

## Naturland performance report

### Checklist\_Wildfish\_APASA\_Tuna\_Fishery (7.2) Season: 2021

(to be filled in by the inspector)



#### Are there major deviations?

yes (to be dealt with high priority)

no

Name of operator: APASA (Associação de Produtores de Atum e Similares dos Açores)

Name of inspector: Henry Ernst

Date of inspection: 29/11/2021

Inspection...

announced

On-the-spot inspection

Start of inspection (time): 10am

unannounced

remote inspection

End of inspection (time): 11:45 am

#### Following non-compliances have been detected during inspection (please list here or in annex for annotations!):

1) see annex for details on current annotations and notifications.

2)

#### In the event that Naturland has subsequently notified additional inspection points or special inspection focal points for inspection: Please indicate here the results of the inspection and any infringements:

1) Video footage of fishing process (both for bait and target species) has been reviewed by the inspector. Gear, bycatch, slaughtering, and FAD use were the focus of this review.

#### Please list here (or in annex for annotations) all the conditions from last Naturland certification letter and explain if these conditions are fulfilled or not:

1) see Annex

2)

#### Recommendations/ conditions for Naturland certification (please list here or in annex for annotations!):

(the operator will be officially informed through the certification letter send by the Naturland certification committee)

1)

2)

#### Statement from the operator (for Naturland):

The signatories confirm with their signature the **correctness** of all findings laid down in this inspection checklist. The manager of the operation confirms with his signature the **completeness** of the information laid down in this inspection report.

A copy of this document was left with the operation

A copy of this document will have to be handed over to the operator promptly by the inspection body.

Operation/manager:

Inspector:

Henry Ernst, Bilbao (ES), 30 November 2021

Place, date, signature

Place, date, signature

Naturland Inspection Checklist - Season: **2021**

**Checklist\_Wildfish\_APASA\_Tuna\_Fishery**

Name of operator: APASA



Please take with you the latest version of the Naturland standard at every inspection!

This checklist requires the following supplementary documents:

Naturland performance report (page 1), annex(es) where applicable

Checkpoints marked with \* are explained in detail in the supplementary sheet 'Comments'.

In case a checkpoint is only partially fulfilled, please mark 'NO'!

In case you answer any question with 'NO', please provide an explanation (in comment field or annex) in any case!

OK	NO	NOT RELEVANT	NOT CHECKED
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**A.I.6 Monitoring of environmental contaminants**

All analysis have been carried out according to the guidelines.   no. \_

Please refer to the table of the protocol of "Project-specific management of a pole and line skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) fishery in the ICES areas 27.10 (Azores) and 34.1.2 (Madeira)"

Comments / explanations:  see annex no. \_\_  
The cannery conducts these tests, there have been no issues in the past year.

**A III Naturland Checklist Social Responsibility**

Naturland Checklist Social Responsibility has been completed. \*   no. \_

Comments / explanations:  see annex no. \_\_  
Checklist has been completed in line with the requirements for Distance audits.

Remarks:  
Just for inspections at Lake Victoria: This requirement only applies to employees (formal and informal employment, hired labour...) but not to self-employed or freelancing fishermen.

**B.1.1 Expert meeting**

The next expert meeting is scheduled latest for December 2021. \*   no. \_

Comments / explanations:  see annex no. \_\_  
after discussion with a Naturland authority, it was stated that in the latest standard review, the regularity of the expert meetings had been changed from every two years to every four years. As such, the latest an expert meeting could be held for this fishery is now 2023.

Remarks:  
Just relevant in year 2021

**B 1.2 Topics expert meeting**

Following topics have been discussed in expert meeting:   no. \_

Observation of bait stock  
Continuous research of dolphin bycatch \*

Comments / explanations:  see annex no. \_\_

Remarks:  
Just relevant in year 2021  
Please check protocol expert meeting

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OK	NO	NOT RELEVANT	NOT CHECKED
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**B 2.4 Evaluation of skipjack tuna and albacore tuna stock**

<p>The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is the body responsible for assessing the status of tuna populations in the Atlantic Ocean. The latest stock assessments of the two skipjack stocks (eastern and western) suggest that the stocks are neither overfished nor subject to overfishing. The link to the latest ICCAT stock assessment summary for skipjack tuna can be found here:  <a href="https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/SKJ_ENG.pdf">https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/SKJ_ENG.pdf</a></p> <p>The most recent ICCAT stock assessment of the north Atlantic albacore tuna stock suggests that the stock is not in an overfished state and that overfishing is not likely to occur. Catches of this stock are below MSY. The latest ICCAT summary report of the Atlantic albacore stock status can be found here:  <a href="https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB_ENG.pdf">https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB_ENG.pdf</a></p> <p>ICCAT has adopted a harvest control rule (HCR) for the management of the northern albacore tuna fishery.          The spawning biomass (SBB) for skipjack tuna and albacore at all catching areas is at or above the biomass that would produce maximum sustainable yield (SSB MSY).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no._	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments / explanations: see annex  see annex no. \_\_

**B 2.7a Catch quota**

<p>The nationally allocated quota of the fishery was met. *</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no._	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments / explanations: in 2020 the quota for Portugal for Albacore was 2273 tons, the APASA fleet caught 1097 tons. The rest of the catch was in Madeira. As a whole, Portugal did not reach the quota for 2020. For skipjack there is no TAC. APASA members caught 644 tons of skipjack in 2020. See annex for more information.  see annex no. \_\_

Remarks:  
**Important:** Please indicate here the quota of the fishery for the fishing season as well as the quantities actually caught in the previous season.

**B 2.7 b Fishing restrictions**

<p>The skipjack tuna and albacore tuna stock are not critically jeopardized. *</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no._	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments / explanations: see remarks below, and the annex entry for B2.4.  see annex no. \_\_

Remarks:  
 According to the ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 it is unlikely that the eastern/western skipjack stock is overexploited, Current catches could be at, even above, the MSY.  
 According to the ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 it is unlikely that the northern/south atlantic albacore tuna stock is overexploited, Current catches could be at, even above, the MSY.

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OK	NO	NOT RELEVANT	NOT CHECKED
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<b>B 2.7 c Fishing methods</b>				
The fishery is carried out exclusively with pole and line. The bait fishery is in compliance with European regulations. The only fishing gears used for the bait fishery are small purse seines. There is no bycatch of marine mammals within the bait fishery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> no changes since the previous year's audit. There was no bycatch of marine mammals, and the analysis of video footage confirms this. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
<b>B 2.7 d Fish Aggregating Device</b>				
Fish Aggregating Device (FAD's) are not used to attract tuna schools within this fishery. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Video checks found no evidence of FADs being used in the fishery. As was reported in the previous audit. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
<u>Remarks:</u> Please check in movie if FAD's can be seen to attract tuna schools				
<b>B 2.7 e Ratio baitfish to skipjack</b>				
The ratio of the baitfish in the tuna fishery is optimized with a ratio of 21:1 kg (tuna:baitfish) *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> POPA already do those calculations every year. They don't report baitfish but the observer checks it and have an approximate measure. There is a % of baitfish that survives when thrown back into the water. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
<u>Remarks:</u> Reference paper: Total marine fishery catch for the Azores (1950–2010) Christopher K. Pham*, Angela Canha, Hugo Diogo, João G. Pereira, Rui Prieto, and Telmo Morato Centro do IMAR da Universidade dos Açores, Departamento de Oceanografia e Pescas and Laboratório Associado LARSyS, Rua Prof. Frederico Machado No. 4, 9901–862 Horta, Faial, Açores, Portugal				
<b>B 2.7 f Protected areas</b>				
The fishermen respect the marine protected areas. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> same as in the previous audit. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _ MPAs are the same. There is a new programme with blue foundation who want to increase by 30% the number of MPAs but in 2021 and 2022 there will be no changes (15% of EEZ is MPA currently).				
<u>Remarks:</u> Comparison of marine protected areas map and vessel tracking				
<b>B 2.7 g Documentation of catch</b>				
Each landing of the fish is controlled and documented by the fishing authorities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> no changes since the previous inspection. Further details in annex. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				

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OK	NO	NOT RELEVANT	NOT CHECKED
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<b>B 2.7 h Documentation of bycatch of endangered species</b>				
Bycatch of endangered species (Red List of IUCN / ETP - endangered, threatened, protected species) and marine mammals must be documented and released alive. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No ETP species interacting with the gear, sometimes they'll see them. POPA observers ensure this is met.		<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _		
<u>Remarks:</u> Please check in movie if bycatch occurred and was documented. Please also check papers of landing for record of possible bycatches				
<b>B 2.7 i Slaughtering</b>				
The tuna is immediately slaughtered by hand when arriving on board. *	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> same situation as the previous audit.		<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _		
<u>Remarks:</u> Please check in movie the slaughtering procedure				
<b>B 2.7 j Undersized fish</b>				
The fishermen try to avoid juvenile fish to minimize the percentage of undersized fish in the catch. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> because of the selective nature of the fishery, they are able to target specifically the size they are after. No size limit for albacore. If there is a lot of fish they'll implement minimum sizes. They want to fish the larger specimens.		<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _		
<u>Remarks:</u> Please check in movie if juvenile / undersized fish was caught. Juvenile fish is released back to the sea.				
<b>B 2.7 k Research and observations</b>				
Scientists and observers have the permission to accompany the fishing vessels for research purposes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Yes, as always. POPA observers are often on board. Their government has their own vessel and conduct their own research operations independent from the fisheries. The POPA check on catch, garbage management, MPA respect.		<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _		
<b>B 2.7 l POPA observers on pole and line boats</b>				
POPA observers accompany around 90 fishing trips per year on pole and line tuna fishing boats.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> observer coverage of 45%. They usually start the fishery in April and end in October. POPA will start in May and finishes when the season does. A fishing trip lasts at least 4 days. This means there are approximately 53 trips per vessel per year, and POPA observers cover 45% of those, ensuring that over 90 trips are observed per year.				

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OK	NO	NOT RELEVANT	NOT CHECKED
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<b>B 2.7 m Waste management plan</b>				
The fishermen follow a waste management plan which includes avoidance of waste and the loss of fishing gears, but also collect ocean litter during the fishing trips. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> As reported in previous audits, the waste treatment procedure is to separate types of waste onboard and land them. Compliance is verified by the POPA observers. More in annex. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
<u>Remarks:</u> Reference papaer: Distribution and composition of floating macro litter off the Azores archipelago and Madeira (NE Atlantic) using opportunistic surveys Philippine Chambaulta,b,*, Frederic Vandeperrea,b,c, Miguel Machetea,b, João Carvalho Lagoaa,b, Christopher Kim Phama,b,c				
<b>B 2.7 n Size vessels</b>				
The maximum sizes of the vessels are 30 meters.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> one of the vessels exceeds 30 meters. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
<b>B 3.3 a Employment and remuneration</b>				
All fishermen and workers are employed by the vessel owners or the canning factory and receive at least the national minimum wage.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> current minimum wage for the Azores is EUR 698 per month. Higher than last year. The owner must guarantee at least minimum wage by law. Bonuses may be given based on catch and performance of the boat. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
<b>B 3.3 b Code of conduct and safety trainings</b>				
The fishermen follow a code of conduct and are regularly instructed in safety issues.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> in order to qualify for the job the fishermen must get a license. Health and safety is a big part of that. Every 5 years the license must be renewed. ASTCW is a new request from the government for new fishermen, this is a training that ASPASA are trying to implement across the fleet. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
<b>B 3.3 e Community involvement</b>				
The canning factory supports financially the public transport for school children on the island.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> no change since the last audit. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				

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OK	NO	NOT RELEVANT	NOT CHECKED
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<b>B 3.3 f Product processing</b>			
The whole fish and all leavings are being processed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> See annex			
<b>B 3.3 g Processing of fish</b>			
The processing of the fish is exclusively taking place at São Jorge Island, Azores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> the processing also happens on São Miguel with another company. But the Santa Catarina facility is in São Jorge. The fish can be landed at a variety of places, but processing is only in São Jorge or São Miguel. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _			
<b>B 3.3 h Storage fish</b>			
The fish is cooled at -2°C on board before landed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> usually, it's closer to 0C or -1 °C. Sometimes -2°C is reached. Never more than 0C. This has been the case since the beginning. If the fish is held above 0C, it will most likely be rejected at landing for poor quality. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _			
<b>B 4.1 Fishing licence</b>			
A central fishing vessel registry is maintained; only registered vessels that have been granted a fishing licence may engage involved in commercial fishing.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> this process begins the year before. Vessels request to renew a license. Brand new licenses are rare, historic catch is required. Licenses which are not used are often not renewed. The only type of license is pole and line. The central government maintains a list and the national DGRM entity also has a list.			
<b>B 4.2 Quota registration</b>			
Before embarking on a fishing trip, the vessel 's operators must ensure that the vessel has quota registered which suffices for the expected catch.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> this goes through APASA. APASA informs captains of their quota before they head out to a trip. When APASA know that the quota is close to being reached (they receive it from DGRM) they can inform the vessels that the fishery will be closed. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _			
<b>B 4.4 a Traceability</b>			
The fish can be traced back to the vessel by time and catch area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> see annex. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _			

**B 4.4 b Transparency**

Each landing is controlled and weighed in the harbor. Recording of vessel catch quotas and catches is done by the Fisheries Authority.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments / explanations: this is in place – no change in recent years. DGRM updates everyone on quota so this is clear. The fisheries authority checks MLS (not applicable here, but for bigeye). They look at quality aspects, as well as weight of fish landed.  see annex no. \_

## Annex for annotations



<b>Annex No. 1</b>	Operator / company:	Operator code:
Relate to checkpoint in inspection report or operators profile	<b>APASA (Associação de Produtores de Atum e Similares dos Açores)</b>	Date: 01/12/2021
<b>(1) Notification</b>	This notification is to be reviewed after the next SRT meeting, which must take place before the end of 2023 according to discussions with a Naturland representative.	
<b>(2) Annotation</b>	See B2.7a checklist box and further information provided in the relevant line of the annex table below.	
<b>(3) Annotation</b>	As noted in the previous inspection, the slaughtering practices do not follow B2.7i. This was due to a misunderstanding and Naturland has recognized that such slaughtering practices should not be part of the project specific management conditions.	
B2.4	<p>The linked reports indicate the following:            East Atlantic skipjack is not likely overfished and overfishing is not likely occurring, West Atlantic skipjack is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring. There is no accurate definition of MSY at the time of writing this report. However the indicators against the reference points all point to the stock biomass is currently above MSY (for East Atlantic skipjack, biomass is estimated to be likely &gt;1, and for West Atlantic skipjack, biomass is currently estimated to be “Probably close to 1.3B<sub>MSY</sub>”).</p> <p>For North Atlantic albacore, there is a 98.4% chance that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.            For this stock, the Commission adopted an interim HCR in 2017, setting a maximum TAC of 50,000 t and a maximum change of 20% when <math>B_{CUR} &gt; B_{THR}</math> (Rec.17-04), given the fact that the stock has been maintained at a productive and sustainable level, the 2020 report has determined that the HCR adopted by the Commission had a robust scientific basis. Indeed, the Commission recommends that this HCR is applied to the current biomass to set the TACs for 2021-2023.</p>	
B2.7a	In 2019, APASA overshot the quota (as stated in the previous inspection report). This was due to faulty communication between the national fisheries management body, the DGRM, and the producer organisation (APASA). As a result of this overshoot, the Portuguese fleet had their quotas reduced for 2020 and 2021 (quota reduced by 600t for each year). This “fine” is due to overfishing their quota by approximately 20%, had they overfished by more, the fine would have been more severe to reflect the infringement.	
B2.7g	Catch is recorded via logbooks, and are registered by the maritime police, fisheries inspection department (belongs to central government) in the Azores. Controls were still in place, no changes due to COVID. Entities present on all islands.	
B2.7m	The government implemented a prize for the 3 best boats for waste management. All three vessels that were finalists in the previous year are APASA. This contest drives improvement due to the competitive nature of the fishers.	
B3.3b	Trainings are also conducted every year, particularly with matters relating to health and safety. COVID has been a big focus in recent years, and materials such as gels, gloves and masks have all been provided to the fishermen.	



## Annex: Catch estimation for the year 2020\_\_

(to be filled in by the inspector)



Operator (name), farm/location, address	<b>APASA (Associação de Produtores de Atum e Similares dos Açores)</b>  Cais Stª. Cruz, Edifício Lotçar  9900-172 Horta  Ilha do Faial, Azores  PORTUGAL
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**Please note:** “The catch estimation refers to the estimated amount of fish that will be fished on the lake or sea by the fishers within the Naturland certified operation (group or company) within one year. It does **not** refer to any yield in the processing unit.”

### The following certification for 2021.... is recommended

Fish species	Certification acc. to Naturland Standards (sustainable)	catch estimation (kg)	Remarks
Albacore tuna ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )	Yes		
Skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )	Yes		

Location	Date	Signature inspector
Bilbao	30 November 2021	Henry Ernst