

MSC harvest strategy milestones for Pacific Ocean principal market tuna stocks

Caroline Fisheries Corporation
China Southern Fishery Shenzhen Corporation
Da Yang Seafood, Inc.
Fishing Industry Association – Papua New Guinea
Hawaii Longline Association
LianCheng Overseas Fishery FSM Corporation
LianCheng Overseas Fishery Shenzhen Corporation
Marshall Islands Fishing Venture
Taiyo A & F Co., Ltd.
Tuna Australia

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WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories
 Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office
 Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
 NGO Tuna Forum

Re: MSC harvest strategy milestones for Pacific Ocean principal market tuna stocks

Our companies own vessels in Pacific Ocean tuna fisheries that are certified against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fisheries Standard. We are writing to inform you of harvest strategy and harvest control rule-related timebound milestones for four Pacific Ocean tuna stocks, summarized in the table inserted below. The deadlines are for May of the specified year.

While there are no milestones with 2024 deadlines required under MSC conditions of certification, actions are required to be made this year by the 20th session of the Scientific Committee and 21st session of the Commission of WCPFC in order to achieve milestones with deadlines in subsequent years.

Milestone	South Pacific albacore	Western and Central Pacific Ocean bigeye and yellowfin tunas	Western and Central Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna
Management objectives, performance indicators, and data needs are defined.	met	met	met
Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are identified.	2025	2025	met
Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are tested through management strategy evaluation simulations.	2025	2026	met
Demonstration of consultation and input from stakeholders.	met	met	met
Preferred harvest strategy(ies) adhering to a management procedure approach with an agreed catch or effort constraint identified.	2025	2026	met
Mechanism for catch or effort constraints is agreed.	2025	2026	met
Management procedure approach is adopted.	2025	2026	met
Present a plan with steps to engage and prepare WCPFC CCMs for implementation of the harvest strategy.	met	2026	met
Show that the plan to engage and prepare WCPFC CCMs for implementation of the harvest strategy has been enacted.	met	2027	met

Milestone	South Pacific albacore	Western and Central Pacific Ocean bigeye and yellowfin tunas	Western and Central Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna
Provide a progress report showing that the plan to engage and prepare WCPFC CCMs for implementation of the BET HS continues to be enacted.	met	2028	met
Harvest strategy adhering to a management procedure approach, with and including catch or effort constraints or resource-sharing mechanism that follows scientific advice, is implemented.	2027	2029	2025
Effectiveness review schedule of the implemented harvest strategy is determined.	2027	2029	met

As of today, WCPFC (<https://www.wcpfc.int/harvest-strategy>) reports the following progress towards harvest strategy development for the four tuna stocks with MSC harvest strategy-related deadlines:

Stock:	Skipjack	SP Albacore	Bigeye	Yellowfin
Key gear:	Trop. purse seine	Southern longline	Tropical longline	
Management objectives	TRP adopted*	Noted	Noted	Noted
Management procedure	MP adopted*	Developing		
Performance indicators	Identified	Identified	Identified	Identified
Mixed fishery	Developing			
Monitoring strategy	Proposed#	Developing		

We request that WCPFC CCMs support pursuing harvest strategy development and implementation by WCPFC that enable Pacific Ocean tuna fisheries to maintain their MSC certifications.

We request that the environmental non-governmental organization members of the NGO Tuna Forum emphasize, including in their annual joint advocacy letter to WCPFC CCMs, the importance for regional MSC tuna fisheries and for robust fisheries management of meeting the MSC harvest strategy-related milestones.

With regards,

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Association of Sustainable Fisheries