



**Surveillance Report
Tosakatsuo Skipjack Pole & Line Fishery**

Certificate No: **MML-F-093**

Moody Marine Ltd.
October 2010

Authors: J Akroyd, P Kimura, A Hough

Moody Marine Ltd.
Moody International Certification
Merlin House
Stanier Way
Wyvern Business Park
Derby. DE21 6BF
UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1332 544663
Fax: +44 (0) 1332 675020

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Scope against which the surveillance is undertaken: MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing as applied to the Tosakatsuo Skipjack Pole and Line Fishery

Species: Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

Area: Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Method of capture: Pole and Line

Date of Surveillance Visit:	30 September – 3 October 2010			
Initial Certification	Date: October 2009	Certificate Ref: : MML-F-093		
Surveillance stage	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Surveillance team:	Lead Assessor: Jo Akroyd			
	Assessor(s): Peter Kimura, A Hough			
Company Name:	Tosakatsuo Suisan Co., Ltd			
Address:	2287 Yokouchi Fujieda Shizuoka Pref. 426-0002 JAPAN			
Contact 1	Hiroyuki Myojin President			
Tel No:	+ 81(0)54 646 8000			
Fax No:	+81(0)546468002			
E-mail address:	myojin@tosakatu.jp			

2.0 RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report contains the findings of the first surveillance cycle in relation to this fishery.

The client's response to the Conditions of Certification was set out in an Action Plan, which was appended to the final certification report. Action on this was examined as a part of this first surveillance. For each condition, the report sets out progress to date. This progress has now been evaluated by the Moody Marine assessment team ('Observations' and 'Conclusion') against the commitments made in the Action Plan. This assessment does not include a re-evaluation of the scoring allocated to the relevant Performance Indicators in the original MSC assessment as the conditions are not yet closed.

Information regarding this year's audit has been collected from Tosakatsuo Suisan Co. Ltd, Pole and Line fishermen, Boat owners, Japan Fisheries Association and the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

The Tosakatsuo skipjack pole and line fishery was certified in October 2010. There was one condition relating to two Performance Indicators as follows

Condition 1

Indicators 1.1.2 and 1.1.1 require that "There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place. Generally understood harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and which act to reduce the exploitation rate as limit reference points are approached. Well defined harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached" and that "Limit and target reference points are appropriate for the stock". Generic limit and target reference points are based on justifiable and reasonable practice appropriate for the species category; Reference points are appropriate for the stock and can be estimated." Currently, no harvest strategies, objectives and reference points have been formally adopted. While B_{MSY} (biomass at maximum sustainable yield) and F_{MSY} (fishing mortality at maximum sustainable yield) limit reference points are used by the Science Committee (SC) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and reported to the Commission, these are recognized as being default measures. Therefore, in order to resolve deficiencies in these indicators, the WCPFC needs to move toward formally establishing harvest strategies and reference points.

This report contains the findings of the first surveillance cycle in relation to this fishery. The surveillance audit was conducted in accordance with the MSC's Fisheries certification methodology (FCM) version 6, September 2006. The surveillance audit took place in the offices of Tosakatsuo, Tosasaga and Yaizu.

Progress has been evaluated by the Moody Marine assessment team ('Observations' and 'Conclusion') against the commitments made in the Action Plan for progress against the conditions and the suggested improvements.

There were no requests from other stakeholders to meet with the audit team during the scheduled surveillance times

Item	Comments
1	Stock status
Observations	<p>In the summary report of the Sixth Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee it was recorded that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2009 WCP-CA (Western Central Pacific Convention Area) catch of skipjack (1.79 million mt – 73% of the total catch) was clearly the highest recorded and nearly 120,000 mt more than the previous record catch of 2007 (1.67 million mt). • The 2009 purse-seine skipjack catch was 1.58 million mt (84% of the total catch) higher than both the 2008 catch (by 190,000 mt) and the record catch in 2007 (by 140,000 mt). The purse-seine skipjack catch has now increased by nearly 700,000 mt (or 79%) since 2001 (890,605 mt), at an average of about 88,000 mt per year. • The 2009 pole-and-line catch (165,814 mt) was the lowest annual catch for this fishery since the mid-1960s. The Japanese distant-water and offshore (104,232 mt in 2009) fleets, and the Indonesian fleets (60,415 mt in 2007), account for most of the WCP-CA pole-and-line catch. The catches by the Japanese distant-water and offshore fleets in recent years have been the lowest for several decades which is related to the continued reduction in vessel numbers (in 2009 reduced to only 96 vessels, the lowest on record). <p>Fishing mortality rates for skipjack tuna tended to be higher during the last decade than for the preceding period and fishing mortality and biomass indicators relative to MSY started to move to 1.0, although they remained substantially below the F_{MSY} level ($F_{current}/F_{MSY} = 0.34$). The stock is not in an overfished state as biomass is above the B_{MSY} ($B_{current}/B_{MSY} = 2.42$).</p> <p>Catches in 2009 increased to a historical high of ~1.8 million mt. This is significantly above the estimated MSY of ~1.35 million mt. The assessment continues to show that the stock is currently only moderately exploited and fishing mortality levels are sustainable.</p> <p>Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) appears in a wide area within the whole of Pacific Ocean and is believed to migrate seasonally from tropical to subtropical oceans and near the Japanese coastal waters. Recent stock status of skipjack tuna (stock assessment 2008) is that it is not being overfished and its stock is still at a safe level, even though total catch has been increasing. However, recent skipjack catches near Japanese waters (coastal) has been decreasing and its catches caught by both of the Japanese pole and line and purse seine fisheries in 2009 recorded the lowest catches since the logbook data have been available.</p> <p>The recent status of Japanese skipjack fishery in the vicinity of Japan was reported on at the sixth Regular Session of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries commission (WCPFC) Scientific Committee 10-19 August 2010.</p> <p>Japan fishes skipjack in the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) mainly by purse seine and pole and line but also by small scale fisheries such as troll in the coastal area of Japan. Although skipjack catch and nominal CPUE shows no sign of the decrease of skipjack population in the equatorial region in the WCPO, there were some signs possibly indicating a decrease of the population in the vicinity of Japan. These are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) a sharp decrease occurred in skipjack catch in 2009 in the region northeast for the middle-sized pole-and-line and offshore purse seine fisheries, (2) The nominal CPUE for skipjack for the middle-sized pole-and-line fishery somewhat shifted from a high level during 2000-2006 to a lower level during 2007-2009, (3) The end of fishing season became earlier for the middle-sized pole-and-line

	fishery in the most recent 3 years (2007-2009), and (4) The skipjack catch for the troll has been a low level at least since 2005.
Item 2	Comments
Activity assessed	Condition of Certification 1: Indicators 1.1.2 and 1.1.1 require that “There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place. Generally understood harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and which act to reduce the exploitation rate as limit reference points are approached. Well defined harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached” and that “Limit and target reference points are appropriate for the stock”. Generic limit and target reference points are based on justifiable and reasonable practice appropriate for the species category; Reference points are appropriate for the stock and can be estimated.” Currently, no harvest strategies, objectives and reference points have been formally adopted. While B_{MSY} (biomass at maximum sustainable yield) and F_{MSY} (fishing mortality at maximum sustainable yield) limit reference points are used by the Science Committee (SC) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and reported to the Commission, these are recognized as being default measures. Therefore, in order to resolve deficiencies in these indicators, the WCPFC needs to move toward formally establishing harvest strategies and reference points.
Tosakatsuo Action Plan	<p>1. Tosakatsuo Skipjack Pole and Line Fishery is to promote and support management actions to develop formal harvest strategies and reference points within the WCPFC and in Japanese domestic management. Communications supporting such measures should be made to the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ). Records should be provided by Tosakatsuo Suisan of communications and responses.</p> <p>2. Tosakatsuo Skipjack Pole and Line Fishery is to provide a summary of Japan’s responses to WCPFC management resolutions and recommendations relating to this condition.</p> <p>3. If additional resolutions are proposed by WCPFC/FAJ to address this Condition, then these should be supported as in 1 above.</p> <p>4. If additional resolutions addressing this issue are adopted by the WCPFC, then this condition would be considered closed.</p> <p>Timescale:</p> <p>Point 1 Should be completed within 12 months of certification.</p> <p>Point 2 Tosakatsuo Skipjack Pole and Line Fishery should provide this information within 12 months of certification.</p> <p>Points 3 and 4 Tosakatsuo Skipjack Pole and Line Fishery should provide an annual summary of WCPFC actions in this regard on the actions of WCPFC, and supportive actions should be initiated at the earliest possible opportunity thereafter. Should the stock status fall below default limit reference points, the relevant scoring indicators would need to be revised by the assessment team.</p>
Observations	<p>Responses to the Required Actions:</p> <p>The Japanese pole and line fishery is operating in the western and central Pacific Ocean and where WCPFC and Japanese Government control the operation. Tosakatsuo has been supporting and is proactive in endeavoring to get an official harvest strategy and limit reference point established. To comply with this, they have appealed to the Fisheries Agency of Japan to support this in Japan and at the WCPFC</p>

	<p>meetings. They have informed MML Japan of the actions they are taking to ensure that they are seen to be proactive</p> <p>This has been done as evidenced by appealing to the Fisheries agency of Japan and Japanese Fisheries Association and by providing the responses and communication to MML Japan. Tosakatsuo Suisan staff have attended WCPFC scientific meetings to promote harvest strategies and limit reference points. The Tosakatsuo Suisan Co. has specifically employed a staff member with excellent English to attend these and similar meetings including meeting with Japanese government staff who also attend commission meetings. The President of Tosakatsuo Suisan has also been proactively promoting the need for a harvest strategy and the establishment of target reference points through other means eg the national Japan Economic newspaper ran an article on 1st October 2010 where the President of Tosakatsuo expressed concern at the influence of the purse seiners and of the need to ensure stocks were maintained at a sustainable level by establishing a harvest strategy and introducing limit reference points.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Tosakatsuo Suisan Ltd have provided evidence that they are being proactive in promoting and supporting management actions put forward to develop formal harvest strategies and reference points within the WCPFC and in Japanese domestic management; this is in line with the Action Plan.. Tosakatsuo Skipjack Pole and Line Fishery need to continue to do this and continue to provide a summary of Japan's responses to WCPFC management resolutions and recommendations relating to this condition.</p> <p>The relevant PI's will be re-scored when all required actions have been completed.</p>
3	Any complaints against the certified operation; recorded, reviewed and actioned
	No
4	Any relevant changes to legislation or regulation.
	No
5	Any relevant changes to management regime.
	Several vessels have joined Tosakatsuo Suisan and are included on the MSC certificate. These vessels are small pole and line mainly operating in the Japanese coastal area (within Japanese EEZ). They are using the same gear, fishing the same species, the same area and belong to same management organization. Attachment 1 has a list of the members of the Tosakatsuo Suisan Skipjack pole and line fishery.
6	Overall Conclusions
	<p>During this audit the Audit team was completely satisfied that Tosakatsuo Suisan Ltd has demonstrated continued compliance with all MSC Principles and Criteria.</p> <p>No changes in management have taken place that would detrimentally affect the performance of this fishery against the MSC standard and the fishery continues to meet the requirements of the MSC Standard.</p> <p>Progress was determined as suitable for meeting previously determined Conditions by the specified deadline.</p> <p>MSC Certification should therefore continue with audits annually.</p>

--	--

Information Sources: Tosakatsuo Suisan Co. Ltd, Fishermen and Boat owners, WCPFC website

Meetings

Hiroyuki Myojin, president of Tosakatsuo Suisan Co., Ltd
Hirofumi Tanoue, Tosakatsuo Suisan Co., Ltd. Head office
Tetsuo Nakajima, General Affairs, Tosakatsuo Suisan Co., Ltd.
Nagao Hashigaya, president & vessel owner of No. 8 Toyokuni – maru
Mutsuo Kobashi, vessel owner of Mushi-maru
Akira Hachiyama, vessel owner of No. 11 Kotoki-maru

Reports	Date	Source
Client response to the conditions of required action for certification	1-May-10	Tosakatsuo Suisan Co.,
Action Plan from client and Biomass report on Skipjack Tuna	15-Sep-10	Tosakatsuo Suisan Co.,
Summary Report of Northern Committee Sixth Regular Session (7-10Sept. 2010). WCPFC -NC6/WP-02	30-Sep-10	WCPFC
Press release on Skipjack fishing restriction (pole and Line & Purse Seine)	1-Oct-10	Nihon Keizai Newspaper
Catch data by each vessel in 2009	1-Oct-10	Tosakatsuo Suisan Co.,
Copy of logbook (Toyokuni-maru, 2009 Nov. & 2010 Aug)	23-Aug-10	Toyokuni-Mar
Brochure of Tosakatsuo Skipjack Tuna Pole and Line fishery (MSC logo)	30-Sep-10	Tosakatsuo Suisan Co.,
Catch data on skipjack tuna in Japan by fishing gear and fishing area (updated)	30-Sep-10	JFA
Recent Status of the Japanese Skipjack Fishery in the Vicinity of Japan. WCPFC -SC.6-2010/SA-WP-07	10-Aug-10	WCPFC website
Standardized CPUE for skipjack caught by Japanese offshore pole and line fishery in the northern region of the WCPFO. WCPFC-SC6-2010/SA-WP-09	10-Aug-10	WCPFC website
A Standardized CPUE analysis for the Japanese distant water skipjack pole and line fishery in the WCPFO. WCPFC-SC6-2010/SA-WP-08	Aug 2010	WCPFC website
Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the WCPO. Northern Committee 6th Regular Session Summary report	1-Sep-10	WCPFC website
List of vessels registered to Tosakatsuo Suisan Ltd and recent catches	1-Sep-10	Tosakatsuo Suisan Co.,

Standards and Guidelines used:

1. MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing
2. MSC Fishery Certification Methodology Version 6. September 2006
3. TAB Directives - all

Attachment 1

List of the member of Tosakatsuo Suisan Skipjack Pole & Line Fishery									
The list of new entry vessels to the group						Catches for each year			
No	Vessel Name	Vessel Owner	Discharge Port	Home port	VSL Wt (t)	2006 (t)	2007 (t)	2008 (t)	2009 (t)
1.	No.11 Sachi Maru	Takiichi Tanabe	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Shimizu Kochi	19	503	577	703	507
2.	Fukuyoshi Maru	Toshifumi Sakamoto	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	19	435	439	528	601
3.	Mutsu Maru	Mutsuo Kobashi	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	19	492	439	467	468
4.	Kaho Maru	Isao Hamada	Ainan, Ehime	Ainan, Ehime	19	321	341	424	276
5.	Shinsho Maru	Hiroshi Yasuoka	Ainan, Ehime	Ainan, Ehime	19	275	273	247	186
6.	Kotoki Maru	Akira Hachiyama	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	19.83	293	362	434	351
7.	Tokuyoshi Maru	Kozo Kadota	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	19	324	360	329	349
8.	Daiei Maru	Takayoshi Yamanaka	Ainan, Ehime	Aki, Kochi	19.99	235	224	281	236
9.	Koei Maru	Motomu Kadowaki	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	19	436	518	544	469
10.	Taiko Maru	Umeyoshi Kobashi	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	19	413	444	417	459
11.	Daiyoshi Maru	Yoshinori Ioki	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	19.99	329	400	369	264
12.	Nakakame Maru	Natsuko Hamanaka	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	19.98	249	303	383	305
13.	Tsukasa Maru	Hiroshi Irino	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	19.97	206	232	228	336
14.	Nikkai Maru	Kazuhiro Hirata	Ainan, Ehime	Ainan, Ehime	19t	253	295	338	312
15.	Yae Maru	Masao Nakahama	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	18.34	69	53	186	96

1 6.	Masami Maru	Katsunori Fujimoto	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Shimizu , Kochi	19	97	22	58	42
1 7.	Oohisa Maru	Tadashi Hamaguchi	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Shimizu , Kochi	19	376	358	441	362
1 8.	Takeshin Maru	Ryuichi Takemura	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Shimizu , Kochi	7.9	56	74	62	65
1 9	No 63 Sagakatsu Maru	Yoshiro Tsuji	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	119	1075	983	1273	924
2 0	No151 Myojin Maru	Kikuo Myojin	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	159	985	1117	1124	963
2 1	Myojin Seiho Maru	Kikuo Myojin	Ainan, Ehime	Tosa Saga, Kochi	99	538	585	537	414
Listed members in the Tosakatsuo Group									
	Vessel Name	Vessel Owner	Discharg e Port	Home port	VSL Weigh t (t)	2006 (t)	2007 (t)	2008 (t)	2009 (t)
1	No. 1 Nikko Maru	Nikko Suisan Co., Ltd	Yaizu, Shizuoka	Omaez aki, Shizuok a	499	1,872.5 0	2274.5	1975 .5	1286.8
2	No.18 Kiyo Maru	Kaneshimeic hi Co., Ltd	Yaizu, Shizuoka	Kesenn uma, Miyagi	455	1,772.3	1415	1758 .1	1283.4
3	No.28 Kiyo Maru	Kaneshimeic hi Co., Ltd	Yaizu, Shizuoka	Kesenn uma, Miyagi	359	1,569.3	1674.5	1505 .9	1271.5
4	No.8 Toyokuni Maru	Toyokuni Maru Fisheries Cooperative Association	Yaizu, Shizuoka	Tajiri, Yaezu	489	1,942.0	2346	2157	1344.6
5	No.2 Shoyo Maru	Masaki Hamaguchi	Yaizu, Shizuoka	Nansei- cho, Mie	499	2,166.0	2174	1968	With drawn