IFFO RS Limited

T: +44 (0) 2030 539 195
E: Standards@iffors.com
W: www.iffors.com

Unit C, Printworks | 22 Amelia Street
London, SE17 3BZ | United Kingdom

Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients

Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0

Fishery Under Assessment	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), [Atlantic Ocean, FAO fishing areas 21 (Atlantic, Northwest), 27 (Atlantic, Northeast), 31 (Atlantic, Western Central), 34 (Atlantic, Eastern Central), 37 (Mediterranean and Black Sea), 41 (Atlantic, Southwest) and 47 (Atlantic, Southeast)]
Date	15 May 2020
Report Code	2020
Assessor	Sam Dignan
Stock Pass	Yes
Stock Fail	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name:				
Address:				
Country:		**Zip:**		
Tel. No.:		**Fax. No.:**		
Email address:		**Applicant Code:**		
Key Contact:		**Title:**		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		**SAI Global**		
Assessor	**Peer Reviewer**	**Assessment Days**	**Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval**	**Whole fish/ By-product**
Sam Dignan	Virginia Polonio	0.5	Initial	By-product
Assessment Period	To May 2020			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	ICCAT and National authorities of Spain and Portugal
Main Species	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
Stock:	Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean

Fishery Location	Atlantic Ocean, FAO fishing areas: – 21 (Atlantic, Northwest) – 27 (Atlantic, Northeast) – 31 (Atlantic, Western Central) – 34 (Atlantic, Eastern Central) – 37 (Mediterranean and Black Sea) – 41 (Atlantic, Southwest) – 47 (Atlantic, Southeast))]
Gear Type(s)	Longline, baitboat and purse seine.
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	**APPROVE**
Recommendation	**APPROVE**

Assessment Determination
If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as IFFO RS raw material. Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean is eligible for approval for use as IFFO RS by-product raw material. This assessment covers a single stock (i.e. yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean) when fished within the above FAO fishing areas by Spanish or Portuguese vessels. Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the ICCAT stock assessment process so the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.1. ICCAT does not employ an explicit limit reference point to manage this stock; however, given that the latest assessment estimated stock biomass to be above B_{MSY}, biomass can correspondingly be considered to be above any nominal limit reference point (or proxy); therefore, the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.2. In order to be approved, the stock assessed must pass both Clause C1.1 and C1.2; therefore, as this is the case here, by-product covered by this report is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current IFFO RS v 2.0 by-product standard.
Peer Review Comments
While there are uncertainties in the models run to evaluate the stock status, overall projections in the last report indicate that catch levels at or below 120,000 t were expected to maintain healthy stock biomass through 2033. Therefore, the stock is in a good shape. Of note also is that some catches were estimated for the year 2018 prior to being included in the stock assessment process. The Peer Review agrees that Yellowfin Tuna in the Atlantic Ocean is approved under the current IFFO RS v 2.0 by-product standard.
Notes for On-site Auditor

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT REPORT

By-products

The process for completing the template for **by-product raw material** is as follows:

1. ALL ASSESSMENTS: Complete the Species Characterisation table with the names of the by-product species and stocks under assessment. The '% landings' column can be left empty; all by-products are considered as Category C and D.
2. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C by-product.
3. IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT: Complete Section D.
4. ALL OTHER SECTIONS CAN BE DELETED. Clauses M1 - M3, F1 - F3, and Sections A and B do not need to be completed for a by-product assessment.

By-product approval is awarded on a species-by-species basis. Each by-product species scoring a pass under the appropriate section may be approved against the IFFO RS Standard.

SPECIES CATEGORISATION

The following table should be completed as fully as the available information permits. Any species representing more than 0.1% of the annual catch should be listed, along with an estimate of the proportion of the catch each species represents. The species should then be divided into Type 1 and Type 2 as follows:

- **Type 1 Species** can be considered the 'target' or 'main' species in the fishery. They make up the bulk of annual landings and are subjected to a detailed assessment.
- **Type 2 Species** can be considered the 'bycatch' or 'minor' species in the fishery. They make up a small proportion of the annual landings and are subjected to relatively high-level assessment.

Type 1 Species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 2 Species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch (see Appendix B).

Species which make up less than 0.1% of landings do not need to be listed (NOTE: ETP species are considered separately). The table should be extended if more space is needed. Discarded species should be included when known.

The 'stock' column should be used to differentiate when there are multiple biological or management stocks of one species captured by the fishery. The 'management' column should be used to indicate whether there is an adequate management regime specifically aimed at the individual species/stock. In some cases it will be immediately clear whether there is a species-specific management regime in place (for example, if there is an annual TAC). In less clear circumstances, the rule of thumb should be that if the species meets the minimum requirements of clauses A1-A4, an adequate species-specific management regime is in place.

NOTE: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it **cannot** be approved for use as an IFFO RS raw material. This applied to whole fish as well as by-products.

TYPE 1 SPECIES (Representing 95% of the catch or more)
Category A: Species-specific management regime in place.
Category B: No species-specific management regime in place.

TYPE 2 SPECIES (Representing 5% OF THE CATCH OR LESS)
Category C: Species-specific management regime in place.
Category D: No species-specific management regime in place.

Common name	Latin name	Stock	% of landings	Management	Category
Yellowfin tuna	*Thunnus albacares*	Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean	Unknown	ICCAT	C

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment. In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

Clause C1 should be completed for **each** Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

Species Name		**Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean**	
C1	**Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements**		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	**PASS**
	C1.2	The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	**PASS**
Clause outcome:			**See above**

C1.1

Evidence

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process via International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) processes. At the time of the 2019 assessment a proportion of 2018 catch reports were incomplete and average catch over the 3 previous years (2015 – 2017) was instead used to populate the assessment model. Note this issue did not apply to Spain or Portugal. Overall, removals are included in the stock assessment process such that **the fishery achieves a PASS against C1.1.**

C1.2

Evidence

ICCAT does not employ an explicit limit reference point in managing this stock. A new stock assessment, which used an ensemble of models was conducted for yellowfin tuna in 2019. All models show large uncertainties in biomass and, while trends in the estimated biomass show a general continuous decline in biomass through time across all models, most model runs estimate biomasses above B_{MSY} in the terminal year of the model (i.e. at the end of 2018). In terms of fishing mortality (F), overall the models estimated F_{2018} to be near the F_{MSY}, with most models estimating fishing mortality to be below that level. As with biomass, there are large uncertainties in fishing mortality.

When the combined results used to develop management advice are examined, the median estimate of B_{2018}/B_{MSY} was 1.17 (0.75, 1.62) based on a median B_{MSY} estimate of 127,558 mt (90% CIs of 98,268 mt – 267,350 mt). Therefore, despite ICCAT's not employing an explicit limit reference point in managing this stock, given that stock biomass is considered to be above B_{MSY} as of the most recent stock assessment, it can correspondingly be considered to be above any nominal limit reference point (or proxy); therefore, **the fishery achieves a PASS against C1.2**.

References

ICCAT SCRS 2019. Report of the 2019 ICCAT yellowfin tuna stock assessment meeting (Grand-Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire, 8-16 July 2019): https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2019/REPORTS/2019_YFT_SA_ENG.pdf
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2