MSC CERTIFICATION AND TUNA:

Implications of the new MSC Fisheries Standard

WELCOME

MSC CERTIFICATION AND TUNA:

Implications of the new MSC Fisheries Standard

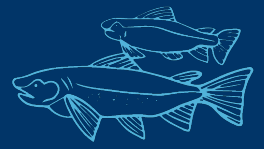
Dr Rohan Currey, Chief Science & Standards Officer at the Marine Stewardship Council

THE MSC FISHERIES STANDARD

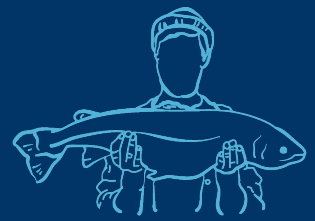
1. The sustainability of stock
2. Ecosystem impact
3. Effective management

REVISING OUR FISHERIES STANDARD

16
in-depth projects



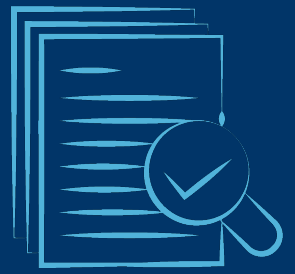
More than
350
individual participants



Imput from
275
organisations from
46
countries

More than
33
expert reports and other analysis

Over
600
responses to consultation surveys

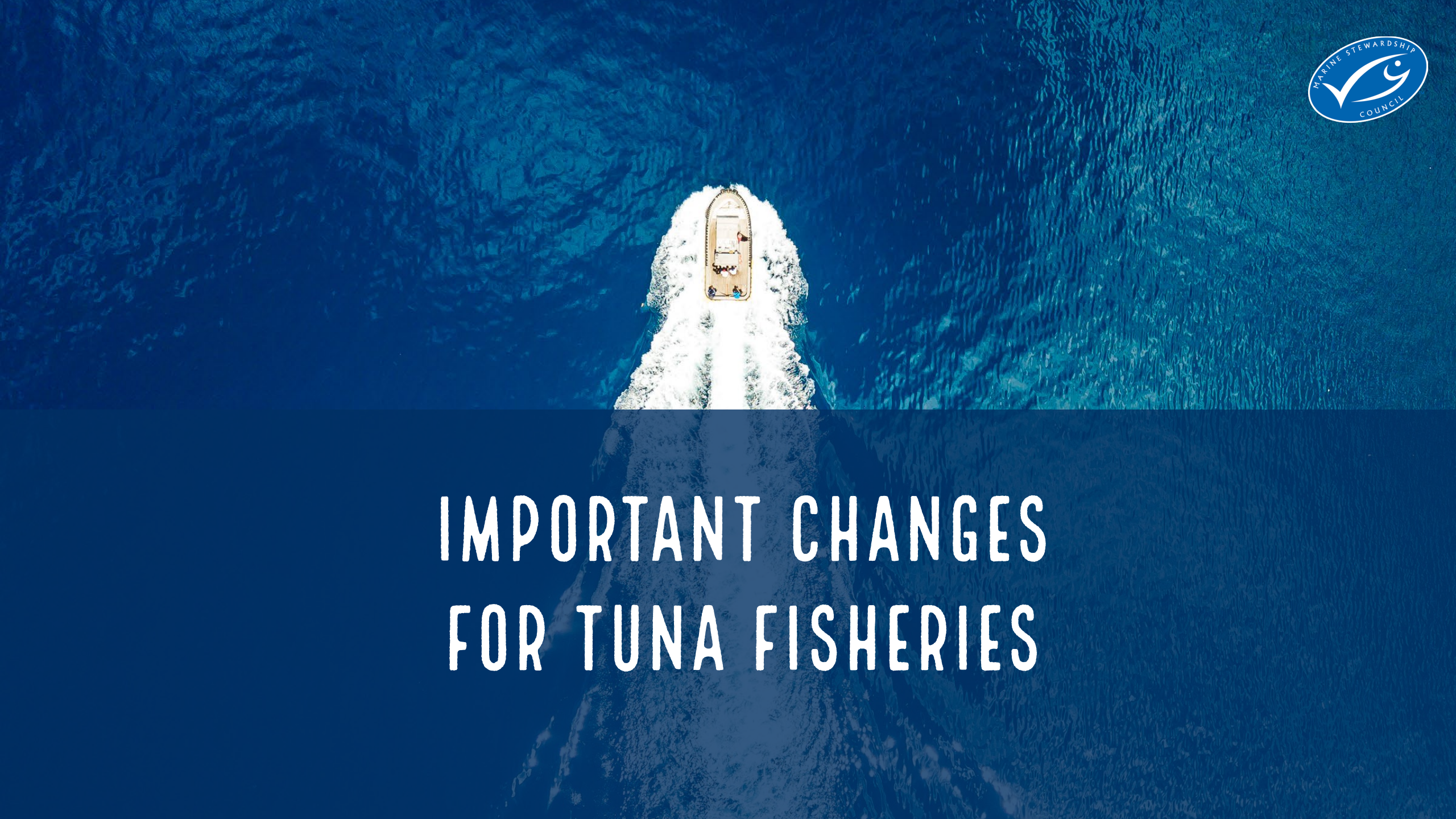


CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD MSC www.msc.org

Extensive input from members of the MSC´s Technical Advisory Board, Stakeholder Advisory Council and Board of Trusteed.

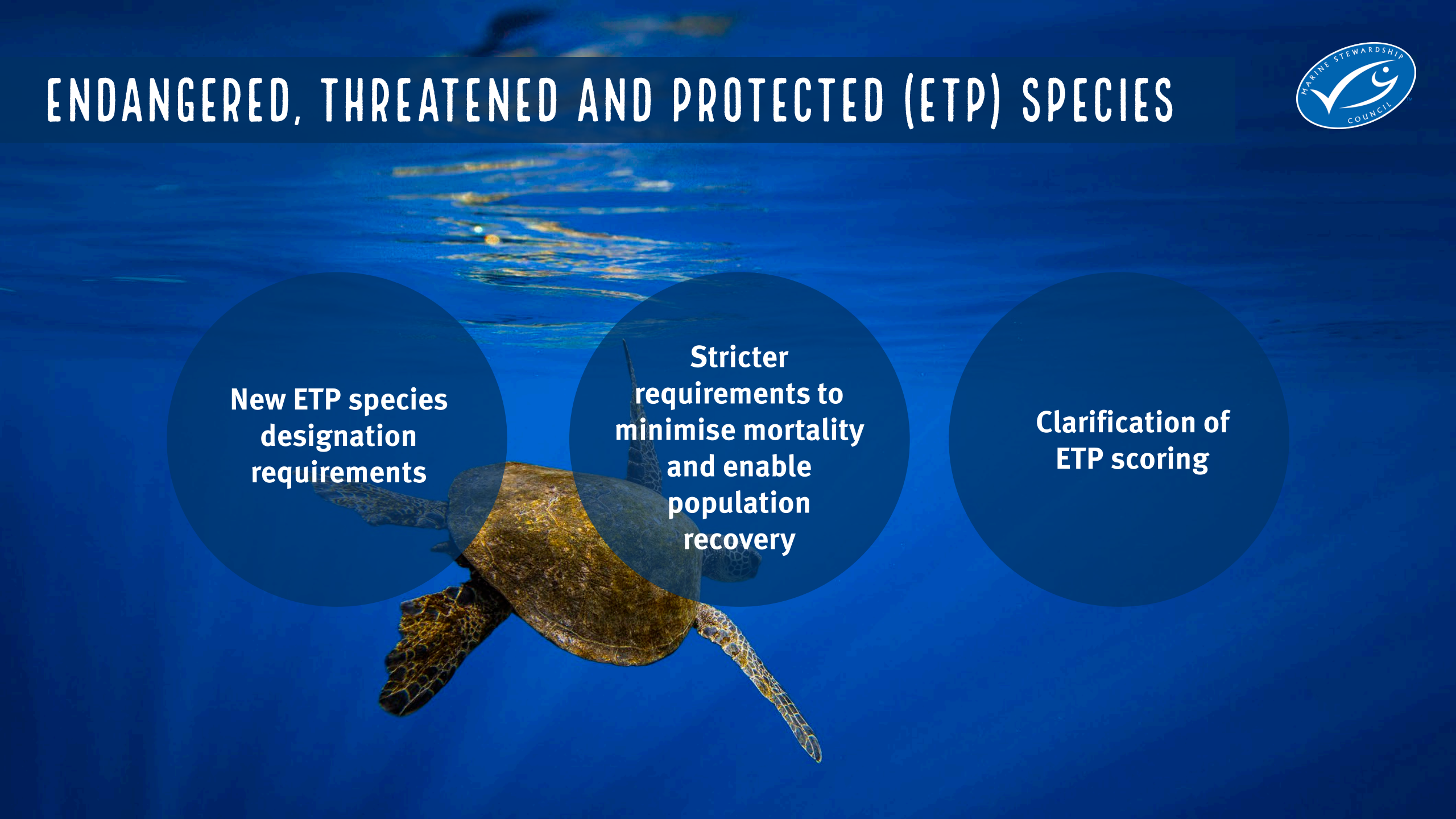
OUR NEW STANDARD

- Reflects the global evolution and uptake of fisheries management best practice
- Raises fisheries' performance in key areas
- Ensures MSC certified fisheries continue to be recognised as world leaders in sustainability



IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR TUNA FISHERIES

ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND PROTECTED (ETP) SPECIES

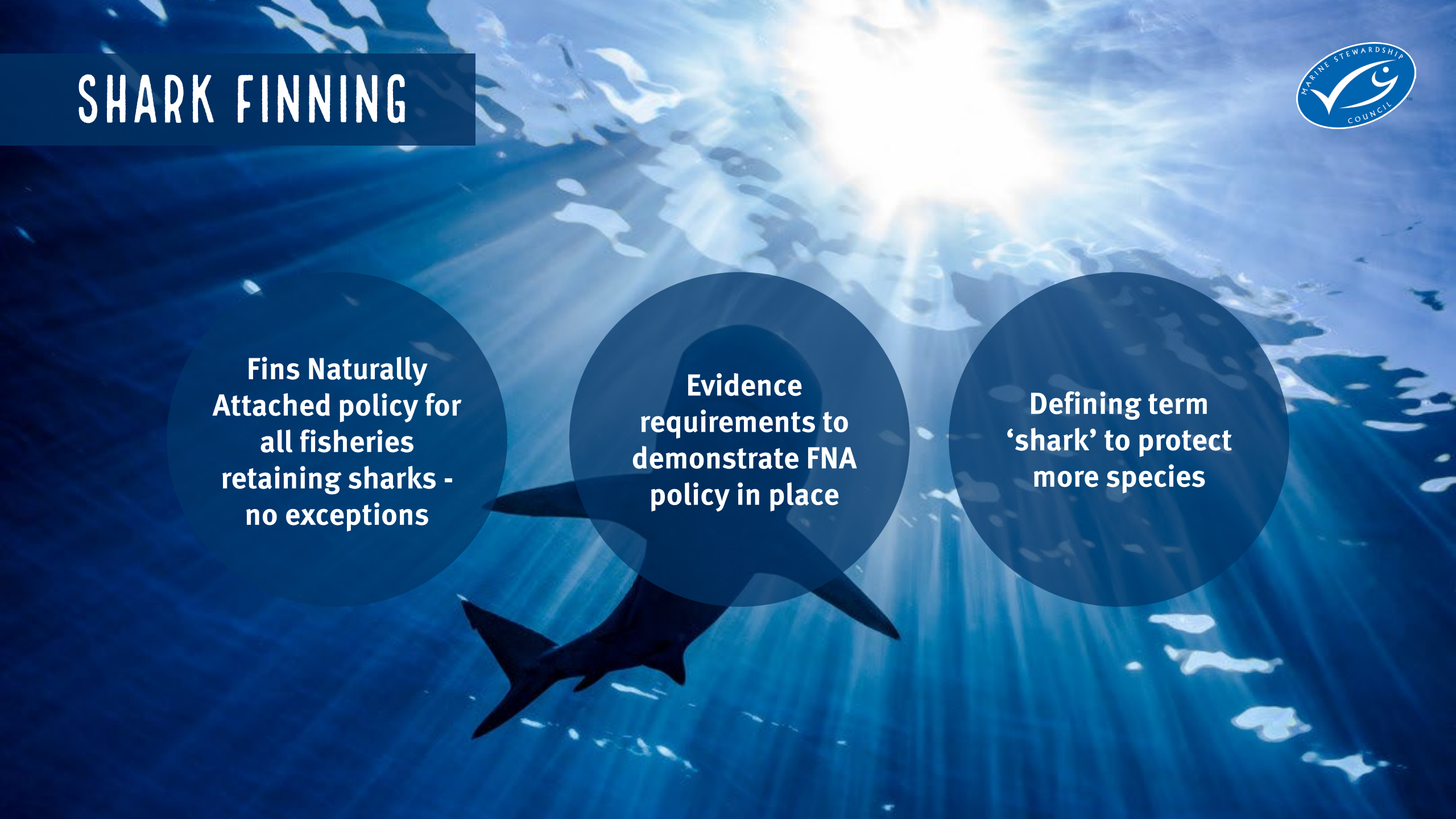


New ETP species designation requirements

Stricter requirements to minimise mortality and enable population recovery

Clarification of ETP scoring

SHARK FINNING



Fins Naturally Attached policy for all fisheries retaining sharks - no exceptions

Evidence requirements to demonstrate FNA policy in place

Defining term ‘shark’ to protect more species

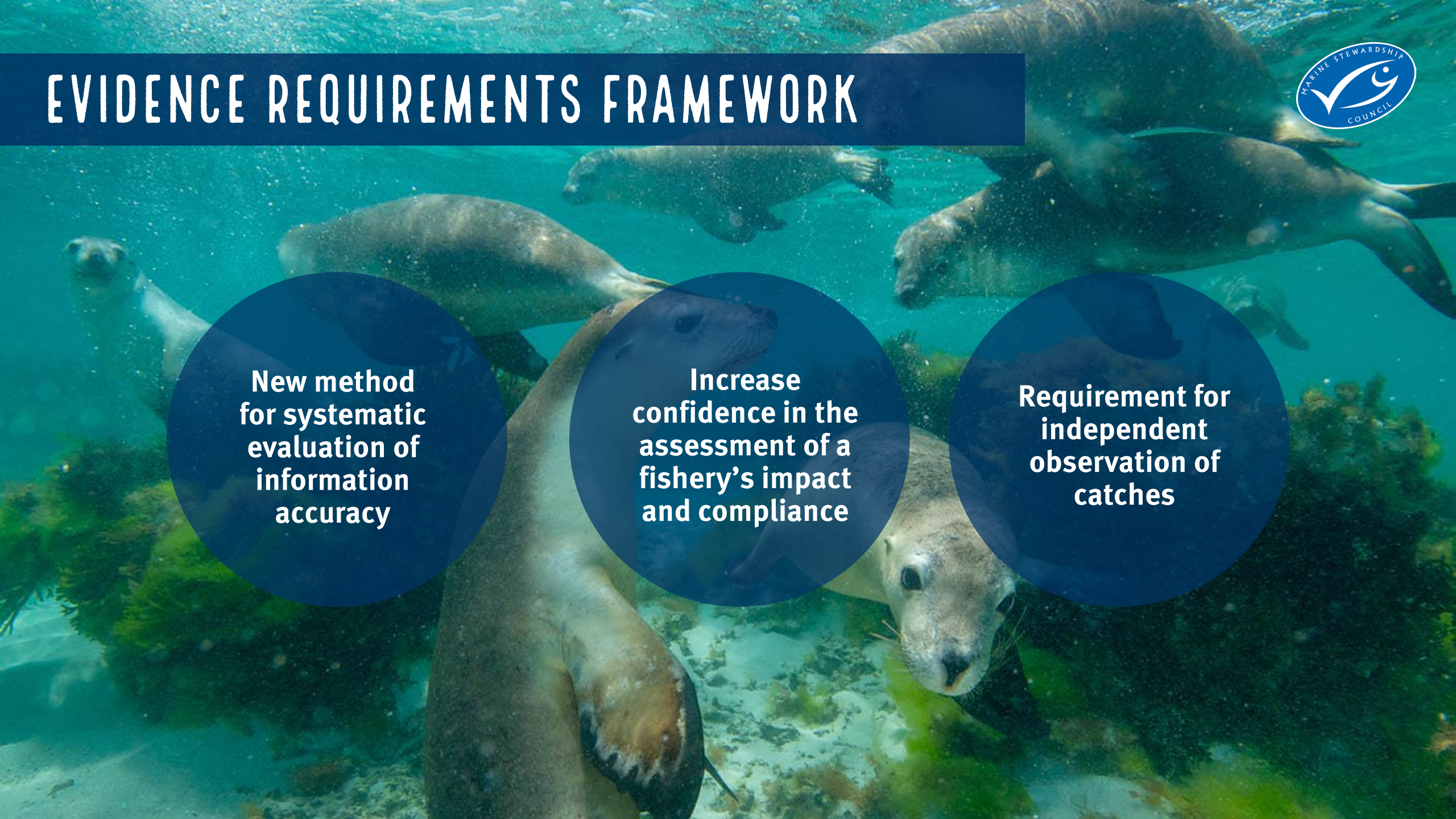
GEAR LOSS AND GHOST FISHING

New requirements to better assess ghost gear impact

Management strategy to minimise gear loss & ghost gear impact

Extending definition of ghost gear to cover FADs

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FRAMEWORK



New method for systematic evaluation of information accuracy

Increase confidence in the assessment of a fishery's impact and compliance

Requirement for independent observation of catches

HARVEST STRATEGIES

CURRENT REQUIREMENTS

- Fisheries must reach ‘best practice’ for harvest strategies and harvest control rules
- A ‘well defined’ harvest control rule must be in place to reach SG80
- Fisheries not reaching that level receive a condition or fail
- Applies to all fisheries, including RFMO managed fisheries

TWO MAIN CHALLENGES

1

Agreeing harvest control rules in RFMOs is difficult

Multijurisdictional fisheries struggle to reach agreement on harvest control rules

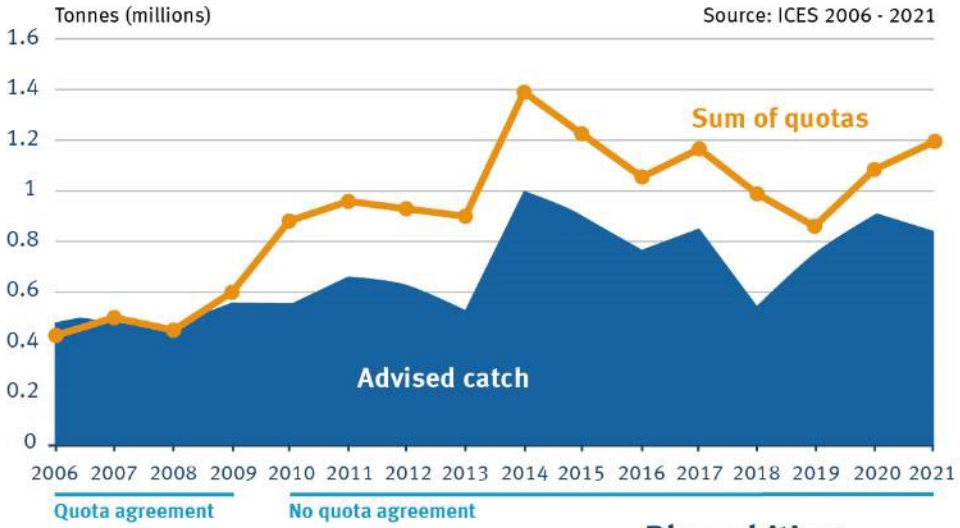
2

Well defined harvest control rules are necessary but not always sufficient

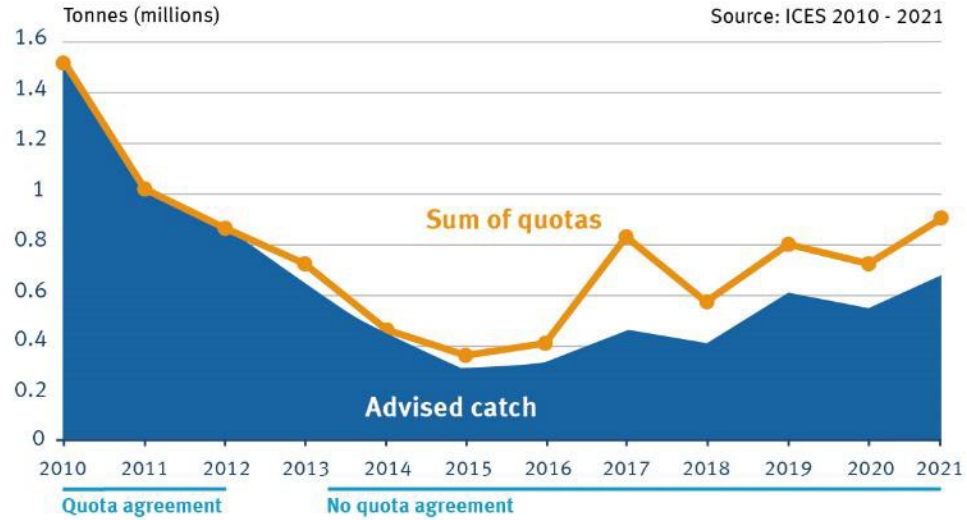
Without catch or effort constraints, harvest control rules aren’t always being applied in practice

AN EXAMPLE: THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC

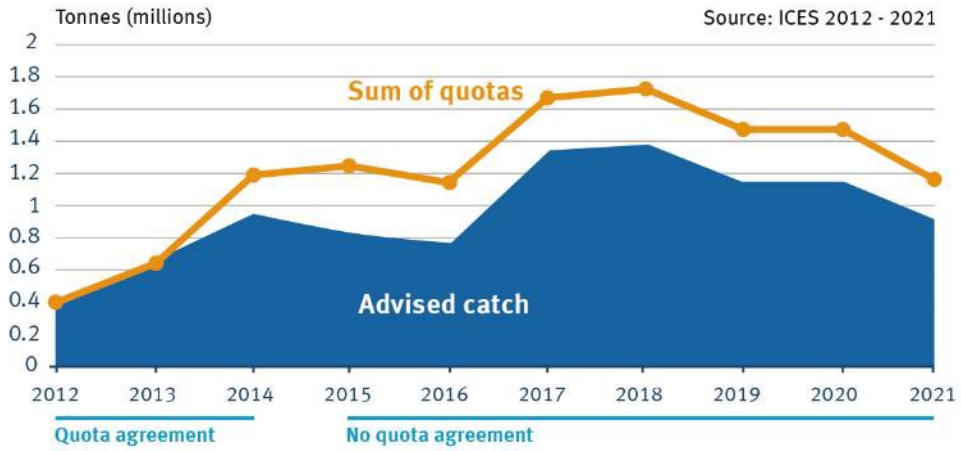
Mackerel



Atlanto-Scandian herring

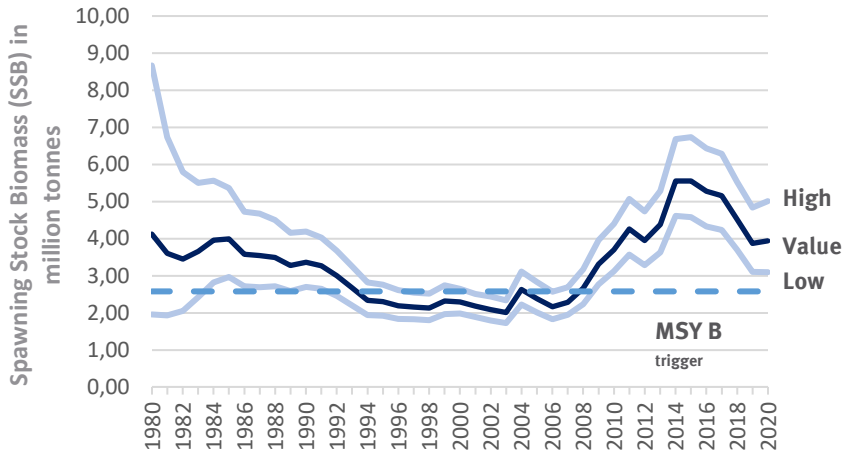


Blue whiting

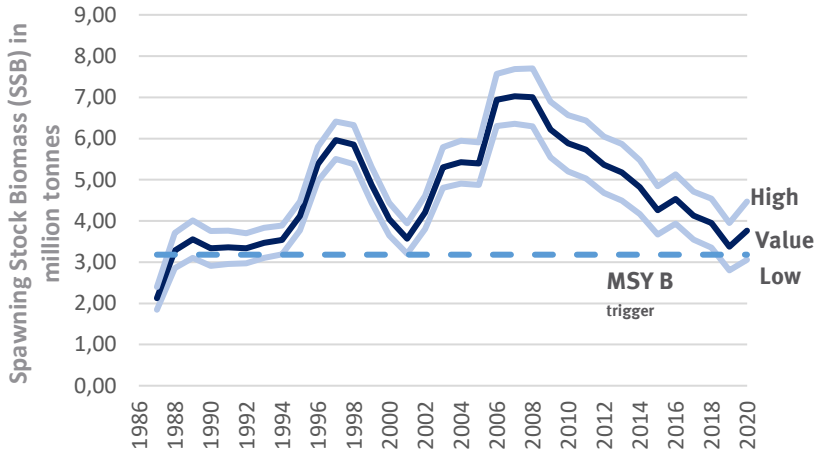


THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC

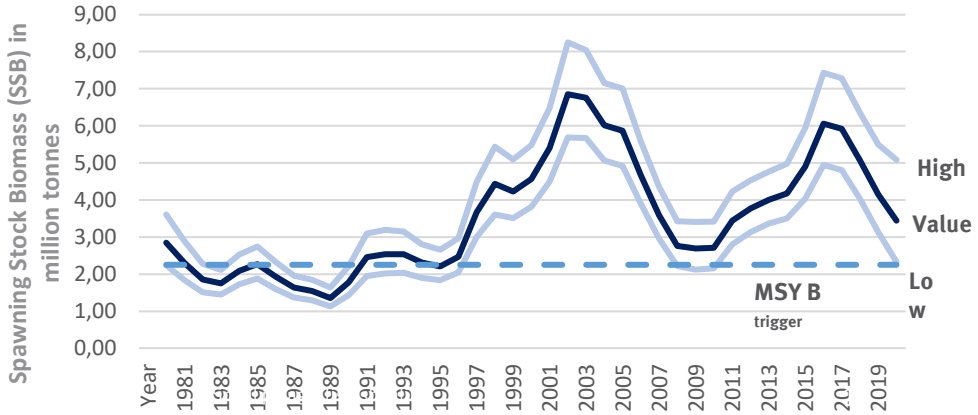
Mackerel



Atlanto-Scandian Herring



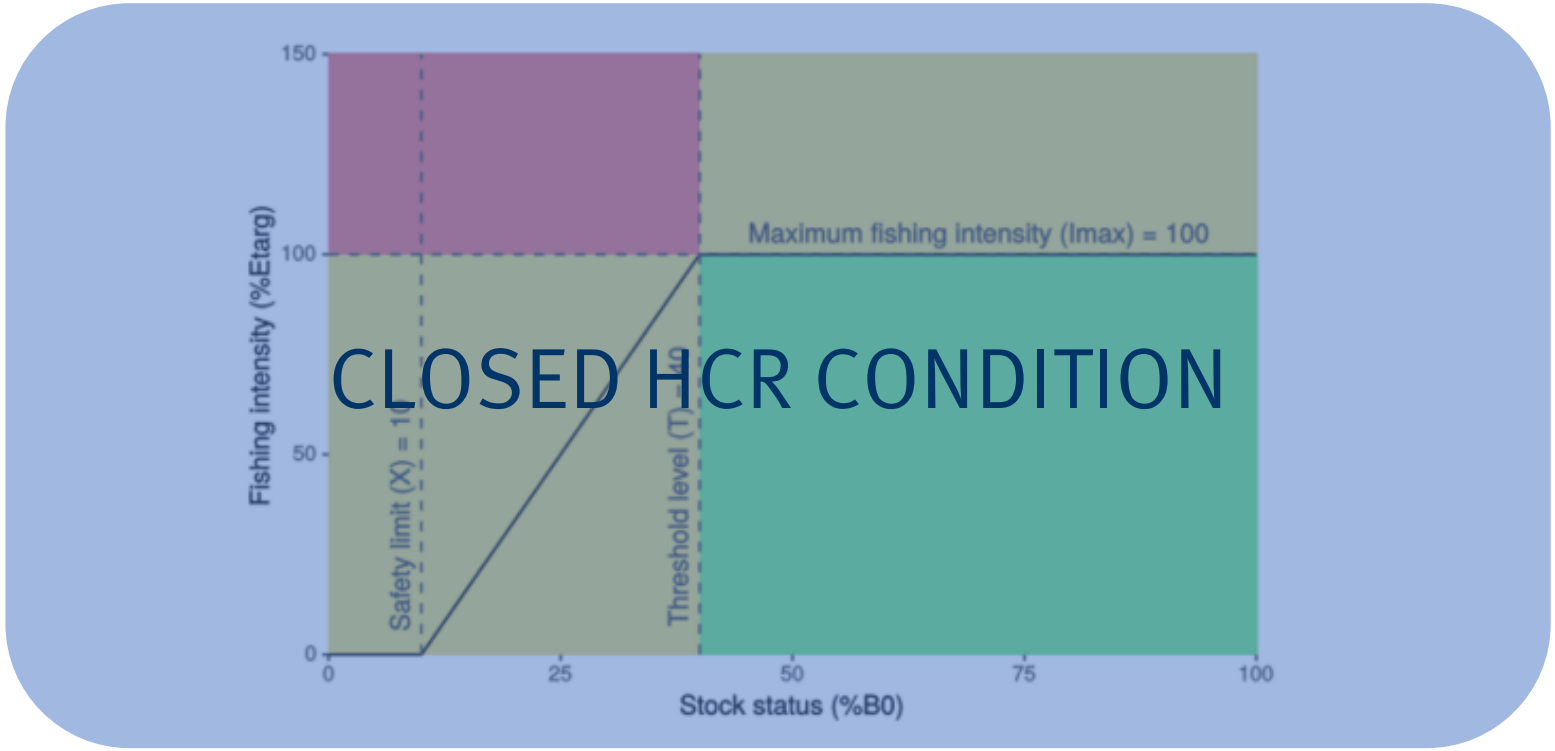
Blue Whiting



Graphs from ICES advice documents 2021

AN EXAMPLE: THE INDIAN OCEAN

Resolution 16/02
On Harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence

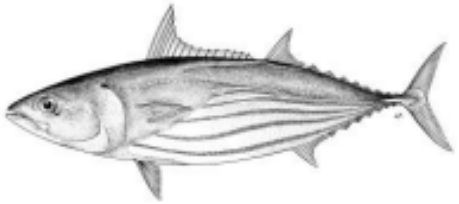


11. The catch limit shall by default ~~be implemented in accordance~~ with the allocation scheme agreed for skipjack tuna by the Commission. In the absence of an allocation scheme, the HCR shall be applied as follows:

THE INDIAN OCEAN

2018 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien
iotc ctoi



Status of the Indian Ocean skipjack tuna (SKJ: *Katsuwonus pelamis*) resource

TABLE 1. Skipjack tuna: Status of skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in the Indian Ocean.

Area[1]	Indicators		2018 stock status[4] determination
	Catch 2017[2]:	524,282 t	
	Average catch 2013–2017:	454,103 t	
	SB_0 (80% CI):	2,015,220 (1,651,230–2,296,135)	

Management advice. Based on the results of the stock assessment of skipjack tuna in 2017, the Commission, following Resolution 16/02, adopted an annual catch limit of 470,029 tonnes for the years 2018 to 2020. Total catches in 2017 (524,282 t) were 12% larger than the catch limit generated by the Harvest Control Rule (470,029 t) which applies to the years 2018–2020, and there has been an increasing trend in catches over the past 3 years. The Commission needs to ensure that catches of skipjack in the 2018–2020 period do not exceed the agreed limit.

THE INDIAN OCEAN

2019 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien
iotc ctoi

Status of the Indian Ocean skipjack tuna (SKJ: *Katsuwonus pelamis*) resource

TABLE 1. Skipjack tuna: Status of skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in the Indian Ocean.

Area[1]	Indicators		2017 stock status[4] determination
	Catch 2018[2]:	607,701 t (606,197 t)[5]	
	Average catch 2014–2018:	484,993 t (484,692 t)[5]	

Management advice. Based on the results of the stock assessment of skipjack tuna in 2017, the Commission, following Resolution 16/02, adopted an annual catch limit of 470,029 tonnes for the years 2018 to 2020. Total catches in 2018 (607,701 t) were 29% larger than the catch limit generated by the Harvest Control Rule (470,029 t) which applies to the years 2018–2020, and there has been an increasing trend in catches over the past 3 years. The Commission needs to ensure that future catches of skipjack do not exceed the agreed limit for the 2018-2020 period.

THE INDIAN OCEAN

2021 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE REPORT

APPENDIX 10
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: SKIPJACK TUNA

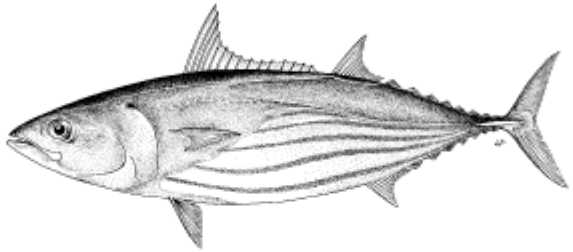


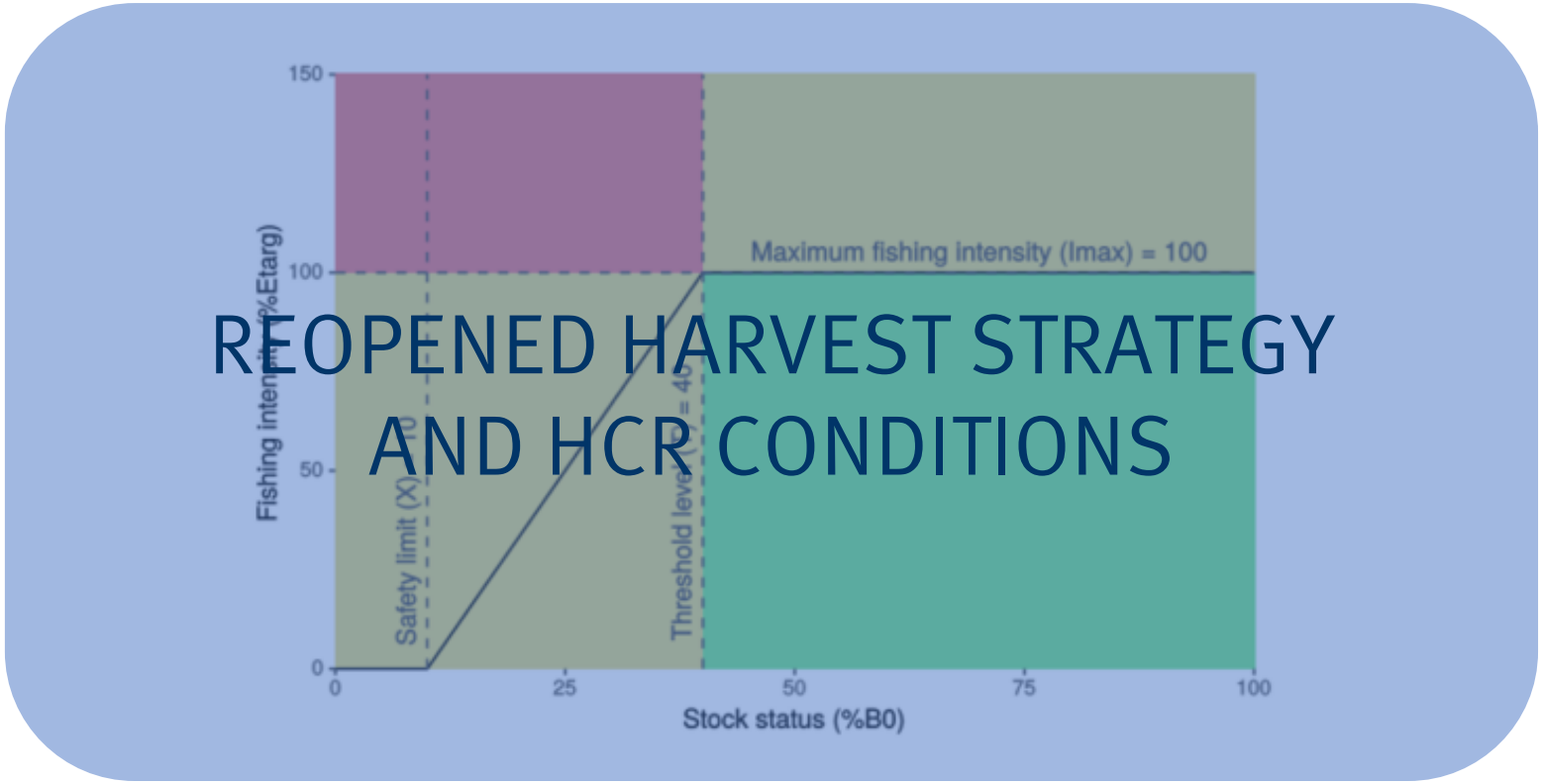
Table 1. Status of skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in the Indian Ocean

Area[1]	Indicator	Value	Status[23]
	Catch in 2020 (t)[2]	555,211	
	Average catch 2016-2020 (t)	546,095	

Management advice. The catch limit calculated applying the HCR specified in Resolution 16/02 is 513,572 t for the period 2021-2023. The SC noted that this catch limit is higher than for the previous period. This is attributed to the new stock assessment which estimates a higher productivity of the stock and a higher stock level relative to the target reference point, possibly due to skipjack life history characteristics and favourable environmental conditions. Thus, it is likely that the recent catches that have exceeded the limits established for the period 2018-2020 have been sustained by favourable environmental conditions. Therefore, the Commission needs to ensure that catches of skipjack tuna during this period do not exceed the agreed limit.

THE INDIAN OCEAN

Resolution 16/02
On Harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence



REOPENED HARVEST STRATEGY AND HCR CONDITIONS

11. The catch limit shall by default, be implemented in accordance with the allocation scheme agreed for skipjack tuna by the Commission. In the absence of an allocation scheme, the HCR shall be applied as follows:

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Constraint mechanisms are essential to preventing a decline in stocks
- Current requirements do not account for the complexities in RFMO management
- Consensus on the need for harvest strategies, supported by MSC certification

NEW REQUIREMENTS

- Specific milestones for delivering ‘state-of-the-art’ harvest strategies – including constraints on catch or effort
- Additional time to achieve
- Will result in fisheries working together towards shared deadlines, combining their influence and expertise
- Encourages early adoption of Fisheries Standard v3.0

FOR UNCERTIFIED STOCKS

New Fisheries Standard effective

May 2023

First fishery certified to version 3.0 of the MSC Fisheries Standard

~ 2024

Assessment to version 3.0 of the MSC Fisheries Standard

PHASE 1:
Developing harvest strategies

- ✓ Management objectives
- ✓ Management strategy evaluation
- ✓ Consult stakeholders
- ✓ Identify preferred harvest strategy(s)

Recertification after 5 years contingent on the delivery of Phase 1 milestones

~ 2029

PHASE 2:
Implementing harvest strategies

- ✓ Mechanisms for catch constraints agreed
- ✓ Harvest strategies with agreed resource sharing or catch constraint adopted & implemented
- ✓ Schedule to review effectiveness of plan

Timelines harmonised for all subsequent fisheries achieving MSC certification targeting the stock.

~ 2034

FOR CERTIFIED STOCKS

Early application of Section SE.
Requires majority agreement from certified fisheries, one-off meeting to score target stocks to Section SE, stakeholder input and reporting.
(Process has to begin between October 2022 and May 2023)

Reassessment to new Fisheries Standard,
including new requirements for Ghost Gear, Evidence Requirements, Shark Finning and ETP.

Thank you

Questions?