

MSC Fishery Announcement

*Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna – purse seine (TUNACONS) fishery
July 9th, 2024*

Marine Stewardship Council fishery announcement

This document announces that the Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna – purse seine (TUNACONS) fishery is due to undergo a (re)assessment against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Standard for sustainable fisheries. This process will determine whether or not the fishery is eligible to use the MSC ecolabel.

The document provides you with contact information for SCS Global Services, the Conformity Assessment Body that will be carrying out this (re)assessment, and information about how you may get involved in the assessment process.

Table 1: Fishery Announcement

1	Fishery name	
	Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna – purse seine (TUNACONS) fishery	
2	Assessment type	
	Scope extension assessment	
3	Reduced reassessment: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
4	Version details	
Document		Version number
MSC Fisheries Certification Process		Version 2.3
MSC Fisheries Standard		Version 2.01
Assessment Tree		Default
MSC General Certification Requirements		Version 2.6
5	Statement that the UoA(s) and client/client group are within scope	
	<p>The fishery under assessment has been found to meet scope requirements (MSC Fisheries Standard v2.01 Section 1):</p> <p>1.1.1 The Unit of Assessment (UoA) does not target species of the following taxa under Principle 1: amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals.</p> <p>1.1.2 The UoA does not use poisons or explosives.</p>	

- 1.1.3 Is an enhanced fishery based on the use of FADs, is not based on an introduced species and does not represent an inseparable or practically inseparable species (FCP 7.5.1, 7.5.2, 7.5.8-13) .
- 1.1.4 The fishery is does not target introduced species under Principle 1.
- 1.1.5 The client or client group do not include any vessel that has been implicated in the conviction of a “serious crime” for an offence listed in Table 3 whilst undertaking fishing operations in the last 2 years.
- 1.1.6 The client or client group do not include any vessel that has been implicated in a conviction for a shark-finning violation in the last 2 years.
- 1.1.7 SCS has determined the eligibility of fishery applicants and certificate holders with respect to the MSC’s labour policy using the relevant sections within the MSC Labour Eligibility Requirements

6 Unit(s) of Assessment - UoA(s)

Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (TUNACONS) is seeking to modify its UoA(s) by including bigeye tuna, a species previously considered in Principle 2 as a main species in the initial report. Following Annex PE (MSC FCP v2.2 clause 7.27.10) a gap analysis was conducted which confirmed that all Principle 2 and Principle 3 components are held in common. All other aspects of the scope are to remain consistent with the original UoA.

TUNACONS UoAs

UoAs 1-9	Description
Species	UoA 1, 4, 7: Yellowfin Tuna <i>Thunnus albacares</i> UoA 2,5, 8: Skipjack Tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> UoA 3,6, 9: Bigeye Tuna <i>Thunnus obesus</i>
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean stock
Geographical area	UoA 1 -3: Vessels flagged to Ecuador operating in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Convention area and Ecuador’s EEZ UoA 4 - 6: Vessels flagged to Panama operating in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Convention area and Panama EEZ UoA 7 - 9: Vessels flagged to USA operating in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Convention area and USA EEZ
Harvest method / gear	UoAs 1-9: purse seine gear, all set types
Client group	Vessels identified by TUNACONS members, including Eurofish, NIRSA, Servigrup, Tri Marine, and Jadran.
Other eligible fishers	There are no other eligible fishers.
Flag states	Vessels flagged to Ecuador, Panama and USA

US California Coastal based small purse seine fleet

UoA 19 & 20	Description
Species	UoA 10: Yellowfin Tuna <i>Thunnus albacares</i> UoA 11: Skipjack Tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> UoA 12: Bigeye Tuna <i>Thunnus obesus</i>
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean stock

Geographical area	Vessels operating in the US EEZ.	
Harvest method / gear	Purse-seine gear types using free school	
Client group	Tri Marine	
Other eligible fishers	There are no other eligible fishers.	
Flag states	Vessels are flagged to the United States.	

7	Overlapping UoAs – Harmonisation	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A, no overlapping UoAs
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There are overlapping UoAs see details in Appendix 5.

8	Certificate sharing statement
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Certificate sharing is not applicable.

9	Name of proposed team leader
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Ms. Gabriela Anhalzer, Director of Fisheries at SCS Global Services, Team Lead

Ms. Gabriela Anhalzer holds a Master’s degree in Coastal Environmental Management from Duke University. She has extensive experience in marine conservation and fisheries, having worked as an independent consultant evaluating fishery improvement projects and as a specialist in fisheries policy and stakeholder engagement. Additionally, Ms. Anhalzer has conducted research in Latin America on sea turtle populations, sea bird censuses, and facilitated stakeholder engagement in the participatory management of marine protected areas.

She has provided technical support for numerous Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessments and has a deep understanding of MSC fisheries standards and processes, meeting the qualifications and competency criteria for an MSC team leader. Ms. Anhalzer is trained as an ISO 9001 auditor, has completed MSC training, and has declared that she has no conflicts of interest.

Ms. Gabriela Anhalzer, meets the MSC requirements for a Team Leader as described in Annex PC (FCP v3):

- ✓ With relevant degree and/or equivalent experience in the fisheries sector related to tasks under responsibility of a team leader (Evidence: M.S. Environmental Management, Duke University).
- ✓ Has completed training meeting requirements in Table 1 of GCRV2.5, as evidenced by the certificate of passing auditor training for the ISO course 19011.
- ✓ Has completed of the latest MSC training modules applicable to this assessment (V2.2 Team Leader MSC modules) within the past five years (2019)
- ✓ Has undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last 5 years (Evidence: Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (TUNACONS) fishery, the small pelagics fishery in Sonora, Gulf of California, US Atlantic Sea scallop fishery, US Atlantic spiny dogfish fishery, PNG Fishing Industry Association’s purse seine skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye 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 his completion of ISO 9001 auditor training.
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.
- ✓ Will attend the site visit remotely (per accepted Variation Request).

10	Name(s) of proposed team members
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All Team Members meet the following Team Member requirements:

Dr. Gerard DiNardo, Sr. Technical Specialist – SCS Global Services, Principle 1

Dr. Gerard DiNardo has over 25 years of experience as a research fishery scientist and senior manager for NOAA Fisheries in the United States, as well as extensive knowledge, understanding, and involvement in fishery issues and processes of 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.

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

Dr. DiNardo has served as Principal 1 and Principal 2 Team member on several purse-seine and longline MSC fishery tuna assessments managed under IOTC, WCPFC, IATTC, and ICCAT RFMOs. He offers extensive experience assessing the status and management of tuna stocks and their impacts on ecosystem elements in accordance with the MSC Standard and Fishery Certification Process.

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

- ✓ With relevant degree (Ph.D. from the University of Maryland) and over 25 years of experience as a research fishery scientist and senior manager for NOAA Fisheries in the United States, verified by CV.
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2019).
- ✓ Affirms he has no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.
- ✓ Will attend the site visit remotely (per Covid-19 derogation 3).

Dr. Kari Fenske, Technical Specialist, SCS Global Services- Principle 1 Support

Dr. Kari Fenske holds a Ph.D. in fisheries from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (2022), and a M.S. in Marine, Environmental and Estuarine Sciences from the University of Maryland (2009). Kari Fenske has five years of work experience as a research fishery scientist at NOAA Fisheries, three years of work experience as a research scientist and fishery biologist for state fisheries agencies, and two years of work experience coordinating the fishery stock assessment process for a US Fishery Management Council. Dr. Fenske conducted the fishery stock assessment model for North Pacific dusky rockfish and co-authored the North Pacific sablefish stock assessment for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. Her Ph.D. research included the

development of a spatial stock assessment model and analyses of harvest apportionment strategy for North Pacific sablefish.

Kari served as the US science representative to the science committee and small science committees of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) for 2017-2021, and served on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for one term (2015-2016). Kari has participated in or led workshops and symposia on Management Strategy Evaluations, modeling selectivity in fish stock assessments (CAPAM), data weighting (CAPAM), stock status determination criteria, application of harvest control rules, characterizing uncertainty in stock assessment, and adapting to change in fisheries stock assessment science.

- ✓ With relevant degree (Ph.D., University of Alaska Fairbanks (2022); M.S. University of Maryland (2009); B.S. University of Wisconsin Madison (2000)) and over 11 years of experience with management or research experience in a marine conservation biology, fisheries, natural resources or environmental management position, verified by CV.
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (2024).
- ✓ Affirms they have 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 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.
- ✓ Understanding of the CoC Standard and CoC Certification Requirements. As evidenced by Team Member [Ms. Gabriela Anhalzer] completing the MSC's Traceability training module (2019).

11	Assessment tree modifications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A - No modifications were made to the assessment tree.
12	Estimated timeline	

The assessment is planned for completion within 11 months of the fishery announcement, with a certification date predicted for the start of March 2025, if the assessment result is positive.

A separate assessment timeline is included in the announcement materials which includes projected approximate dates for key versions of the report.

13 Site visit

SCS invites participants to attend the site visit tentatively scheduled for August 9th, 2024, held remotely. 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. 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 MSCstakeholders@scsglobalservices.com with:

- 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).

Stakeholders may raise issues with the assessment team in confidence for the assessment team to consider at the site visit, but any confidential information cannot be used in scoring unless in compliance with confidentiality requirements (FCP v3 Section 4.3).

RBF:

If the Risk-Based Framework (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:

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 RBF, 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 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.

14 Stakeholder participation in the fishery assessment

For details on how stakeholders can participate in this fishery assessment, refer to: '[Engage with a fishery assessment](#)' webpage

Click [here](#) for the link to the [MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments](#)

15 Stakeholder input on the Announcement Comment Draft Report stakeholder input deadline

The Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR) for this fishery assessment is now available for consultation on the fishery's [Track a Fishery](#) for 60 days for stakeholder input (30 days if Re-Assessment).

The ACDR provides indicative scoring and rationales and identifies information gaps. The draft scoring ranges are based on a desk-based review of information and documents submitted to the CAB by the fishery client. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the ACDR and to provide information and comments on the indicative scoring to the assessment team.

SCS will only accept written submissions from stakeholders on the ACDR if submitted using the 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments.' Stakeholders are required to provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact. Stakeholder comments on the ACDR will be

published on the fishery's Track a Fishery page ahead of the site visit. SCS will consider a stakeholder as registered only if they provide written input on the ACDR or attend the site visit, in person or remotely.

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

1. *Peer Review College* – Registered stakeholders can inform the Peer Review College regarding any potential conflicts of interest of the peer reviewers proposed.
2. *Public Comment Draft Report* – 30 days for stakeholder submissions of any new information relating to the fishery that the team should consider in the assessment of the fishery
3. *Objection to Final Draft Report and Determination* – 15 calendar days open to objections

16	Deadline for stakeholder input on the Announcement Comment Draft Report
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The consultation period ends Monday, August 9th, 2024 at 17:00 UTC.

Submitted by: Kerrin Toner

Date: 07/09/2024

Appendix 1: Assessment team – summaries of CVs

Please refer to sections 9 and 10 in Table 1 for summaries of the assessment team.

Appendix 2: Gap Analysis

Component	UoA – Fishery 1 (identify the unit that is assessed for each component)	UoA – Fishery 2 (provide justification to confirm whether the unit proposed for extension is the same as the unit that was assessed in the certified fishery)
Principle 1 – Outcome	Target species stock + Management of target species stock	The EPO bigeye stock is a different stock and a full evaluation of the Principle 1 outcome component will be conducted.
Principle 1 – Harvest strategy	Target species stock + Management of target species stock	The management arrangements for the EPO bigeye stock are similar to the currently certified target species (EPO Yellowfin and skipjack). The international and national elements of the harvest strategy are similar between all UoAs, however, a full evaluation will be carried out to assess the management measures in place for bigeye against Principle 1 requirements.
Principle 2 – Primary species	Species normally retained by client gear type in client geographical area	No re-evaluation is required as bigeye was a main primary species. Same conditions apply. The proposed unit for extension is the same as the unit that was assessed in the certified fishery.
Principle 2 – Secondary species	Unintended bycatch of client gear type in client geographical area	The secondary species component is the same as the unit that was assessed in the certified fishery, there are no changes to secondary species composition.
Principle 2 – ETP	ETP species bycatch of client gear type in client geographical area	The ETP species component is the same as the unit that was assessed in the certified fishery, there are no changes to ETP species composition.
Principle 2 – Habitat	Habitat impact of client gear type in client geographical area	The original certified fishery already assessed the impacts of the fishery on the habitat for the area. There will be no change in fishing area by the inclusion of bigeye under Principle 1.
Principle 2 – Ecosystem	Broad ecological community and ecosystem in which the fishery operates	The original certified fishery already assessed the impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem at a large scale for the Eastern Pacific and evaluated the whole EPO tuna fishery.
Principle 3 – Governance and policy	Overarching management framework Multi-jurisdictional management framework (as appropriate)	No re-evaluation is required as the over-arching governance and policy management systems are identical as the currently certified fishery.
Principle 3 – Fishery Specific management system	Local management framework + Client specific management	No re-evaluation is required as the over-arching governance and policy management systems are identical as the currently certified fishery.

Appendix 5: Harmonisation – overlapping UoAs

Table 3: Overlapping Units of Assessment

Fishery name	Unit of Assessment	Certification status	Certification date	Performance Indicators to harmonise
AGAC four oceans integral purse seine tropical tuna fishery	Bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna	In progress	To be determined	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4
Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (TUNACONS) fishery	Bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna	In progress	To be determined	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4
Hawaii longline swordfish, bigeye and yellowfin tuna fishery	Swordfish, bigeye, and yellowfin tuna	Certified	September 2022	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4
Western Pacific Ocean longline tuna and swordfish fishery	Swordfish, albacore, yellowfin, and bigeye tuna	Suspended	N/A	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4
Sajo WCPO and PO bigeye, yellowfin, and albacore tuna longline fishery	Bigeye, yellowfin, and albacore tuna	In progress	To be determined	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4
Pacific longline albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna fishery	Albacore, bigeye, and yellowfin	In progress	To be determined	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4
Dae Hae Pacific yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and swordfish longline fishery	Swordfish, yellowfin, albacore, and bigeye tuna	In progress	To be determined	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4

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