

PNA MSC FREE SCHOOL SKIPJACK AND YELLOWFIN TUNA FISHERY



2017 MSC workshop on FAD and Free School Tuna, London, United Kingdom Maurice Brownjohn (<u>maurice@pna.tuna.com</u>) Commercial Manager, PNA Office, Majuro, RMI



THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION

Terms Agreed by PNA following MSC Guidance with accompanying investments made. G7.4.7 – G7.4.9 Defining the Unit of Certification and Unit of Assessment - CABs should normally identify separate UoAs (and associated UoCs) for each discrete gear type or fishing method that is to be assessed.

1 boat - 2 Gear types:

- Purse seine only = Free school
- Purse seine with associated FADs. natural or man made structure = Associated set.

Under all PNA National / Regional legislation:

- A FAD = Fishing Gear,
- A FAD in the water = Fishing Activity.

2 PNA certificates:

PNA Free school skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), 575,000 mt (2010-2015), first certified in December, 2011; and

PNA Free school yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), averaging 163,000 tonnes (2010-2015). Certified through expedited audit, February, 2016



FREE SCHOOL VS FAD CHARACTERISTICS:











THE UNIT OF CERTIFICATION : - Free school trend.



Sets by Method in PNA EEZs









■ FAD ■ Free School



FAD to free school transition since Certification

Changes in reported fleet FAD dependencies (2012 and 2015)

Market dynamics, created by MSC, provide price incentive for free school fishing; a economic incentive for sustainability.

Disenfranchising FAD related fisheries from MSC, and the expected premium price has creates an incentive for a transition to free school.

- Market (excl USA) is demanding free school caught fish. Its hard to sell FAD caught fish to progressive markets e.g. Germany, Switzerland, Benelux, UK, France, Italy, Scandinavia and Australia
- Market is paying + US\$ 100- US\$ 150 mt (~ 10-14% of ex vessel price) for MSC free school fish
- MSC Free school generates +30-35% margin YFT caught, in response to it's larger size; 8% for skipjack

PNA has a policy objective of limiting FAD exploitation through period closures and incentivise FS [MSC and penalty]. The high levels of catch of pre adult bigeye tuna in FAD fisheries prevents an effective rebuilding strategy i.e. with the timeframe for the stock that is the shorter of 20 years or 2 times its generation time.

Country	2012	2015	% change
FS Micronesia	83%	41%	-51.1%
Philippines	65%	32%	-50.2%
New Zealand	49%	25%	-48.5%
Solomon Is	88%	58%	-34.2%
Korea	24%	19%	- 17.7%
China	49%	42%	- 14.4%
USA	42%	37%	- 11.8%
Japan	24%	21%	- 11.7%
Taiwan	39%	36%	- 8%
Marshall Is	57%	53%	-7.8%



PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack tuna free school

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PNA have implemented a rigorous traceability monitoring system premised on "MSC eligibility" up to point of MSC certification at coldstore to ensure only genuine MSC-eligible fish enter the MSC chain of custody as MSC. This includes:

• MSC training for all participating boats, and each participating subject to a MOU

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- Using 100% at sea observers, each MSC endorsed.
- Non reliance on captains determination of freeschool sets eg 1 nautical mile (nm) minimum distance to a FAD.
- Observer monitoring the catch composition during hauling , transfers and transshipping
- Ensuring fish wells are empty or only MSC present before loading.
- MSC-eligible fish in dry holds are separated by a double wall of netting as minimum physical separation, and fish may not be moved without an observer being present.
- Transshipment is only permitted in port and under strict observer-monitored specifications.
- Fish can only be landed with at least one observer present, and checks are made and maintained to ensure mixing does not occur.
- Before skipjack and yellowfin tuna weights are confirmed for MSC certification at cold store, FAD-associated species must be confirmed **absent** from out turn or rejected for certification.
- Mass balance checks are carried out at each stage to ensure conformity.
- The concept of "eligibility" from net to cold store, and only certified once graded and sorted. This has proven vital to a credible PNA coc scheme with many loads disqualified at cold store, due to either fad species being undetected to that point or possible fish added.





SUMMARY

PNA accepts that it is important to recognise gear variants, and has followed the process adopted by MSC, which acknowledges the relative standards of gear variants used, but as separate UoAs

- WCPO industrial purse seiners DO NOT depend totally on fish aggregating devices (FADs). PNA demonstrates that free school dependency now accounts for > 50% of the catch and <u>two thirds of the total effort</u>, and is a increasing trend.
- The PNA fishery is unique with eligible and non eligible catch, transhipment the norm, No species or weight break up until the discharge is received at the cold store, the crossover point between fishery and processing COC
- Free school fishing is highly selective, targeting adult tunas and limiting bycatch.
- The rigorous assessment process undertaken by PNA between 2010 to 2012 set a very high standard of verification and COC, used the concept of MSC eligibility and its assessment is seen as the gold standard by the NGOs

MSC needs modernize it's COC standards to reflect the tuna industry



CONCLUSION



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Pacific skipiack tuna

free school

Market based incentives have stimulated a transition in the WCPO towards greater use of free school. This bucks the trend in other tuna fisheries globally where there is greater dependency on FAD caught fish, and growing concerns over the impact of FADs on stocks.

- The pressure to combine gear variants into one UoA is an attempt to eliminate the market advantage and economic incentive that MSC free school has over FAD fisheries.
- It is the job of the fishing industry and fishery managers to improve and demonstrate the sustainability of FAD fisheries if it is to be considered sustainable.
- PNA has set very high standards of third party verification at considerable costs to ensure with confidence that free school and FAD caught fish are totally separated.
- If the whole fishery, regardless of gear, was certified, it offers nil incentive for industry to conserve or improve conservation efforts with regards to FADs and associated species.
- MSC is a powerful economic tool to shift this balance and reduced the impact on bigeye in our case; back to sustainable limits.
- MSC is a credible economic incentive to improve the fishery management and should only be awarded where sustainability demonstrated and improvements documented.