**Skipjack tuna**

**Eastern Pacific Ocean**

**Fishery**

Eastern Pacific Ocean

**IATTC**

Mexico

Pole-lines hand operated

**IDENTIFICATION**

**Scientific Name**

*Katsuwonus pelamis*

**Species Name(s)**

Skipjack tuna

**Common Names**

Skipjack tuna

**Stock Identification**

It is likely that skipjack are distributed throughout the Pacific as a single population. Exchange of fish between the eastern and western regions is not common. The majority of catches occur in the eastern and western regions.

Therefore assessments are conducted for both the eastern and western regions (Maunder 2015).

This fishery was withdrawn from the Marine Stewardship Council system in May 2015. Click here for more details.

"The client has decided to withdraw their fishery from the MSC programme. This is effective from 1st May 2015."

**RELATED LINKS**

- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**

- Fishing mortality rates and biomass are currently thought to be sustainable.
- Discarding of tunas is prohibited.
- There is a multi-year conservation plan in place, which has just been extended, for skipjack tuna (and other tuna species).
- A harvest control rule has been adopted.
- There is 100% observer coverage on longline purse seine vessels operating on the high seas.

**Weaknesses**

- There are no MSY based reference points used for skipjack tuna in the EPO.
- There are time/area closures in place for the purse seine fleet but these measures are not sufficient to manage the fish aggregating device (FAD) fishery.
- Purse seine fisheries can interact with ETP species.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
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**Stock Health:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<td>≥ 8</td>
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**FIPS**

No related FIPs

**MSC**

- Mexico Baja California pole and line yellowfin and skipjack tuna: Withdrawn

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Work with IATTC Members and Cooperating Firm Members to:
  - Adopt purse seine set limits during the 2018 Commission meeting.
  - Develop and implement comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies with specific timelines for all tuna stocks, including the adoption and implementation of limit and target reference points, harvest control rules, monitoring strategies, operational objectives, performance indicators, and management strategy evaluation.
  - Strengthen compliance processes and make information on non-compliance public and continue to provide evidence of compliance with all IATTC Conservation and Management Measures in a timely manner.
  - Implement a 100% observer coverage requirement for all purse seine vessels, as well as other measures that ensure transhipment activity is transparent and well-managed, and that all required data are collected and transmitted to the appropriate bodies in a timely manner.
  - Increase compliance with the mandatory minimum 5% longline observer coverage rates by identifying and correcting non-compliance.
  - Implement a 100% observer coverage requirement for purse seine vessels where it is not already required and require the use of the best-available observer safety equipment, communications and procedures.
  - Develop effective measures for the use of non-entangling FAD designs as a precautionary measure to minimize the entanglement of sharks and other non-target species, and support research on biodegradable materials and transition to their use to mitigate marine debris.
  - More effectively implement, and ensure compliance with, existing RFMP bycatch requirements and take additional mitigation action, such as improving monitoring at sea, collecting and sharing operational-level, species-specific data, and adopting stronger compliance measures, including consequences for non-compliance for all gear types.
  - Ensure all products are traceable back to legal sources. Verify source
information and full-chain traceability through traceability desk audits or third party traceability certification. For fisheries without robust traceability systems in place, invest in meaningful improvements to bring the fisheries and supply chain in compliance with best practices.

Fishery Profile
https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/2721
This profile last updated on 26 July 2019