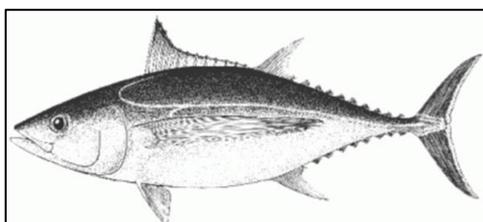


FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
LOCATION:	Thailand (FAO areas 31, 41, 47, 51, 57, 61, 71, 77, 81, 87)
DATE OF REPORT:	May 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name:		
Address:		
Country: Thailand	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact: :	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global, Ireland	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Virginia Polonio	Re-certification
1. Scope of Assessment		
	By-Product surveillance	
2. Fishery By-Product		
	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
	Thailand	
4. Fishery Method		
	Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll	
5. Outcome of Assessment		
	Maintain byproduct approval	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Legal and administrative frameworks exist at the Thai national level, in addition to the research and management frameworks implemented at the international level by tuna RFMOs. Although sufficient research is conducted on the species to allow informed management, there do not currently appear to be significant measures in place to restrict total catches of albacore at the international level and therefore monitoring and improvement in data collection, reporting and analysis is required to reduce the uncertainty in assessments. This byproduct is also imported into Thailand from Taiwanese and Vanuatu vessels. The assessment team recommend maintaining approval of this byproduct material.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>The management of the fishery used to produce the By- Product must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the management of the fishery.</i>		
LOW	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.	
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the management of the stock.	
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.	
<p><i>Determination: Administrative and legal frameworks are in place at the national and international levels. A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.</i></p> <p>National</p> <p>The Fisheries Act (1947, as amended in 1953 and 1985) is the principal legislative instrument dealing with fisheries and the cultivation of aquatic animals in the country. The act is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MAC). Its Department of Fisheries (DOF) is the principal government agency responsible for managing and developing fisheries and aquaculture. Its mandate and structure are set out in the Royal Decree on Administration (1994), which provides DOF with the authority and responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Apply, implement and enforce the Fisheries Act and other relevant laws related to fishery matters. – Study, research and develop aquatic resources, the aquatic environment, aquaculture, fish enhancement including genetic research and fishing gear. – Study, research and develop preservation and food processing of aquatic products, including analysis, inspection and certification of the quality of aquatic products. – Survey, explore, analyze and research fishery grounds within and outside Thai waters. – Promote and develop the possibilities for people to get involved in fishing, aquaculture and fishery products processing. <p>Therefore, the Thailand Department of Fisheries (DOF) is the primary fishery management organisation in Thailand. The current Thai fisheries management objectives are set out in The Master Plan – Marine Fisheries Management in Thailand. The Master Plan applies for the ten years beginning in 2009. The Plan includes five major strategies, the third of which is “Development and Promotion of Responsible and Sustainable Fisheries”.</p> <p>International</p> <p>As widely distributed and highly migratory species, the management of most tunas is necessarily internationally-focussed. Many tuna stocks are managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) which coordinate the scientific output and management approach of their member states with regards to tuna. Thailand is a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and a co-operating non-member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The IATTC is responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and other marine resources in the eastern Pacific Ocean and in the Atlantic the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Both China (Taiwan) and Vanuatu are contracting parties to these commissions. All of these RFMOs include albacore tuna within their remit.</p> <p>Species-Specific</p>		M

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The IOTC has implemented a number of conservation and management measures specific to the albacore tuna. However, these are primarily focussed on the gathering of information and do not appear to place any significant restrictions on the scale of member state’s fisheries, and there is no TAC. The WCPFC passed a resolution in 2005 recognising that the level of fishing should not be increased and requiring members and co-operating non-members to ensure their fleets did not increase effort. The WCPFC also has a number of measures in place to ensure the accurate reporting of albacore catch. ICCAT and IATTC management measures include gear and vessel restrictions, limited entry, seasonal and regional closures, and some country-specific quotas. ICCAT also provides periodical stock assessments and management advice.

R1 – R7

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.

LOW	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.
HIGH	Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.

Determination: Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty. Research to support the management of the stock is coordinated by the tuna RFMOs, but there is insufficient detail to take into account all the uncertainties in the stock assessment

M

National

Research supporting the management of Thai fisheries is the responsibility of two main organisations. The Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau (MFRDB) within the DOF is responsible for marine fisheries research. The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) is mandated to study and enhance mangrove forests, sea grass, coral reefs, and marine animals. The DMCR is responsible for the rehabilitation of natural resources and the environment and has elaborated main strategies with an emphasis on the role of public participation in preservation, protection, conservation, utilization and rehabilitation of natural resources through proactive and integrated natural resources management.

International

Management of albacore by the IOTC, WCPFC, ICCAT and IATTC is supported by concerted data collection and stock assessment efforts. The IOTC produces regular stock assessments, the summary of its results are shown in the table below. The total catch in 2015 in the Indian Ocean was 35,068t (Where MSY is estimated to be 38,800t). IATTC working group concluded that the Pacific stocks are likely not in an overfished condition at present, as there is little evidence from the assessment that fishing has reduced SSB below reasonable candidate biomass-based reference points. ICCAT North Atlantic stock: Projections at the current TAC level (28,000 t) indicate that the stock would rebuild by 2019 with 53% probability, which would meet the objective of the albacore recovery plan (Rec. 13-05). South Atlantic Stock: Results indicate that, most probably, the South Atlantic albacore stock is around the spawning biomass and the fishing mortality that can sustain the maximum sustainable levels. However, there is considerable uncertainty about the current stock status, as well as on the effect of alternative catch limits on the rebuilding probabilities of the southern stock. Projections at a level consistent with the 2013

TAC (24,000 t) showed that probabilities of being in the green area would exceed 50% only after 2020. Similar probabilities could be achieved earlier with lower TAC values.

The management advice details that if catch remains below the estimated MSY levels, then immediate management measures are not required. However, continued monitoring and improvement in data collection, reporting and analysis is required to reduce the uncertainty in assessments.

Area ¹	Indicators – 2016 assessment		2016 stock status determination
Indian Ocean	SS3		
	Catch 2015 ² :	35,068 t	
	Average catch 2011–2015:	34,902 t	
	MSY (1000 t) (80% CI):	38.8 (33.9–43.6)	
	F _{MSY} (80% CI):	-	
	SB _{MSY} (1000 t) (80% CI):	30.0 (26.1–34.0)	
	F ₂₀₁₄ /F _{MSY} (80% CI):	0.85 (0.57–1.12)	
SB ₂₀₁₄ /SB _{MSY} (80% CI):	1.80 (1.38–2.23)		
SB ₂₀₁₄ /SB ₁₉₅₀ (80% CI):	0.37 (0.28–0.46)		

¹Boundaries for the Indian Ocean stock assessment are defined as the IOTC area of competence.

²Proportion of catch estimated or partially estimated by IOTC Secretariat in 2015: 27%

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C. STOCK STATUS

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

C. The fish used to produce the fish By- Product is not considered to be critically at risk of over exploitation in accordance with the IUCN guidance.

LOW	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.
MEDIUM	The fish By- Product is from a species that is classified as vulnerable, but has a management regime in place that will control the level of fishing permitted. Or if a species is deemed to be endangered but the sub-group from where the fish By- Product is harvested is deemed scientifically to be at no risk of over exploitation.
HIGH	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.

Determination: The byproduct does not come from a species which is categorised by the IUCN as vulnerable or endangered.

This species is listed as Near Threatened, primarily as population declines would be much greater if it were not for the catch quotas that have been implemented.

R11

5. REFERENCES

R1 – Albacore drawing <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2496/en>

R2 – FAO country fisheries overview, Thailand: ftp://ftp.fao.org/Fi/DOCUMENT/fcp/en/FI_CP_TH.pdf

R3 – Thailand Department of Fisheries master plan: <http://www.fisheries.go.th/planning/files/Marine%20Master%20Plan.pdf>

R4 – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: <http://www.wcpfc.int/>

R5 – Indian Ocean Tuna Commission: <http://www.iotc.org/about-iotc/structure-commission>

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R6 – IOTC tuna stock status summary, 2016:

http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/species_summaries/english/Albacore%20Executive%20Summary.pdf

R7 – WCPFC albacore tuna conservation and management measures:

http://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/WCPFC2_Records_F.pdf

R8 – WCPFC tuna fishery yearbook, 2013: https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/WCPFC_YB_2013.pdf

R9 – IATTC Fishery Status report 2016

<https://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/FisheryStatusReports/FisheryStatusReport14.pdf>

R10 -ICCAT Report 2014-2015 https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB_ENG.pdf

R11 - IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/21856/0>

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