

Lloyd's Register
6 Redheughs Rigg
South Gyle
Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ
United Kingdom

T +44 (0)13 1335 6600
E food@lr.org
www.lr.org

MSC SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES CERTIFICATION

Off-Site Surveillance Report for New Zealand Albacore Tuna Troll Fishery



2nd Surveillance stage

February 2019

Certificate Code	F-ACO-0038
Prepared For:	Tuna Management Association of New Zealand
Prepared By:	Lloyd's Register
Authors:	Jo Akroyd & Kevin McLoughlin

Assessment Data Sheet

Fishery name	New Zealand albacore tuna troll	
Species and Stock	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	
CAB name	Lloyd's Register	
CAB contact details	Address	6 Redheughs Rigg Edinburgh EH12 9DQ
	Phone/Fax	0131 335 6662
	Email	fisheries@acoura.com
	Contact name(s)	Kate Morris
Client contact details	Address	Tuna Management Association of New Zealand (TMA) PO Box 175 Nelson NZ
	Phone/Fax	+64 3 548 0711
	Email	doug.loder@talleys.co.nz
	Contact name(s)	Doug Loder

Contents

1	Introduction	3
1.1	Scope of Surveillance	3
1.2	Aims of the Surveillance	3
1.3	Certificate Holder Details	3
2	Surveillance Process	4
2.1	Findings of the original assessment	4
2.2	Surveillance Activity	4
2.2.1	Surveillance team details	4
2.2.2	Date & Location of surveillance audit	4
2.2.3	Stakeholder consultation & meetings	4
2.2.4	What was inspected	4
2.2.5	Stakeholder Consultation	4
2.3	Surveillance Standards	4
2.3.1	MSC Standards, Requirements and Guidance used	4
2.3.2	Confirmation that destructive fishing practices or controversial unilateral exemptions have not been introduced	4
3	Updated Fishery Background	5
3.1	Changes in the management system	5
3.2	Changes in relevant regulations	5
3.3	Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry	5
3.4	Changes to scientific base of information including stock assessments	5
3.5	Changes and updates on Ecosystem issues	10
3.6	Harmonisation	11
3.7	Any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish)	11
3.8	TAC and catch data	12
3.9	Summary of Assessment Conditions	12
4	Results	12
4.1	Condition 1	12
4.2	Condition 2	17
	Condition 3 (added at 1 st audit)	19
	Recommendation	20
5	Conclusion	21
5.1	Summary of findings	21
6	References	22
	Appendix 1 – Re-scoring evaluation tables (if necessary)	24
	Appendix 2 - Stakeholder submissions	25
	Appendix 3 - Surveillance audit information	25
	Appendix 4 - Additional detail on conditions/ actions/ results (if necessary)	26
	Appendix 5 - Revised Surveillance Program	27

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope of Surveillance

This report outlines the findings of the 2nd Annual Surveillance of the New Zealand Albacore Tuna Troll fishery. The scope of the certified fishery and therefore of this surveillance is specified in the Units of Certification set out below:

UoC 1

Species:	Albacore Tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Stock:	South Pacific
Geographical area:	ALB 1. NZ EEZ.
Harvest method:	Troll
Client Group:	Tuna Management Association of New Zealand
Other Eligible Fishers:	The client for this assessment (Tuna Management Association of NZ) is to make access to the certificate open to all NZ vessels permitted by the Ministry for Primary Industries to fish for albacore in the NZ waters using troll gear. Hence the UoC is the same as the Unit of Assessment (UoA).

1.2 Aims of the Surveillance

The purpose of the annual Surveillance Report is fourfold:

1. to establish and report on whether or not there have been any material changes to the circumstances and practices affecting the original complying assessment of the fishery;
2. to monitor the progress made to improve those practices that have been scored as below “good practice” (a score of 80 or above) but above “minimum acceptable practice” (a score of 60 or above) – as captured in any “conditions” raised and described in the Public Report and in the corresponding Action Plan drawn up by the client;
3. to monitor any actions taken in response to any (non-binding) “recommendations” made in the Public Report;
4. to re-score any Performance Indicators (PIs) where practice or circumstances have materially changed during the intervening year, focusing on those PIs that form the basis of any “conditions” raised.

Please note: The primary focus of this surveillance audit is assess changes made in the previous year. For a complete picture, this report should be read in conjunction with the Public Certification Report for this fishery assessment which can be found here:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/new-zealand-albacore-tuna-troll/@@assessments>

1.3 Certificate Holder Details

The New Zealand albacore troll fishery was originally certified in May 2011 and was re-certified in February 2017 with two conditions. A further condition was added at the 1st surveillance audit.

The certificate is held by the Tuna Management Association of New Zealand. There is one UoC which is the same as the UoA. The species is Albacore Tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) and the stock is South Pacific Albacore. The certified fish are caught only in New Zealand’s EEZ.

2 Surveillance Process

2.1 Findings of the original assessment

The New Zealand Albacore Troll Tuna Fishery (NZATTF) was first MSC assessed and certified in 2011. At the 2nd assessment and re-certification of the fishery (as of February 2017), two conditions of certification were raised by the assessment team, and maintenance of the MSC certificate is contingent on the NZATTF moving to comply with these conditions within the time-scales set at the time the certificate was issued. A further condition was added at the 1st surveillance audit. In addition, one recommendation was made at re-certification, which the client is encouraged to act upon within the spirit of the certification though this is not obligatory.

2.2 Surveillance Activity

2.2.1 Surveillance team details

This off-site surveillance audit was carried out by Jo Akroyd (Team Leader and principle 3 expert) and Kevin McLoughlin (principle 1 & 2 expert), who comprised the assessment team for the fishery. The client provided the auditors with a Client Information Checklist summarizing developments in the fishery and progress against conditions (TMA, 2019).

2.2.2 Date & Location of surveillance audit

This 2nd surveillance audit was conducted off-site and scheduled for the week commencing 11th February 2019.

2.2.3 Stakeholder consultation & meetings

Stakeholders were invited to participate in person or to provide written comment. Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) provided a report "Summary of WCPFC and other regional meetings attended by MPI delegations and key contributions by NZ delegations during 2018" (refer Appendix 2). Input to the audit was provided in writing by email from the client and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries.

2.2.4 What was inspected

- Review of general information about the fishery.
- Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) report on Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meeting and engagement in South Pacific initiatives relevant to the fishery.
- The National Fisheries Plan for Highly Migratory Species 2018
- Stock status and catch statistics.
- Compliance with rules and regulations.
- Progress against the two P1 conditions.
- Progress against the P3 condition.
- Progress against the recommendation.

2.2.5 Stakeholder Consultation

The surveillance audit announcement was published on the MSC website on 4 January 2019. A total of 53 stakeholder organisations and individuals having relevant interest in the assessment were identified and consulted during this surveillance audit. The interest of others not appearing on this list was solicited through the postings on the MSC website.

2.3 Surveillance Standards

2.3.1 MSC Standards, Requirements and Guidance used

This surveillance audit was carried out according to the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements FAM v2.0.

2.3.2 Confirmation that destructive fishing practices or controversial unilateral exemptions have not been introduced

No indication was given or suggested during the surveillance audit to suggest that either of these practices is in evidence for this fishery.

3 Updated Fishery Background

There have been no important changes to the management of the fishery since re-certification. In addition to the Public Certification Report, the client update report (TMA, 2019) provides an overview of the fishery and recent developments. The number of vessels participating in the albacore troll fishery is variable from year-to-year as the albacore season is short (Dec–Mar) and vessels are also active in other fisheries. All vessels issued with a fishing permit by the Ministry for Primary Industries to catch albacore using troll gear are covered by the Tuna Management Association (TMA) of New Zealand's MSC certificate.

3.1 Changes in the management system

No changes.

Albacore in the New Zealand EEZ continues to be managed as a non-quota species but the troll fishery is otherwise subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to quota species. The activities by albacore fishers are subject to the Fisheries Act, 1996 and to the management objectives as defined in the National Fisheries Plan for Highly Migratory Species and the Albacore Operational Plan (MPI, 2018a). An updated National Fisheries Plan for Highly Migratory Species was published in May 2018 (MPI, 2018b) and provided to the assessment team. Annual reviews of management performance are provided in Annual Review Reports (MPI, 2018c).

3.2 Changes in relevant regulations

No changes in New Zealand management regulations. WCPFC has not adopted new Conservation and Management Measures specific to albacore.

3.3 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry

There have been no changes in relation to management, industry or the scientific service provider (the Oceanic Fisheries Programme, Pacific Community, OFP SPC).

3.4 Changes to scientific base of information including stock assessments

A revised stock assessment was undertaken in 2018 (see summary below). New Zealand continues to provide catch and size frequency information from the albacore troll fishery to SPC on an annual basis for use in stock assessments.

Albacore catch monitoring:

Catch estimates for all tuna and billfish species fished in the WCPFC statistical area are compiled annually by SPC based on reports provided by CCMs. The most recent report provides catches for the period 1960-2017.

The South Pacific albacore catch in the WCP Convention area in 2017 was the highest on record at 92291 t, an increase of 29% over the 2016 catch (Figure 1).

The South Pacific albacore troll catch in 2017 of 2508 t was similar to that in recent years, with the New Zealand fleet of 111 vessels accounting for 78% of the total, all of which was caught within the New Zealand EEZ (Figure 2). The USA troll fleet of 13 vessels caught the balance on the high seas to the east of New Zealand along the Sub-Tropical Convergence Zone (WCPFC-SC14-2018/GN-WP-01).

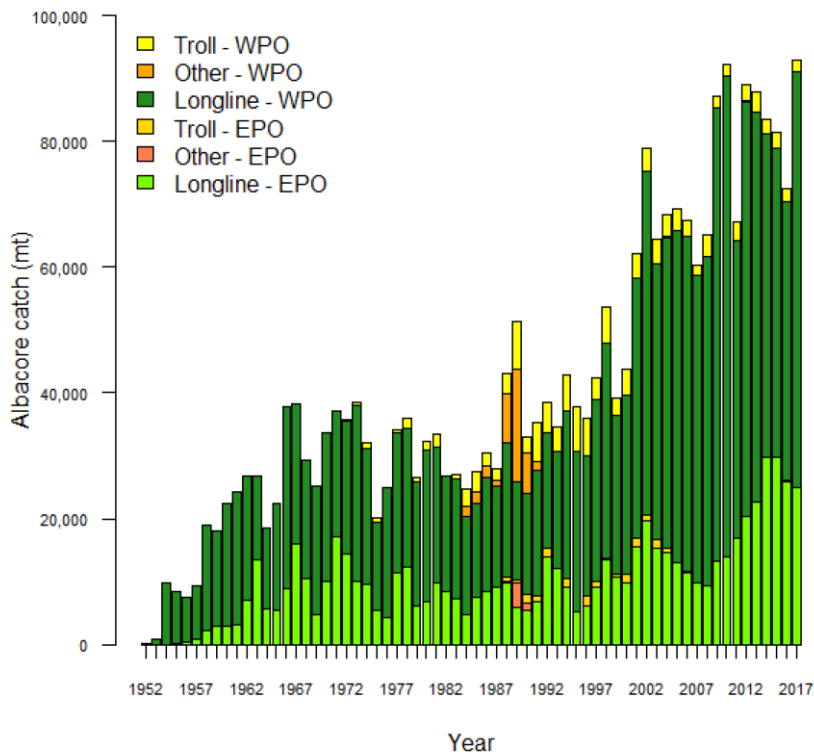


Figure 1. South Pacific albacore catch by gear, 1952–2017 (source WCPFC-SC14-2018/SA-IP-08)

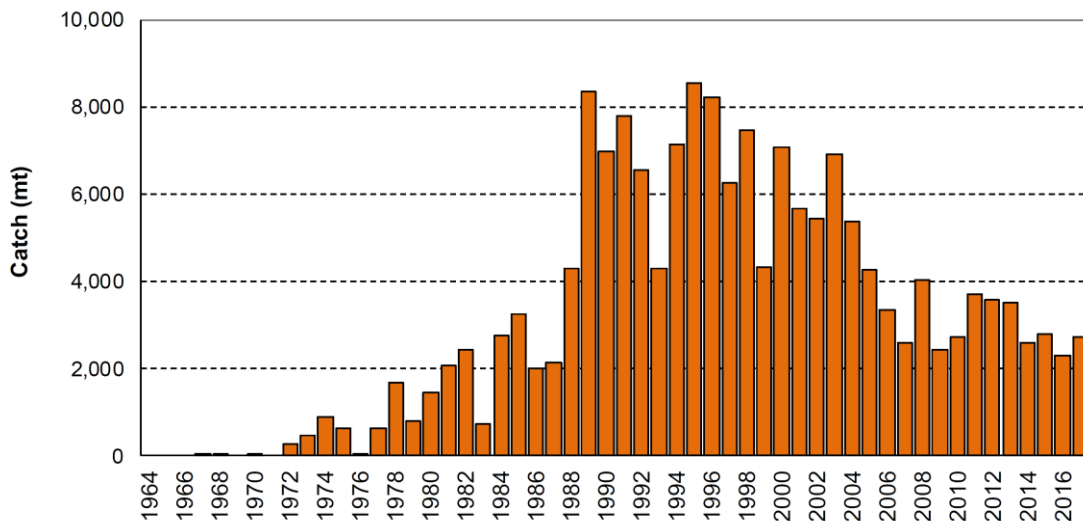


Figure 2. Albacore troll catch in the South Pacific Ocean, 1964-2017 (source WCPFC-SC14- 2018/ SA-IP-08 Rev. 2)

Catches of troll-caught albacore in the South Pacific in recent years have been dominated by catches in New Zealand's EEZ. Other flag states reporting significant troll catches of southern albacore in recent years include the USA, Canada and Cook Islands.

New Zealand's troll fleet typically accounts for around 90% of the total albacore catch in the EEZ, the balance being taken by longliners. During the 2017/18 season, 132 troll vessels caught approximately 2445 t, a 25% increase over the 2016/17 catch of 1956 t. New Zealand falls at the southern extreme of the albacore distribution range, which is defined by ocean temperature, and when sea temperatures off New Zealand are low, albacore are less abundant. Warmer conditions prevailed during the 2017/18 season and are predicted to continue through the 2018/19 albacore season. Interestingly the average albacore size caught during 2018, at less than 4 kg, was considerably smaller than in the previous few years when the average size has been around 5.5 kg (D. Loder pers. comm.).

A program of annual, shore-based albacore troll catch sampling is ongoing in order to provide length frequency information to SPC for use in southern albacore stock assessments (Griggs et al., 2018). New Zealand's information is important in that it is the main source of data on juvenile size composition in the South Pacific. Catch sampling is conducted during the albacore troll season each year in the ports of Auckland and Greymouth, from December to April.

- In 2015/16, 4850 albacore were measured from 45 landings, amounting to approximately 1.7% of the total number of albacore landed. Shed sampling covered 259 fishing days, amounting to 6.21% of the fishing effort by the fleet.
- In 2016/17, 3579 albacore were measured, amounting to approximately 1.3% of the total number of albacore landed. Shed sampling covered 191 fishing days, amounting to 5.2% of the fishing effort by the fleet.
In 2017/18, 4163 albacore were measured, amounting to approximately 1.0% of the total number of albacore landed. Shed sampling covered 230 fishing days, amounting to 5.4% of the fishing effort by the fleet.

Compliance monitoring:

MPI's monitoring of albacore fishers' compliance with management requirements involves a multi-tiered approach through checking of fishing permits, auditing of Licensed Fish Receivers (LFRs), monitoring the unloading of catches, analysis of catch and effort reporting against VMS records, and aerial and surface surveillance (MPI, 2019).

Within the EEZ the fishery is considered low risk given the nature of the fishing method. As a result, there has been no targeted compliance effort to monitor risks within the albacore fleet over the past year. However, the albacore fleet receives attention from fishery officers where commercial inspections carried out throughout the year within each of the regions aim to cover as much of the commercial fleet in each of the ports as possible.

Within the broader WCPFC region, a joint-agency operation run between New Zealand, Australia, USA and France each year focuses on the albacore fishery, being the main species of tuna found in the area of operation. The operation supports greater compliance within the WCPFC region in an effort to ensure New Zealand's in-zone interest in albacore continues to support a sustainable fishery (TMA 2019).

South Pacific albacore stock assessment

Since re-certification of the fishery, an updated stock assessment for the southern albacore stock was undertaken in 2018 (Tremblay-Boyer et al., 2018), incorporating data to the end of 2016. The previous stock assessment was undertaken in 2015. Further developments to the stock assessment have been undertaken to address the recommendations of the 2015 stock assessment report (Harley et al., 2015) and to explore uncertainties in the assessment model, particularly in response to the inclusion of additional years of data and to improve diagnostic weaknesses. As well as incorporating data to 2016, the 2018 assessment changes include:

- Using standardised catch per unit effort (CPUE) indices calculated from the recently collated operational longline CPUE data set, including historical Japanese longline data within the CPUE which were not available in 2015;
- Moving to a simplified regional structure (2018 region structure);
- Moving from the traditional CPUE standardized index to one based upon a geostatistical model;
- Applying the CPUE standardized index to an 'index fishery' in each region.

Conclusions of the 2018 assessment (Tremblay-Boyer et al., 2018) include:

- While biomass is estimated to have declined initially, estimates of spawning potential, and biomass vulnerable to the various longline fisheries, have been stable or possibly increasing slightly over the past 20 years. This has been influenced mainly by the estimated recruitment, which has generally been somewhat higher since 2000 than in the two decades previous;
- Most models also estimate an increase in spawning and longline vulnerable biomass since about 2011, driven by some high estimated recruitments, particularly around 2009;
- A steady increase in fishing mortality of adult age-classes is estimated to have occurred over most of the assessment period, accelerating since the 1990s but declining following the decline

in longline catch seen since 2010. Juvenile fishing mortality increased until around 1990, and has remained stable at a low level since that time;

- All models indicate that South Pacific albacore is above the limit reference point (of $0.2SB_{F=0}$), with overall median spawning biomass depletion for 2016 ($SB_{latest}/SB_{F=0}$) estimated at 0.52 (80 percentile range 0.37-0.69) (Figure 3);
- Recent average fishing mortality is estimated to be well below F_{MSY} (median $F_{recent}/F_{MSY} = 0.2$, 80 percentile range 0.08-0.41).

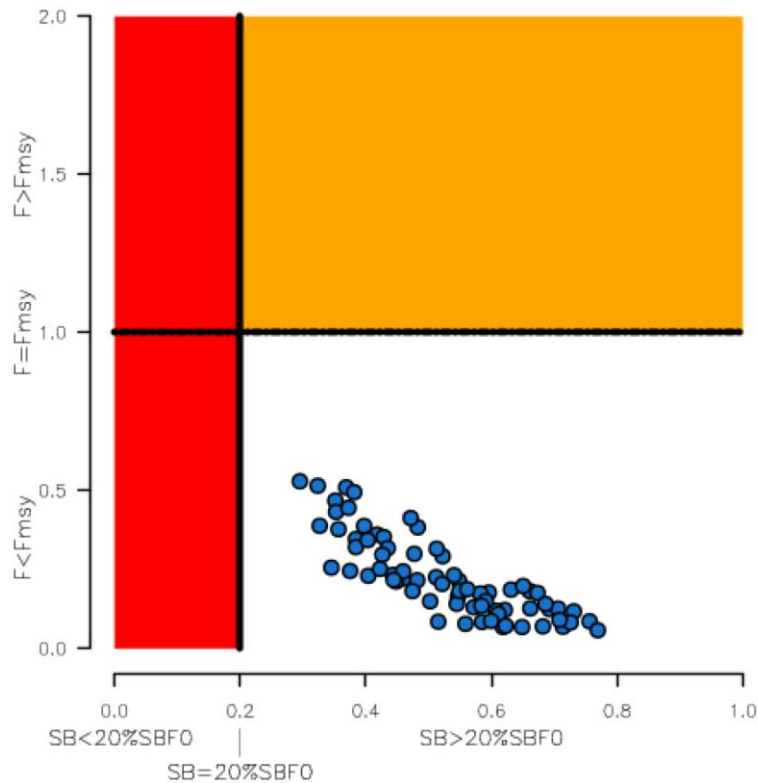


Figure 3. Majuro plot summarising results relative to $SB_{F=0}$ (x-axis) and F_{MSY} (y-axis) for 72 model runs incorporating a range of parameters and sensitivities in a structural uncertainty grid. The red zone represents spawning potential levels lower than the agreed Limit Reference Point ($20\%SB_{F=0}$ is marked with a vertical solid black line). The orange region represents fishing mortality greater than F_{MSY} ($F=F_{MSY}$ is marked with a horizontal black line) (Tremblay-Boyer et al., 2018).

The estimated median spawning biomass trajectory shows a consistent decline through to around 2010, followed by a period of stabilization through to 2016 (Figure 4).

Based on the uncertainty grid adopted by the 14th session of the Scientific Committee, the South Pacific albacore tuna spawning biomass is very likely to be above the biomass Limit Reference Point (LRP) and recent F is very likely below F_{MSY} , hence the stock is not experiencing overfishing (100% probability $F < F_{MSY}$) and is not in an overfished condition (100% probability $SB_{recent} > LRP$) (WCPFC-SC14).

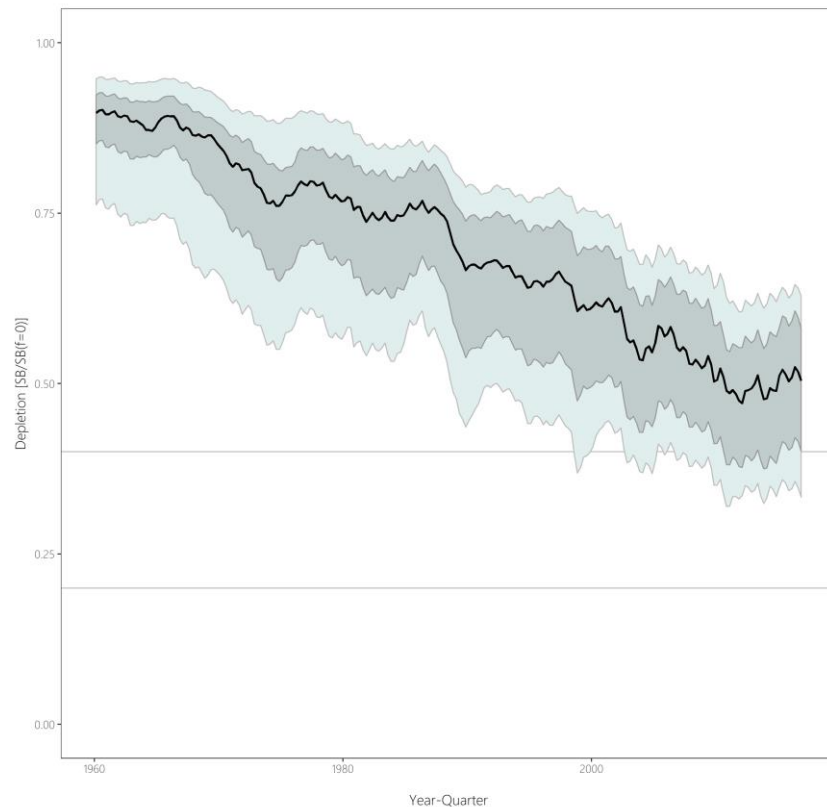


Figure 4. Distribution of time series depletion estimates (1960–2016) across the structural uncertainty grid. Black line represents the grid median trajectory, dark grey region represents the 50 percentile range, light grey the 90 percentile range (Tremblay-Boyer et al., 2018).

Table 1. Summary of reference points over all 72 individual models in the structural uncertainty grid (Tremblay-Boyer et al., 2018).

	Mean	Median	Min	10%	90%	Max
C_{latest}	61719	61635	60669	60833	62704	63180
MSY	100074	98080	65040	70856	130220	162000
$YF_{current}$	71579	71780	56680	62480	80432	89000
f_{mult}	6.2	4.96	1.89	2.44	12.05	17.18
F_{MSY}	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.09	0.1
F_{recent}/F_{MSY}	0.23	0.2	0.06	0.08	0.41	0.53
SB_{MSY}	71407	68650	26760	39872	100773	134000
SB_0	443794	439800	308800	353870	510530	696200
SB_{MSY}/SB_0	0.16	0.17	0.07	0.1	0.21	0.23
$SB_{F=0}$	469004	462633	380092	407792	534040	620000
$SB_{MSY}/SB_{F=0}$	0.15	0.15	0.06	0.09	0.2	0.22
SB_{latest}/SB_0	0.55	0.56	0.33	0.42	0.69	0.74
$SB_{latest}/SB_{F=0}$	0.53	0.52	0.3	0.37	0.69	0.77
SB_{latest}/SB_{MSY}	4	3.42	1.45	1.96	7.07	10.74
$SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0}$	0.51	0.52	0.32	0.37	0.63	0.72
SB_{recent}/SB_{MSY}	3.88	3.3	1.58	1.96	6.56	9.67

Harvest Strategy development:

As detailed in Akroyd and McLoughlin (2017), WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2014-06 was adopted to develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for key fish stocks in the WCPO. The CMM identifies the elements that harvest strategies are to contain (including defined operational objectives, target and limit reference points for each stock, acceptable levels of risk of not breaching limit reference points, a monitoring strategy, decision rules that aim to achieve the Target Reference Point (TRP) and avoid the LRP, and management strategy evaluation). The CMM required the development of a workplan for its implementation, first adopted at WCPFC12 (WCPFC12, 2015; Attachment Y). A proposal for a TRP put forward by Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) at WCPFC13 but none was adopted, nor were other aspects of the harvest strategy agreed (though there was agreement that an acceptable level of risk could not be >20%). A revised workplan (WCPFC13, 2016; Attachment N) was agreed which pushed the key decisions forward to WCPFC14 in December 2017. The major outcome for WCPFC14 was to be the adoption of a TRP. This was not achieved and other aspects of the workplan were rolled into the process of developing harvest control rules. At WCPFC14 the workplan timeline was again revised such that harvest control rule adoption was pushed back to 2021 (WCPFC14, 2017). The adoption of a TRP was prioritized for WCPFC15 in December 2018.

WCPFC14 agreed on an intersessional process to develop a “roadmap” to implement the elements needed for the effective conservation and management of South Pacific albacore, taking into account the updated 2018 stock assessment. The Commission accepted New Zealand’s offer to lead this intersessional working group. The terms of reference of this intersessional group include considering:

- a. The elements necessary for the implementation of harvest strategy approach to the management of the stock;
- b. an allocation process; and
- c. monitoring and reporting priorities, and addressing of gaps, for all fisheries taking South Pacific albacore within the WCPFC convention area.

New Zealand has played an important role in progressing the harvest strategy development through this working group, as detailed in the results section of this report. In summary, progress to date for South Pacific albacore is that:

- In 2012, a LRP of 20% $SB_{\text{current, F=0}}$, was adopted;
- In 2018, an interim TRP of 56% $SB_{F=0}$ was adopted by WCPFC15 with the objective of achieving an 8% increase in CPUE for the southern longline fishery as compared to 2013 levels (WCPFC15-2018-Draft Summary Report as at 31 January 2019; WCPFC15-2018-10_rev1). The interim TRP will be revised should a future stock assessment indicate that this interim TRP will not result in the desired longline CPUE. A managed catch reduction of around 25% will be required to achieve the TRP and will occur over a period no longer than 20 years. A range of alternative catch pathways and timeframes will be prepared for consideration in 2019.
- In 2018, at WCPFC15 the Commission agreed to amend/develop appropriate CMMs to implement a harvest control rule (HCR) with the objective of managing the South Pacific albacore spawning stock biomass towards the target level. The updated Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06 requires a HCR to be implemented by 2021 (WCPFC15-2018-Draft Summary Report as at 31 January 2019). It remains for CMMs to agree on a set of HCRs for testing, using management strategy evaluation, and implementation by the Commission.

3.5 Changes and updates on Ecosystem issues

No changes. There are no records of endangered, threatened or protected species having been taken by the fishery (i.e. seabirds or marine mammals) and the fishery has no impact on the benthic environment. Due to the very low environmental risk associated with this fishery, very little onboard observer coverage has been undertaken in recent years. As discussed later in the report, the MSC assessment made a recommendation in relation to the deployment of observers in the fishery. Zero fishing days were observed during 2015/16 and 13 days observed during 2016/17, equivalent to 0.4% of the fishing effort (TMA, 2019). Zero days were observed during 2017/18. No observer coverage has been scheduled by MPI for 2018/19 (MPI, 2018a). Logbook bycatch estimates from the fishery for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 are presented in TMA (2019). The main bycatch species is skipjack, while other tuna species and kahawai are also prominent. In 2017/18 there was a 7-fold increase in the

skipjack bycatch (from 2.5 t to 17.9 t), reflective of a higher abundance in the area linked to the warmer water conditions (TMA, 2019). Other species catches in 2017/18 were kahawai (386 kg), kingfish (301 kg) and mako shark (381 kg). Catches of kahawai, kingfish and mako are managed within New Zealand's Quota Management System.

3.6 Harmonisation

The WCPFC pilot harmonisation meeting that took place in April 2016 is the only formal harmonisation meeting for South Pacific albacore that has been undertaken. Subsequently, harmonisation discussions for Principle 1 have taken place via email between the CABs involved in MSC assessment of WCPFC fisheries. Recent discussion has focused on the re-scoring of Principle 3 PI 3.2.2 following the release of a revised CMM 14-06 workplan and the lack of action taken at WCPFC in relation to the decline in catch rates of South Pacific albacore. Fisheries taking South Pacific albacore requiring harmonisation include:

- New Zealand albacore tuna troll (re-certified Feb 2017);
- AAFA and WFOA South Pacific albacore tuna (re-certified Nov 2018);
- Fiji albacore tuna longline (re-certified Jan 2018);
- Walker Seafood Australia albacore, yellowfin tuna and swordfish (certified Aug 2015);
- SZLC, CSFC & FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore & yellowfin longline (certified Jun 2015);
- American Samoa EEZ Albacore and Yellowfin Longline Fishery (certified Nov 2017);
- French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery (certified Jun 2018).

The timelines for these assessments/certifications are staggered. Although some scores have not been identical, the respective assessment teams have ensured that the Principle 1 scores are harmonized across assessments such that there are no material differences.

3.7 Any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish)

No changes and no traceability issues. The UoC includes all New Zealand vessels with a permit to catch albacore using troll fishing. The only potential risk would be if non-certified longline-caught albacore were to be passed off as having been troll-caught. As the troll fishery catches approximately 90% of the total albacore catch, the effect of any such transgression would be minor. All LFR (Licenced Fish Receivers) establishments receiving albacore have been reminded by TMA that only troll-caught albacore is eligible to be sold against the MSC certification (TMA 2018). LFRs implement traceability mechanisms to enable all albacore held in their facilities to be identified as either troll caught or longline caught and is physically separated during storage. LFRs provide TMA with the mechanisms they have in place that ensure the integrity of MSC certified 'troll caught' albacore product is upheld.

All of the LFRs have MSC Chain of Custody certification.

The 1st audit indicated that there is also a low risk of troll caught skipjack being sold as certified given that the fisheries operate and land fish in completely different parts of the country and the small amount of bycatch is sold on the domestic market.

3.8 TAC and catch data

Table 2. TAC and Catch Data.

TAC	Year	2017/18	Amount	n/a
UoA share of TAC	Year	2017/18	Amount	n/a
UoC share of TAC	Year	2017/18	Amount	n/a
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (most recent)	2017/18	Amount	UoC troll catch 2579 t Total albacore catch 2658 t
	Year (second most recent)	2016/17	Amount	UoC troll catch 1763 t Total albacore catch 2036 t

3.9 Summary of Assessment Conditions

Table 3. Summary of Assessment Conditions following this Audit.

Condition number	Performance indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
1	1.2.1	On target	70	n/a
2	1.2.2	On target	60	n/a
3	3.2.2	On target	75 (85 at certification but revised at 1 st audit)	n/a

4 Results

4.1 Condition 1

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	1.2.1	The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.	70
Condition	SI a) By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that the harvest strategy for albacore tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.		
Milestones	At the first annual surveillance audit and subsequent surveillance audits, the client will provide evidence that it is actively working to ensure that the harvest strategy for WCPO albacore tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving the management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points. This evidence will include a summary of the actions taken by the client and other relevant parties to achieve this outcome in alignment with the WCPFC 2015		

	<p>agreed workplan (WCPFC12, 2015; Attachment Y). As required by the workplan, a target reference point for South Pacific albacore will be adopted by the 2016 Commission meeting. Score 70.</p> <p>At the fourth surveillance audit, the client will provide evidence that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in in PI 1.1.1 SG80. Score 80.</p>
<p>Client action plan</p>	<p>In order to demonstrate that the harvest strategy for albacore tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80, the client will:</p> <p><u>Year 1 (2017)</u> Engage with MPI's Highly Migratory Species and International Fisheries Management teams towards prioritising the further development, by the FFA's FFC Sub-committee on South Pacific Tuna & Billfish Fisheries and by WCPFC's Scientific Committee, of harvest strategy elements for South Pacific albacore fisheries as prescribed by CMM2014-06.</p> <p><u>Year 2 (2018)</u> Further promote the need for analyses, modelling and management strategy evaluations to be undertaken by WCPFC's service providers in order for the elements of the harvest strategy to be available for consideration by the WCPFC in December 2018.</p> <p>Collaborate with industry sectors and NGOs towards encouraging the WCPFC to agree on and adopt the required elements for a harvest strategy for the albacore stock.</p> <p><u>Year 3 (2019)</u> Engage with MPI's Highly Migratory Species and International Fisheries Management units and, where necessary, in collaboration with FFA members and WCPFC delegates from other major countries fishing the stock, in advance of the annual WCPFC meeting, towards developing an albacore harvest strategy in line with the CMM 2014-06 workplan</p> <p><u>Year 4 (2020)</u> Provide evidence that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in in PI 1.1.1 SG80.</p>
<p>Progress on Condition [Year 1]</p>	<p>The client update report provided to the audit team (TMA, 2018) provides details of steps taken to satisfy the requirements for the 1st year of the client action plan (CAP). The CAP is heavily reliant on MPI's initiatives in regard to bringing about the required WCPFC fisheries management changes. MPI, through its International Policy Directorate, has provided the assurance of the NZ Government's commitment towards securing the implementation of appropriate management measures for albacore in the WCPFC and domestically (MPI, 2016; Appendix 1.4 of Akroyd and McLoughlin, 2017 and MPI, 2019).</p> <p>TMA (2018) outlines NZ WCPFC14 delegation initiatives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed CMM for the development of an improved South Pacific albacore measure, developed by New Zealand (WCPFC14-2017-DP14). This draft CMM had as its objectives to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish agreed management objectives ➤ Determine work plans towards reaching an interim catch limit for southern albacore and the apportionment of the catch limit between EEZs and the High Seas; the development of improved monitoring capability through

	<p>the introduction of electronic catch documentation; the implementation of a Harvest Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At an intercessional meeting to progress the FFA consultative draft CMM to establish a limit for SPA, New Zealand provided a presentation on the development of candidate management objectives and participated in the further development of a draft bridging CMM for South Pacific albacore (WCPFC14-2017-IM-SPA1). <p>TMA (2018) also outlines TMA initiatives in 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signatory to a letter submitted by the WCPO Tuna MSC Alignment Group to WCPFC members, Cooperating Non-members, Participating Territories and Observers via the WCPFC Executive Director, calling for WCPFC14 to adopt appropriate management measures for tunas; supported by 21 NGOs and fishing industry organisations (MSC Alignment Group, 2017). Signatory to a letter submitted by ISSF to WCPFC14 Heads of Delegation seeking their leadership in progressing the adoption of Harvest Strategies; supported by 26 NGOs and fishing industry organisations (ISSF, 2017). In September, 2017 TMA became a member of the International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF), in support of improved management of tuna fisheries and in recognition of the value of sustainable 'one-by-one' tuna fishing methods (IPNLF, 2017). <p>As described in the NZATTF MSC public certification report (Akroyd and McLoughlin, 2017), several South Pacific nations have developed and agreed to the Tokelau Arrangement, a formal expression of an existing cooperative understanding on individual zone limitations on catch of South Pacific albacore tuna developed at meetings of the FFA Sub-committee on South Pacific Tuna and Billfish. The Tokelau Arrangement provides a framework for the development of cooperative zone-based management of South Pacific albacore tuna fisheries, intended to result in self-imposed limits on total allowable catches by countries (signatories as at October 2015 were Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). The initiative highlights the intention of Pacific nations intend to move forward with or without WCPFC consensus and thereby pressure WCPFC to adopt compatible measures (TMA, 2018).</p> <p>At the stakeholder conference held for this audit, MPI indicated that Solomon Islands have withdrawn from the Arrangement (as at October 2017). This has placed the future of the Arrangement in doubt, with further discussion to take place at the Forum Fisheries Agency meeting to be held in May 2018.</p> <p>New Zealand has also been an active participant in Te Vaka Moana, a group of Pacific Island Fisheries Administrations (Cook Islands, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau and Tonga) which aims to protect and enhance associated long-term economic benefits able to be derived from fisheries and protect the important contribution fisheries make to the food security of the communities. This has provided an additional venue to promote the development of harvest strategies at WCPFC. Unfortunately, MPI have indicated that the future funding of this arrangement are in doubt.</p> <p><i>WCPFC progress</i></p> <p>WCPFC CMM 2014-06 was adopted to develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for key fish stocks in the WCPO. It required the development of a workplan which was first adopted at WCPFC12 in 2015 (WCPFC12, 2015; Attachment Y). This workplan was subsequently amended at WCPFC13 (December 2016). Key objectives for WCPFC13 for South Pacific albacore under the workplan were to record management objectives and agree acceptable levels of risk for both stocks, and to agree a target reference point. Despite a proposal for a TRP put forward by FFA, none was adopted at WCPFC13, nor were other aspects of the harvest strategy agreed (there was agreement that an acceptable level of risk could not be >20%). A revised workplan (WCPFC, 2016; Attachment</p>
--	--

	<p>N) was agreed which pushed the key decisions forward to WCPFC14, the next Commission meeting. The major outcome for WCPFC14 was to be the adoption of a TRP. The workplan timeline was also revised such that HCR adoption is pushed back to 2021 (WCPFC14, 2017).</p>
<p>Progress on Condition [Year 2]</p>	<p><i>NZ delegation initiatives:</i></p> <p>The South Pacific Albacore Virtual Intersessional Working Group, established at WCPFC14 to develop an agreed roadmap to progress implementation of a South Pacific albacore harvest strategy, has been chaired by New Zealand (WCPFC15-2018-SPalbroadmap). The terms of reference of the Working Group are to consider management issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elements necessary for implementation of the Harvest Strategy approach to management of the stock; • an allocation process; and • monitoring and reporting priorities and addressing gaps for all fisheries taking South Pacific albacore in the WCPFC Convention area. <p>The four main elements of the roadmap are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the current measures; • SC14 advice to WCPFC15 on technical aspects of the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy; • TCC14 advice to WCPFC15 on monitoring and reporting gaps in the South Pacific albacore fishery, as well as SIDS and Territories implementation considerations; • Limits - taking into account the 2018 stock assessment, recommendation on an overall limit for the fishery, how it could be distributed (taking into account the interests of SIDS and Territories) and the actions required to achieve biological and economic stability in the fishery. <p>New Zealand organized two intersessional meetings of the Working Group, met with FFA CCMs in advance of WCPFC15 and additionally held a meeting on the margins of the Commission meeting where a draft workplan was presented which aimed to achieve adoption of harvest control rules for albacore by 2021.</p> <p>New Zealand provided a summary to WCPFC15 of inputs by the SC, TCC and the Commission over the period 2010-2018 regarding the requirements of CMM2010-05 and CMM2015-02 (WCPFC15-2018-SPalbroadmap_suppl). The updated work plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM2014-06 remains unchanged for albacore (AUS, 2018).</p> <p>MPI has also been actively engaged in progressing regional fisheries management initiatives for tuna via the Tokelau Arrangement, with the objective of achieving the adoption of Harvest Strategies by Coastal States thus providing pressure for WCPFC to adopt compatible measures. However, this initiative appears to have stalled. Solomon Islands, which has the largest albacore fishery in the South Pacific, have opted out of the Tokelau Arrangement, supporting PNA's Vessel Day Scheme approach rather than a catch-based system, and other PICs may follow.</p> <p><i>WCPFC Harvest Strategy progress and Interim Target Reference Point adoption</i></p> <p>SPC provided WCPFC15 with a range of potential outcomes associated with maintaining the average South Pacific albacore catches for the period 2013-2015 into the future, to assist CCMs in deciding on an appropriate TRP for South Pacific albacore (WCPFC15-2018-10_rev1).</p> <p>WCPFC15 subsequently adopted an interim Target Reference Point for South Pacific albacore as follows (WCPFC15-2018-Draft Summary Report as at 31 January 2019):</p>

	<p>1. WCPFC15 agreed on an interim TRP for South Pacific albacore at 56% of spawning stock biomass in the absence of fishing ($0.56SB_{F=0}$) with the objective of achieving an 8% increase in CPUE for the southern longline fishery as compared to 2013 levels. If a future stock assessment indicates that this interim TRP will not result in the desired longline CPUE, then the interim TRP will be revised in order to meet this objective. The TRP shall be reviewed every 3 years, consistent with the South Pacific albacore assessment schedule.</p> <p>2. The Commission shall amend or develop appropriate conservation and management measures to implement a harvest control rule, developed in accordance with CMM 2014-06, with the objective of maintaining the South Pacific albacore spawning stock biomass at the target level on average and according to the timeframes specified in paragraph 3, below.</p> <p>3. In order to manage the required reduction in catches, the timeline for achieving the interim TRP shall be no later than 20 years. The Science Service Provider is tasked with identifying a range of alternative catch pathways and timeframes that achieve this, for consideration in 2019.</p> <p>4. In undertaking the assessment identified in paragraph 3, information from all fisheries will be included while noting that any management measures must take account of the impact of different gear types.</p> <p>5. The Scientific Committee shall refer to the TRP in its assessment of the status of the WCPO South Pacific albacore tuna stock and in reporting to the Commission on management advice and implications for this stock.</p> <p>6. Considering that the distribution of the South Pacific albacore stock goes beyond the WCPFC Convention area and the management of this stock is the responsibility of both WCPFC and IATTC, the Commission requested the Scientific Services Provider to coordinate with the IATTC scientific staff with the view to consider including the entire South Pacific in future assessments.</p> <p>As at previous Commission meetings, the work plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM2014-06 was again updated at WCPFC15. The only change for albacore for coming years was the tasking of SPC to identify a range of alternative catch pathways to the interim TRP and timeframes that achieve this. WCPFC15 agreed that the annual meeting in 2019 would be a 6-day meeting with additional time devoted for the Commission to discuss harvest strategies.</p> <p><i>TMA initiatives:</i></p> <p>TMA's Client Action Plan is heavily reliant on MPI's initiatives in regard to bringing about the required fisheries management changes by WCPFC.</p> <p>Following a request from TMA, MPI has, through its International Policy Directorate, provided the assurance of the New Zealand government's ongoing commitment towards securing the implementation of appropriate management measures for albacore in the Western and Central Pacific, and domestically (MPI, 2016).</p> <p>In November 2018, TMA renewed its request to MPI's delegation to WCPFC15, urging them to continue to vigorously promote the development of a cohesive management strategy for southern albacore (TMA, 2018). TMA also provided input to MPI on whether troll-caught albacore should be included in the harvest control rule and if so, whether there should be a dispensation in the event a catch reduction was signalled by the HCR, given that the troll fishery exclusively targets juvenile fish (RT, 2018).</p>
<p>Status of condition</p>	<p>The TMA has been active in its approach to satisfying the requirements of this and other conditions on the MSC certification of this fishery through avenues available to them and MPI has been actively engaged in supporting TMA. The Year 2 requirements of the CAP have been met.</p> <p>As indicated at the 1st surveillance audit, the adoption of a TRP had fallen behind the timetable dictated by the CMM 2014-06 work plan and the milestones for this condition. However, an interim TRP has now been adopted and progress in</p>

	<p>adopting other aspects of the harvest strategy appears to have been accelerated through the “roadmap” adopted at WCPFC14 and the working group for its implementation chaired by New Zealand.</p> <p>The condition is on target.</p>
--	--

4.2 Condition 2

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	1.2.2	A well-defined harvest control rule needs to be proposed, tested and established by the scientific working group and management authority (primarily WCPFC).	60
Condition	<p>SI a) By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY.</p> <p>SI b) By the fourth surveillance audit, provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties.</p> <p>SI c) By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>		
Milestones	<p>At the first annual surveillance audit and subsequent surveillance audits, the client will provide evidence that it is actively working to ensure that well defined harvest control rules taking into account the main uncertainties are in place for albacore tuna that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached. This evidence will include a summary of the actions taken by the client and other relevant parties to achieve this outcome in alignment with the WCPFC 2015 agreed workplan (WCPFC, 2015; Attachment Y). Score 60.</p> <p>By the fourth surveillance audit, the client will provide evidence that well-defined harvest control rules taking into account the main uncertainties are in place for albacore tuna that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached. Score 80.</p>		
Client action plan	<p>In order to demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place for albacore that ensure the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached and that are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY, the client will:</p> <p><u>Year 1 (2017)</u></p> <p>Engage with MPI's Highly Migratory Species and International Fisheries Management teams towards ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meetings of the WCPFC Scientific Committee prioritise the analyses required for the development of harvest control rules for albacore in accordance with the agreed Work Plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM2014-06. ● Meetings of the FFA's FFC Sub-committee on South Pacific Tuna & Billfish Fisheries implement initiatives to facilitate the adoption HCRs for albacore, in particular: 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Seek support from FFA and Tokelau Arrangement members for the adoption of a pragmatic approach to setting country allocations towards achieving the objective of a target reference point. o Encourage WCPFC's Secretariat to promote the adoption by the Commission of high seas limits for South Pacific albacore fisheries towards setting a global TAC/TAE for the stock. <p><u>Year 2 (2018)</u></p> <p>Engage with MPI's Highly Migratory Species and International Fisheries Management teams towards ensuring that initiatives are undertaken to promote completion of the management strategy evaluation of candidate HCRs for consideration by the Commission in December 2018.</p> <p>Collaborate with industry sectors and NGOs towards encouraging the WCPFC to agree on and adopt HCRs for the albacore stock.</p> <p><u>Year 3 (2019)</u></p> <p>Engagement with MPI's Highly Migratory Species and International Fisheries Management teams, and where necessary in collaboration with FFA members and WCPFC delegates from other major countries fishing the stock, in advance of the annual WCPFC meeting, to seek support for the adoption of harvest control rules for albacore.</p> <p><u>Year 4 (2020)</u></p> <p>a) Demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, and that are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY.</p> <p>b) Provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties.</p> <p>c) Demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>
<p>Progress on Condition [Year 1]</p>	<p>The Year 1 CAP requirements predominantly require MPI support. The progress against the condition and MPI's initiatives are as described for condition 1.</p>
<p>Progress on Condition [Year 2]</p>	<p>The Year 2 CAP requirements predominantly require MPI support. In the main, the progress against the condition and MPI's initiatives are as described for condition 1. No specific progress on harvest control rules was implemented at WCPFC15. The South Pacific Albacore Virtual Intersessional Working Group, chaired by New Zealand, is tasked to continue work intersessionally to develop the <i>Roadmap for Effective Conservation and Management of South Pacific Albacore</i> including progressing the adoption of harvest control rules.</p>
<p>Status of condition</p>	<p>As for condition 1, the TMA has been active in its approach to satisfying the requirements of this condition on the MSC certification of this fishery through avenues available to them and MPI has been actively engaged in supporting TMA. The Year 2 requirements of the CAP have been met.</p> <p>The major outcomes for this condition are not due until the 4th surveillance audit. With the timeline for the CMM 2014-06 workplan being revised harvest control rules are now due to be adopted by 2021, around the time of the 4th surveillance audit. The intersessional working group chaired by New Zealand has been a positive step towards satisfying the requirements of the condition.</p> <p>The condition is currently on target.</p>

Condition 3 (added at 1st audit)

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
<p>Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)</p>	<p>3.2.2</p>	<p>Decision-making processes respond to serious and other important issues identified in relevant research, monitoring, evaluation and consultation, in a transparent, timely and adaptive manner and take account of the wider implications of decisions.</p>	<p>75</p>
<p>Condition</p>	<p>SI (b). By the fourth surveillance audit (considering the updated South Pacific albacore stock assessment due in 2018 and consequent management advice) demonstrate that WCPFC decision-making processes have responded to the albacore catch rate issue by putting in place an appropriate harvest strategy or other suitable management measures. (Score 75).</p>		
<p>Milestones</p>	<p>1. By the 2nd surveillance audit: Provide evidence that the Commission is responding to the issue of SP albacore catch rates, e.g. by progressing with the harvest strategy as per the agreed workplan, or some other evidence.</p> <p>2. By the 3rd surveillance audit: Ditto. (Score 75).</p> <p>3. By the 4th surveillance audit: Decision-making processes have responded to the albacore catch rate issue by putting in place a harvest strategy, or some other suitable management measure.</p>		
<p>Client action plan</p>	<p>The NZ Tuna Management Association joins other FFA members that have an Albacore fishery in continuing to advocate for harvest control rules and reference points through a revised and strengthened WCPFC CMM.</p> <p>With attempts being unsuccessful over the past few years, FFA members have taken the lead to take a unified stand to have stronger management regimes through the Tokelau Arrangement.</p> <p>In order to demonstrate that WCPFC decision-making processes have responded to the albacore catch rate issue by putting in place a harvest strategy or some other suitable means, the client will:</p> <p><u>Year 1 (Dec 2018)</u></p> <p>Engage with the Ministry for Primary Industries towards ensuring that delegations to meetings of regional bodies and the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the message that development by the SPC of harvest strategy elements for SP albacore, as prescribed by CMM 2014-06, should incorporate agreed biological, ecological, economic and/or social objectives. <p><u>Year 2 (Dec 2019)</u></p> <p>Engage with the Ministry for Primary Industries towards ensuring that delegations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with FFA members, industry sectors and environmental NGOs towards encouraging the WCPFC to agree on and adopt a harvest strategy for the SP albacore stock that includes agreed economic and/or social objectives. <p><u>Year 3 (Dec 2020)</u></p> <p>Engagement with the Ministry for Primary Industries ensuring that delegations to meetings:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with FFA members and WCPFC delegates from other major countries fishing the stock, in advance of the annual WCPFC meeting, to seek support for the adoption of a harvest strategy for SP albacore as prescribed by CMM 2014-06. <p><u>Year 4 (Dec 2021)</u></p> <p>Provide evidence that WCPFC decision-making processes have responded to the albacore catch rate issue by putting in place a harvest strategy or some other suitable means.</p>
Consultation on condition	WCPFC have demonstrated an intention to make progress on the 'roadmap' for South Pacific albacore agreed at WCPFC14. Consultation required is as per conditions 1 and 2.
Progress on Condition [Year 2]	As for the previous conditions, the Year 2 CAP requirements predominantly require MPI support. The progress against the condition and MPI's initiatives are as described for conditions 1 & 2. No specific progress on harvest control rules was implemented at WCPFC15. The South Pacific Albacore Virtual Intersessional Working Group, chaired by New Zealand, is tasked to continue work intersessionally to develop the <i>Roadmap for Effective Conservation and Management of South Pacific Albacore</i> to ensure the adoption of an appropriate harvest strategy.
Status of condition	<p>This condition was raised due to WCPFC's lack of responsiveness to declining catch rates (particularly for the longline sector). The interim TRP adopted at WCPFC15 recognizes this in its objective to achieve an 8% increase in catch per unit of effort for the southern longline fishery as compared to 2013 levels. WCPFC15 indicates that if a future stock assessment indicates that the interim TRP will not result in the desired longline CPUE, then the interim TRP will be revised in order to meet this objective. The TRP shall be reviewed every 3 years, consistent with the SP albacore assessment schedule. However, WCPFC also indicates that the required reduction in catches has a timeline for achieving the interim target reference point of no later than 20 years. The Science Service Provider is tasked with identifying a range of alternative catch pathways and timeframes that achieve this, for consideration in 2019.</p> <p>As for conditions 1 & 2, the TMA has been active in its approach to satisfying the requirements of this condition on the MSC certification of this fishery through avenues available to them and MPI has been actively engaged in supporting TMA. The Year 2 requirements of the CAP have been met. The condition is on target.</p>

Recommendation

A recommendation was made at re-certification that consideration should be given to ongoing observer coverage of the fishery. Thirteen days were observed in 2016/17 and supported indications that it is a low risk fishery. Given this low risk it is unlikely that there will be ongoing observer coverage but that some level of coverage may be undertaken on an opportunistic basis. There is no need for further consideration of this recommendation at future audits.

5 Conclusion

5.1 Summary of findings

The audit team confirms that this fishery continues to conform to the MSC Principles and Criteria for sustainable fishing. There were two conditions on the fishery at surveillance and a further condition was added at the 1st surveillance audit. The TMA and New Zealand MPI have been active in progressing the requirements of these conditions. All three conditions are currently **on target**.

The surveillance level remains at 3.

The audit team recommends that this fishery should remain certified and that product remains certified.

The audit team thanks TMA for their detailed Client Update Report.

6 References

Akroyd, J. and McLoughlin, K. (2017). MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification New Zealand Albacore Tuna Troll Public Certification Report. 177pp. <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/new-zealand-albacore-tuna-troll/@@assessments>.

Griggs, L., Large, K. and Datta, S. (2018). Albacore catch sampling during 2015–16 to 2017–18. New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report 2018/62. <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/publications>.

Harley, S., Davies, N., Tremblay-Boyer, L., Hampton, J. & McKechnie, S. (2015). Stock assessment for South Pacific albacore tuna. WCPFC-SC11-2015/SA-WP-06, Rev 1 (4 August 2015).

IPNLF (2017). South Pacific tuna association joins one-by-one supply chain network. IPNLF Press Release, 29 September, 2017. <http://ipnlf.org/news/south-pacific-tuna-association-joins-one-by-onesupply-chain-network>.

ISSF (2017). ISSF Letter to WCPFC on sustainability of tuna stocks. 28 November, 2017. 7 p. (WCPFC14-2017-OP08). <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/30157>.

MPI (2016). MPI support for Action Plans in MSC Assessment of the New Zealand South Pacific albacore tuna troll fishery. Letter from MPI, 4 October, 2016. 1 p.

MPI (2018a). Annual Operational Plan for Highly Migratory Species Fisheries 2018/19. Fisheries New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2018/04. <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/29669/loggedIn>

MPI (2018b). National Fisheries Plan for Highly Migratory Species 2018 - Draft. Fisheries New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2018/08.

MPI (2018c). Annual Review Report for Highly Migratory Species 2017/18. Fisheries New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2018/17. <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/29672/loggedIn>.

MPI (2019). Official Report to Acoura: MPI's annual fisheries compliance update for the MSC certified ALB stock. 1 p.

MSC Alignment Group (2017). WCPO Tuna MSC Alignment Group Joint Advocacy Letter to WCPFC Executive Director. 13 February, 2017.

RT (2018). WCPFC15 Albacore Management. Email to S. Williams, 29/11/18.

TMA 2018. MSC Certification - NZ Troll Caught Albacore Tuna. First Annual Surveillance Audit, January 2018. Client Update Report. Tuna Management Association of New Zealand.

TMA 2019. MSC Certification - NZ Troll Caught Albacore Tuna. Second Annual Surveillance Audit, February 2018. Client Update Report. Tuna Management Association of New Zealand.

WCPFC12 (2015). Summary Report. Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Twelfth Regular Session, Bali, Indonesia, 3-8 December 2015.

WCPFC13 (2016). Summary Report. Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Thirteenth Regular Session, Denarau, Fiji, 5-9 December, 2016.

WCPFC14 (2017). Summary Report. Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Fourteenth Regular Session, Manila, Philippines, 3-7 December, 2017.

WCPFC14-2017-DP14. Proposal for Conservation and Management Measure for the Development of an Improved South Pacific Albacore Measure. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/30072>.

WCPFC-SC14 (2018). Summary Report. The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Scientific Committee Fourteenth Regular Session, Busan, South Korea, 8-16 August 2018. <https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/14th-regular-session-scientific-committee>.

WCPFC-SC14-2018/GN-WP-01 Rev. 1. Overview of Tuna Fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, including Economic Conditions – 2017. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/30997>.

WCPFC-SC14-2018/SA-IP-08. Trends in the South Pacific Albacore Longline and Troll Fisheries Rev 2 (21 July 2018). <https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/14th-regular-session-scientific-committee>.

WCPFC14-2017-IM-SPA1. Meeting Report – The Intersessional Meeting to Progress the FFA Consultative Draft CMM to establish a limit for SPA. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29993>.

WCPFC15-2018-Draft Summary Report as at 31 January 2019. Provisional Outcomes Document. <https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/15th-regular-session-wcpfc>.

WCPFC15-2018-SPalbbroadmap 26 November 2018. Intersessional activity report from South Pacific albacore Roadmap Virtual Working Group. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/32618>.

WCPFC15-2018-SPalbbroadmap_suppl 26 November 2018. South Pacific Albacore Roadmap – Previous Scientific Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee, and Commission discussions regarding CMMs 2010-05 and 2015-02. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/33010>.

WCPFC15-2018-10_rev1. Potential target reference points for South Pacific albacore. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/32647>.

Appendix 1 – Re-scoring evaluation tables (if necessary)

None

Appendix 2 - Stakeholder submissions

Report to Acoura/Lloyds for the 2019 Albacore Troll Fishery audit, by MPI's International Fisheries, Policy & Trade team.

Summary of WCPFC and other regional meetings attended by MPI delegations and key contributions by NZ delegations during 2018.

- Meeting of Tokelau Arrangement Participants and FFC Officials meeting – MPI 2 International Fisheries Management Senior Policy Analysts, MFAT – legal, development managers (x2), Policy officer
 - Key contributions – provide report as Chair of WCPFC virtual intersessional South Pacific albacore roadmap working group, participate in Tokelau Arrangement discussions, and provide input on FFA WCPFC priorities including WCPFC adoption of South Pacific albacore target reference point.
- FFC Ministerial – Minister Nash, Private Sec for fisheries, MPI Director of International Policy, Senior Policy Analyst, MFAT Policy Officer
 - Key contributions – agree WCPFC priorities including WCPFC adoption of South Pacific albacore target reference point.
- WCPFC Scientific Committee – Fisheries NZ Principal Scientist, International Fisheries Management Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Conservation Senior Analyst
 - Key contributions – chair informal meeting of South Pacific albacore intersessional roadmap working group. Participate in harvest strategy discussions on South Pacific albacore TRP.
- WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee – MPI – International Fisheries Management Senior Analyst, MPI Fisheries Compliance Advisor, MFAT legal adviser
 - Key contributions – no major South Pacific albacore focused activities at this meeting.
- FFA Management Options Consultation and Tokelau Arrangement meetings - MPI 2 International Fisheries Management Senior Policy Analysts, MFAT – development manager
 - Key contributions – Present report as Chair of WCPFC virtual intersessional South Pacific albacore roadmap working group, contribute to development of FFA proposal of a South Pacific albacore TRP for WCPFC.
- High Seas allocation workshop – Fisheries NZ Manager Offshore Fisheries, MPI International fisheries Management Senior analyst
 - Key contributions – meeting was focused on tropical tuna, so no albacore actions.
- WCPFC annual meeting - Fisheries NZ Manager Offshore Fisheries, MPI International fisheries Management Senior analyst and Policy Analyst, DOC Senior International Advisor, MFAT – Policy Officer, Legal Advisor, Manager Pacific Oceans Team
 - Key Contributions – support Fiji and FFA as lead spokespersons for adoption of a South Pacific albacore TRP. Help design at TRP that was amendable to DWFNs and FFA members.

Appendix 3 - Surveillance audit information

NA

Appendix 4 - Additional detail on conditions/ actions/ results (if necessary)



26 November 2018

Sarah Williams and Megan Linwood

International Fisheries Policy Team

Ministry for Primary Industries

Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace

PO Box 2526

Wellington, 6140.

Dear Sarah and Megan

Promotion of Harvest Strategy Development for South Pacific Albacore

As you are aware, the Tuna Management Association of New Zealand's Albacore Tuna Troll Fishery is currently certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. This certification is important to TMA and to the New Zealand fishing industry at large in that it projects to the world our commitment to responsible fishing.

The fishery's continued certification by MSC is subject to three Conditions of Certification relating to WCPFC's failure to date to implement a cohesive management strategy and harvest control rule for southern albacore.

We urge MPI's delegation attending WCPFC15 in December 2018 to continue to vigorously promote the further development and adoption by the Commission of these important management elements for the fishery. TMA remains available to assist MPI in this process in any way possible.

Thank you for your support.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Saunders-Loder', written in a cursive style.

Doug Saunders-Loder

Chairman

Appendix 5 - Revised Surveillance Program

No changes to the Surveillance Program