fisheries policy and stakeholder specialist. She has also worked as an associated researcher in Latin America for sea turtle population studies, sea bird census, and supporting stakeholder engagement in participatory management of marine protected areas. Ms. Anhalzer has provided technical support for numerous MSC assessment and possess a comprehensive understanding of MSC fisheries standard and stages; meeting MSC's team leader qualifications and competency criteria. Ms. Anhalzer has received ISO 9001 auditor training, has completed the MSC training and has affirmed she has no conflict of interest.</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: Masters degree in coastal environmental management) ✓ Completed of the latest MSC training modules applicable to this assessment (V2.1 Team Leader MSC modules) within the past five years (July 8th, 2019) ✓ Has undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last 5 years (Evidence: Surveillance for the southern Gulf of California Thread Herring Fishery in Sinaloa & Nayarit Mexico, the Small pelagics fishery in Sonora, Gulf of California, US Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery, US Atlantic Spiny Dogfish Fishery, and the North-eastern Tropical Pacific Prise Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna Fishery.) ✓ Has demonstrated experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques, as verified by SCS records and previous audit reports. ✓ Is competent in the MSC Standard and current Certification Requirements, auditing techniques, and communication and stakeholder facilitation techniques, as verified by her completion of ISO 9001 auditor training. ✓ Has affirmed she holds no conflict of interest 								

8	Name(s) of proposed team members
	<p>All Team Members meet the following Team Member requirements:</p> <p>Gerard DiNardo, Senior Technical Associate at SCS Global Services, Responsible for Principle 1</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 was 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 v2.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ With a relevant degree (Ph.D. from the University of Maryland) or over 5 years of research experience in marine conservation biology, fisheries, natural resources or an environmental management position. ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (July 15th, 2019). ✓ Affirms he has no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment. <p>Makoto Suzuki, Founder, and consultant – Japan Fisheries Certification Support, Responsible for Principle 2</p> <p>Makoto is an independent consultant in Japan providing technical service related to MSC certification. Formerly, he was working for Marine Stewardship Council, as Fisheries Manager Japan. As outreach staff, he led Project Pre-Assessment in Japan, in which he supported a number of fisheries in multi locations to conduct pre-assessment, as well as supporting several individual fisheries to conduct assessments and to be certified. Before he joined MSC, he worked as an auctioneer for a seafood company in the famous Tsukiji Fish Market. In the traditional atmosphere of the fish market, he also was aware of the importance of sustainable fishery and seafood consumption, that led him to MSC and sustainable seafood movement. Apart from that, he also worked as a trainee fisherman in a rural fishing village when he was a student at Kyoto University. His final education is Master of Science (Global Fisheries Science) from the University of Tokyo, where he explored the supply chain of oysters in Japan.</p>

Mr. Suzuki's experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.1):

- ✓ With a relevant degree (Masters in Global Fisheries Science) or over 5 years in an environmental management position
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (March 25th, 2019).
- ✓ Affirms he has no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.

Reiko Omoto, Tottori University, Responsible for Principle 3

Dr. Omoto is an Associate Professor at Tottori University, Tottori, Japan who conducts research specialized in resource management certification schemes including organic certification for shrimp in Vietnam and MSC and ASC certification in Japan. She has a B.A. and an M.A. in Policy Studies from Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan, and a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Waterloo, Canada. She is the former Fisheries Manager of MSC Japan for 3.5 years until March 2013 responsible for fishery outreach, funding applications, and document translations from/to English to/from Japanese. She has been working with SCS in the conduct of MSC pre-assessments in Japan for over 3 years and has been involved in 6 pre-assessments on Principle 3 and assessment coordination including interpretation. She has been conducting research on how global certification schemes including MSC and ASC can be fit into Japanese sustainable fisheries in the context of the country's unique management systems.

Dr. Omoto's experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.1):

- ✓ With a relevant degree (Ph.D. in Geography) or over 5 years of research experience in marine conservation biology, fisheries, natural resources.
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (July 9th, 2019).
- ✓ 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 the curriculum.
- ✓ 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 being a 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).
- ✓ Mr. Suzuki 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 working in multiple MSC pre-assessments and small fisheries' assessments.
- ✓ Dr. Omoto meets the qualifications for 'Fishery management and operations' with 3 years' or more experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/policy analyst/consultant. As evidenced by working as a Fisheries Manager Japan for 3.5 years and the main author of research publications for natural resource management and guidelines.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mr. Suzuki and Dr. Omoto have current knowledge of country [Japan], language [Japanese] and local fishery context. As evidenced by being Japanese native speakers and by working in Japan for more than 25 years. ✓ Understanding of the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements. As evidenced by Team Member [Gabriela Anhalzer] completing the MSC's Traceability training module on [July 8th, 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The stakeholder consultation period ends on March 23th, 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 v2.1, 7.15.3) ■ Stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact (FCP v2.1, 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 v2.1 (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
	The default V2.0 assessment tree is to be used without modification.
11	Estimated timeline
	<p>The assessment is planned for completion within 8 months of the fishery announcement, with a certification date predicted for the start of December, 2020, if the assessment result is positive.</p> <p>A separate assessment timeline is included in the announcement materials which includes projected approximate dates for key versions of the report.</p>

12	Site visit
	<p>SCS invites participants to attend the site visit is tentatively scheduled for April in the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. 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 ganhalzer@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: Daniela Asar

Date: January 22, 2020

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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

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

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