



INDONESIA'S SORONG POLE & LINE TUNA FISHERY

PT. CITRARAJA AMPAT CANNING ACHIEVED MSC CERTIFICATION AS A SUSTAINABLE AND WELL-MANAGED FISHERY FOLLOWING AN ASSESSMENT BY INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT BY DNV GL



On 22nd November 2018, the PT. Citraraja Ampat Canning, Sorong Pole and Line Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna became the first fishery in Indonesia, and second in South East Asia, to be certified to the internationally recognised Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standard for sustainable fishing. The fishery, in which PT. Citraraja Ampat Canning (PT CRAC) operates received MSC certification following an independent scientific assessment conducted by DNV GL.

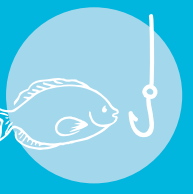
"PT. Citraraja Ampat Canning is leading the way in sustainable fishing in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. The efforts made by the fishery to achieve MSC certification will help safeguard livelihoods, seafood supplies and healthy oceans for future generations. We hope to see other fisheries follow their lead by joining the global movement for seafood sustainability."

Patrick Caleo, Asia Pacific Director at the Marine Stewardship Council.



FISHING AREAS

Fishing areas include; Fisheries Management Area/Wilayah Pengelolaan Perikanan (WPP) 717 classified within the area of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and WPP 715 within the Indonesian Archipelagic Waters. Although out of the remit of the WCPFC management, archipelagic waters are required to have compatible management measures to the WCPFC.



FISHING METHOD

The fishery includes 35 pole and line fishing vessels that employ 750 local fishers. The fishery has been operating since 1975 using tethered rafts, known as anchored fish aggregating devices (aFADs), for attracting larger pelagic fish in open water. The fishery utilises a total of 20 aFADs. The positions of these aFADs are well known. The fishing technique – catches one fish at a time using a pole and line. Live baits are used to attract the target species by "chumming". Chumming involves throwing a bucket of live baits/fish parts into the water. A usual fishing day is labour intensive and is carried out by hand by a large crew. The hooks which are used are large so as to prevent catching small fish are barbless, unweighted, and unbaited. There is little bycatch and no endangered, threatened or protected (ETP) species are caught.



CERTIFIED SKIPJACK AND YELLOWFIN TUNA SKIPJACK YELLOWFIN TUNA

The certified target species are skipjack and yellowfin tuna. The total catch in the Sorong Pole & Line Tuna Fishery in 2016 was 2,647mt of skipjack tuna and 543mt of yellowfin tuna.



STOCK STATUS

The percentage of pole and line skipjack catches in the WCPO represent about 10 – 15% of the total skipjack tuna catch.

The latest skipjack and yellowfin tuna stock assessment was undertaken by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) of the Pacific Community (SPC), as science provider to the WCPFC in August 2016.

Both stocks are healthy, not overfished and not subject to overfishing in the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO).

ACTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

In order to improve scoring of some of the performance indicators (PIs) and therefore to keep its MSC certification, PT CRAC has committed to six conditions of certification. In these six areas, PT CRAC has met the minimum level of 60 in the MSC scoring requirements, but is now obliged to improve to global best practice levels and achieve a score of 80 before reassessment in five years' time. The six conditions are:

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| <p>1 Skipjack Tuna P1.2.1 Harvest Strategy</p> <p>Demonstrate that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock, and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objective.</p> | <p>2 Skipjack Tuna P1.2.2 Harvest Control Rules & Tools</p> <p>Show well defined harvest control rules in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached. The selection of the harvest control rules shall take into account the main uncertainties. Evidence shall be available that indicates that tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p> | <p>3 Yellowfin Tuna P1.2.1 Harvest Strategy</p> <p>Demonstrate that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock, and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objective.</p> |
| <p>4 Yellowfin Tuna P1.2.2 Harvest Control Rules & Tools</p> <p>Show well defined harvest control rules in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached. The selection of the harvest control rules shall take into account the main uncertainties. Evidence shall be available that indicates that tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p> | <p>5 Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna P3.1.1 – Legal and/or Customary Framework</p> <p>Ensure there is an effective national legal system and an organised and effective cooperation with other parties to deliver management outcome consistent with MSC Principle 1 and 2.</p> | <p>6 Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna P3.2.1 – Fishery Specific Objectives</p> <p>Demonstrate a long-term objective, which are consistent with achieving the outcome expressed by MSC's Principle 1 and 2, and are explicit within the fishery-specific management system.</p> |

SUPPORT FROM THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT

The Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) has agreed to work with the fishery to take forward the actions required to address the conditions of certification. This will involve collaboration with other member states of the WCPFC to promote effective harvest strategies for skipjack and yellowfin tuna.

"MSC certification will show that Indonesian fisheries have achieved the principles and international standards for sustainability. Hopefully, more Indonesian fisheries and industries will achieve MSC certification in the future"

Mr. Zulficar Mochtar, Director General of Capture Fisheries, MMAF

PT CRAC COMMITMENT

Beyond fulfilling requirements of MSC certification, PT CRAC has also introduced a number of additional conservation measures including:

- ✓ Working together with Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries to improve regulations to achieve best management practice in fisheries in Indonesian archipelagic waters.
- ✓ Supporting the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries in their harvest strategy work which will lead to the development of well-defined harvest control rule.
- ✓ Working together with fishery polytechnic and fishery school in Sorong, to give their students hands on practice with the one by one pole and line fishing method so as to encourage younger generations to become involved in pole and line fishing.

