



Explaining MSC Fisheries Standard v3.1

28 November 2024

For more information visit [msc.org/revise](https://www.msc.org/revise)

Background



- **Fisheries Standard Review 2018 - 2022**
- **Version 3.0 published in October 2022**
 - Key areas of Standard revised
- **Amended version of the Standard (v3.1) published July 2024**
- **Fisheries that have applied early application of Section SE required to use v3.1**



Categorisation

Categorisation



- **New process developed in v3.0 and streamlined in v3.1**
- **Intended to clarify which species should be assessed in which component**
- **Negligible interactions are decided at start of process and no further consideration**
- **Categorisation database developed to support process**

Endangered, Threatened & Protected and Out of Scope Species



Out of Scope Species

All species not in scope for MSC certification grouped with endangered, threatened & protected (ETP) species regardless of status

- Birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians
- Unless considered ‘negligible’

Component is now Endangered, Threatened & Protected and Out of Scope species (ETP/OOS)

Endangered, Threatened & Protected (ETP) species



- **Some listings mean automatic categorisation as ETP**
- **If the species is a fish or invertebrate, only nationally listed and targeted by a managed fishery it can be classed as in scope**
- **For other listing types, such as CMS Appendix 2, modification out of ETP is possible**

Modification criteria



- **Must meet 2/3 of the following to be re-categorised as in scope (P2) or P1:**
 - **Productivity score of less than 2 using the Risk Based Framework**
 - **The stock must be managed using limit or target reference points (or equivalent)**
 - **The stock must be at MSY with stock assessments subject to peer review**

Requirements for Endangered, Threatened & Protected and Out of Scope Species

- **Outcome focusses on fishing not hindering recovery to Favourable Conservation Status**
- **Management focuses on measures that minimise mortality**
- **Information focusses on adequacy of information to determine impact on the ETP/OOS and if the UoA is a threat to recovery**



The Evidence Requirements Framework

Evidence Requirements Framework



- **New with version 3 – sits in the MSC Fisheries Standard Toolbox document**

- **Used to score:**

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Shark finning (P1, In scope and ETP/OOS species management) | PI 1.2.1 (e), PI 2.1.2 (d), PI 2.2.2 (d) |
| • In scope species information | PI 2.1.3 |
| • ETP/OOS species information | PI 2.2.3 |
| • Habitat management strategy | PI 2.3.2 (c) |
| • Habitat information | PI 2.3.3 |
| • Compliance and enforcement | PI 3.2.3 (c) |

Evaluation of Trueness



Evaluation of the qualities of the information:

Objectivity

Free from
conflict of
interest?

Relevance

Connected to
what being
scored?

Completeness

Does it
represent the
full picture?

Coherence

Different
sources in
agreement?

Evaluation of Precision



SG80 Monitoring system accounts for variability & independent observation of catches in place

Requirement
for
independent
observation

Some
independent
observation
of catches

RFMO + high
seas +
ETP/OOS
species
30%
coverage

Shark finning



MSC definition

‘Selachimorpha (“true sharks”) and Rhinopristiformes (e.g. shovel-nose rays & guitarfish)’

- **Fins Naturally Attached policy or, a non-retention policy in place and enforced**
- **Policies may be at RFMO/national level or UoA/fleet level**
- **Evidence Requirements Framework used to check policy implementation**



Ghost Gear requirements



Ghost gear



MSC definition

Fishing gear or parts thereof (including fish aggregating devices) that are abandoned, lost, or discarded at sea.

- **Management scoring issue**
- **UoA needs to show what is in place to minimise the loss of gear, or reduce the impact if lost**
- **Interventions include:**
 - **Prevent (by avoiding the occurrence of ghost gear in the environment).**
 - **Mitigate (by reducing the impact of ghost gear in the environment).**
 - **Remediate (by removing ghost gear from the environment).**

**Section SE -
Harvest strategy
and HCRs for
RFMO managed
stocks**



Section SE – RFMO managed Stocks



Applies at stock level

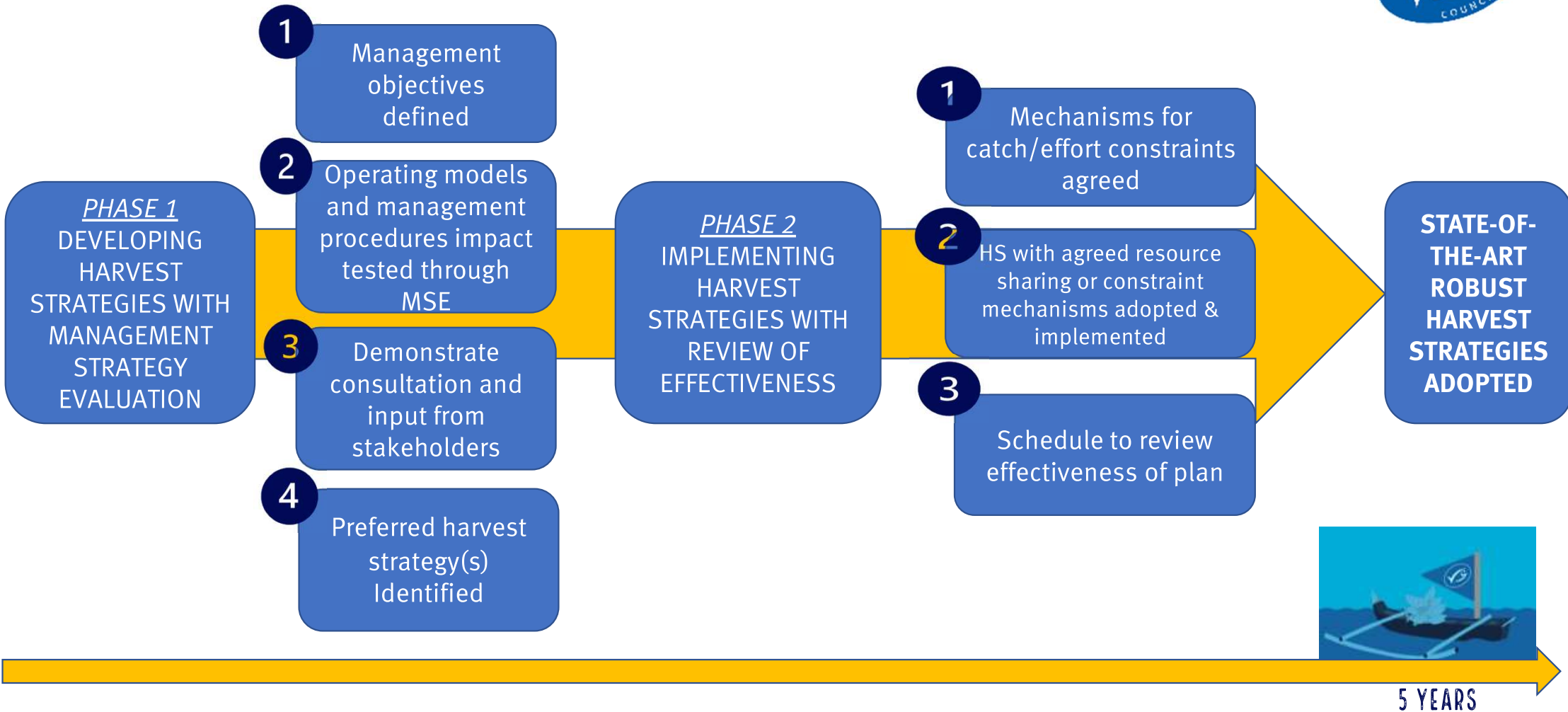
**Only applies to
Harvest
Strategy &
HCRs**

**Harvest
Strategy
conditions
must aim for
state of the art**

**Prescriptive
condition
milestones**

**A longer
timeline – 5
years for
stocks
previously
certified**

Phases & Milestones



Early application of Section SE



- WCPO tuna fisheries have applied Section SE early for the following 4 tuna stocks: WCPO skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore
- Process remains open until 1st July 2026



Landmark achievements in tuna fisheries

The Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) skipjack and North Pacific albacore fisheries have achieved major milestones in sustainable fisheries management.

[READ THE STORY](#)

[DOWNLOAD OUR WCPO FACTSHEET](#)





Questions & Answers



Thank you



MSC Pacific Ocean tuna

Section SE – Principle 1 milestones

Presentation at WCPFC's 21st Regular Session of the Commission

November 28th, 2024

Introduction – our Common Goal



Our collective goal is to maintain MSC certification across all the WCPO tuna fisheries.

There are important milestones to be met by 2025 for the harvest strategy and control rule development for three WCPO stocks.

Failure to push these milestones forward will lead to the suspension of all MSC-certified fisheries for south Pacific albacore, WCPO bigeye and yellowfin.



Current situation – CMM 2014-06



- WCPFC12 agreed to a workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies for WCPO SKJ, BET, YFT and SP ALB.
- Main work has focussed on WCPO SKJ and SP ALB.

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		



South Pacific albacore tuna



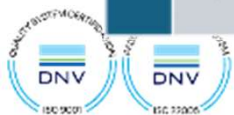
- In 2018, WCPFC15 agreed interim TRP.
- TRP re-calibrated in 2021.
- MSE framework presented in 2019 and externally reviewed in 2020.
- HCR designs have been considered and further work is needed.
- Monitoring strategy – limited specific work but SKJ work can be similarly applied.



South Pacific albacore tuna



	Upcoming Milestones & Deadlines	SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE			
		Section SE		WCPFC	
		Met	Deadline	Relevant meeting	HS Workplan
1	Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are identified.	-	May 2025	August 2024	August 2024
2	Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are tested through management strategy evaluation simulations.	-		August 2024	August 2024
3	Preferred harvest strategy(ies) adhering to a management procedure approach with an agreed catch or effort constraint are identified.	-		August 2024	August 2024
4	Mechanism for catch or effort constraints is agreed.	-		December 2024	December 2024
5.1	Harvest strategy following a management procedure approach is adopted.	-		December 2024	December 2024



WCPO bigeye and yellowfin tuna



- Risk-based TRPs were introduced for BET and YFT in 2019 and further evaluated and presented in 2021.
- Mixed-fishery HS developments presented at SC17.
- The initial results of the mixed-fishery HS developments are sufficiently encouraging to support the continued development of this approach.



WCPO bigeye and yellowfin tuna



	Upcoming Milestones & Deadlines	WCPO BIGEYE / YELLOWFIN			
		Section SE		WCPFC	
		Met	Deadline	Relevant meeting	HS Workplan
1	Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are identified.	-	May 2025	May 2024	August 2025



This year and beyond 2025

- There are more deadlines for all three stocks.
- Sufficient work has been undertaken to remove the conditions for WCPO SKJ.
- Urge CCMs to make statements aligned with the milestones set out.



Reflections on the MSC impact in the WCPFC



It would likely result in decreased market access for the tuna products,

This leads to economic losses for local communities and businesses that depend on the industry in the Pacific countries.

It could also harm the reputation of the region's fisheries and undermine efforts to promote responsible fishing practices and environmental conservation in the Pacific.

Maintaining the certification helps to drive improvement in the fisheries management and long-term health of the tuna populations, potentially leading to supporting the stocks ' health status of this vital marine resource.





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THANK YOU