

**Fisheries landing data and MSC
designations for the
Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna -
Longline (Hangton) FIP**

Version 1.0

July 2022

1 Contents

1	Contents.....	2
2	Introduction	3
3	Results.....	3

2 Introduction

This document presents the fisheries landing data obtained from the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries for vessels flagged to China and subsequent MSC designation of species.

The FIP consists of 33 vessels, with 32 flagged to China and 1 to Fiji (originally the FIP comprised 15 vessels). The fishery targets north and south Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) bigeye (*T. obesus*), and WCPO yellowfin (*T. albacares*) tuna.

Table 1. FIP scope

Species / stocks	North and south Pacific albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>), western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) bigeye (<i>T. obesus</i>), and WCPO yellowfin (<i>T. albacares</i>) tuna.
Fishing gear	Longline
Geographical area	Western and Central Pacific Ocean high seas
Management	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO): Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

3 Results

The 2021 landing data used to produce the following tables were obtained from the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries, for nine of the Chinese flagged vessels in the FIP. The individual vessel data has been amalgamated and averaged for confidentiality.

It is important to note that landing data is not comprehensive and does not provide an adequate understanding of the environmental impact the fishery has. Over the course of the FIP, catch data with fates (released alive, released dead, released unknown, etc) will need to be obtained from the relevant management authorities, analysed, and likewise designated into MSC categories.

Table 2 below shows, the main landings were for yellowfin tuna with 81 percent, followed by albacore and bigeye tuna with 13 and 3 percent, respectively, totalling 97 percent of the landings. All the other landings individually contribute less than 1 percent each, but combined represent 3 percent.

Table 2. Average landing data for 9 Chinese flagged vessels for 2021. Data was obtained from the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries.

Fish Species	Scientific name	Avg Wgt (Kg)	Avg Percent (%)
Yellowfin Tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	161,894	81
Bigeye Tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	6,390	3
Albacore Tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	26,793	13
Skipjack Tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	702	0.350
Wahoo	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	1,139	0.568
Mahimahi	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	87	0.043
Sail Fish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	304	0.152
Spear Fish	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	94	0.047
Oil Fish	<i>R. pretiosus</i>	771	0.384
Opah	<i>Lampridae spp</i>	408	0.203
Black Tom	<i>Macolor Niger</i>	52	0.026
Sword Fish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	227	0.113
Barracuda	<i>Sphyraena spp</i>	406	0.202
Marlin	<i>Tetrapturus spp</i>	1,355	0.675
Rainbow Runner	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	4	0.002
Total		200,627	100

Table 3 below places the landings into MSC designations. For this analysis, principle 1, minor primary, and minor secondary were identified. No ETP or out-of-scope designations were identified, most likely due to the data only obtaining to landings data and not catch data, and not the fact that the fishery does not interact with these designations. This table will consequently need to be updated once more comprehensive observer catch data is obtained from relevant management.

Table 3. MSC designations for the FIP based on 2021 landing data for 9 Chinese flagged vessels obtained from the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries.

Common name	Scientific name	Category	Justification	RBF anticipated at full assessment?
Yellowfin Tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	P1	Stock assessment with reference points, >5% (“resilient” species)	No, biologically based limits are available, derived either from analytical stock assessment.
Bigeye Tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	P1	Stock assessment with reference points, ~5% (“resilient” species)	No, biologically based limits are available, derived either from analytical stock assessment.
Albacore Tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	P1	Stock assessment with reference points, >5% (“resilient” species)	No, biologically based limits are available, derived either from analytical stock assessment.
Skipjack Tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Minor Primary	Stock assessment with reference points, <5% (“resilient” species)	No, biologically based limits are available, derived either from analytical stock assessment.
Wahoo	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	Minor Secondary	No specific management tools in place or reference points, <2% (“resilient” species)	No, if only ‘main’ species assessed at full assessment.
Mahimahi / Mahi Mahi	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	Minor Secondary	No specific management tools in place or reference points, <1% (“resilient” species)	No, if only ‘main’ species assessed at full assessment.
Sailfish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	Minor Secondary	No specific management tools in place or reference points, <1% (“resilient” species)	No, if only ‘main’ species assessed at full assessment.
Spearfish	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	Minor Secondary	No specific management tools in place or reference points, <1% (“resilient” species)	No, if only ‘main’ species assessed at full assessment.
Oilfish	<i>R. pretiosus</i>	Minor Secondary	No specific management tools in place or reference points, <1% (“resilient” species)	No, if only ‘main’ species assessed at full assessment.

Common name	Scientific name	Category	Justification	RBF anticipated at full assessment?
Opah	<i>Lampridae spp</i>	Minor Secondary	No specific management tools in place or reference points, <1% (“resilient” species)	No, if only ‘main’ species assessed at full assessment.
Black Tom / Black Snapper	<i>Macolor Niger</i>	Minor Secondary	No specific management tools in place or reference points, <1% (“resilient” species)	No, if only ‘main’ species assessed at full assessment.
Swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Minor (primary if southwest Pacific stock, secondary if western and central North Pacific stock)	SW Pacific: Management tools and measures in place intended to achieve stock management objectives reflected in reference points, <1% (“resilient” species). WCN Pacific: Stock assessment with reference points but no specific CMM in place.	No for both stocks, biologically based limits are available, derived either from analytical stock assessment.
Barracuda spp	<i>Sphyraena spp</i>	Minor Secondary	No specific management tools in place or reference points, <1% (“resilient” species)	No, if only ‘main’ species assessed at full assessment.
Marlin spp	<i>Tetrapturus spp</i>	Minor Secondary	No specific management tools in place or reference points, <2% (“resilient” species)	No, if only ‘main’ species assessed at full assessment.
Rainbow Runner	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	Minor Secondary	No specific management tools in place or reference points, <1% (“resilient” species)	No, if only ‘main’ species assessed at full assessment.