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IFFO RS
Global Standard for Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients

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Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0



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Fishery Under Assessment	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Date	July 2018
Assessor	V.Polonio

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: Southeast Asian Packaging and canning LTD				
Address:				
Country: Thailand		Zip:		
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:		
Email address:		Applicant Code		
Key Contact:		Title:		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		SAI Global		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval	Whole fish/ By-product
V. Polonio	J. Daly	1	Initial	By-product
Assessment Period	2017			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	ICCAT
Main Species	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Fishery Location	FAO 41, 47 (Central Atlantic Ocean)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll, baitboat
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	PASS
Clauses Failed	NONE
Peer Review Evaluation	PASS
Recommendation	PASS

Assessment Determination
<p>The stock in the assessment area (ALB-S stock, subcomponents AL33 and AL34) is managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and more specifically by Scientists from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).</p> <p>In their latest stock assessment (ICCAT 2016) six of eight scenarios used by SCRS indicated that the stock is not overfished and not undergoing overfishing, two other scenarios indicated that the stock is overfished but not undergoing overfishing. Other indicators were also used by SCRS to conclude that current stock status has improved since the last assessment. Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process.</p> <p>Wide confidence intervals for stock indicators used (MSY; B/BMSY; F/FMSY) reflect the large uncertainty around the estimates of stock status. Six scenarios estimated a higher B/BMSY than in the last stock assessment. Considering all scenarios, there is a 3% probability for the stock to be both overfished and experiencing overfishing (ICCAT 2016). The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy),</p> <p>IUCN have listed albacore tuna as near threatened; the species does not appear in the CITES appendices (both sites accessed 13.07.2018).</p> <p>The assessment team recommends the approval of albacore tuna (FAO 41 47) as a by-product species under the current IIFO RS Standard (By-product) v 2.0.</p>
Peer Review Comments
<p>When available, new information that is likely to reduce uncertainty on the stock status should be included in future assessments.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor

Note: This table should be completed for whole fish assessments only.

General Results

General Clause	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
M1 - Management Framework	
M2 - Surveillance, Control and Enforcement	
F1 - Impacts on ETP Species	
F2 - Impacts on Habitats	
F3 - Ecosystem Impacts	

Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
Category A			A1
			A2
			A3
			A4
Category B			
Category C	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	N/A	PASS
Category D			

[List all Category A and B species. List approximate total % age of landings which are Category C and D species; these do not need to be individually named here]

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT REPORT

This assessment template uses a modular approach to assessing fisheries against the IFFO RS standard.

Whole Fish

The process for completing the template for a **whole fish** assessment is as follows:

1. **ALL ASSESSMENTS:** Complete the Species Characterisation table, to determine which categories of species are present in the fishery.
2. **ALL ASSESSMENTS:** Complete clauses M1, M2, M3: Management.
3. **IF THERE ARE CATEGORY A SPECIES IN THE FISHERY:** Complete clauses A1, A2, A3, A4 for **each** Category A species.
4. **IF THERE ARE CATEGORY B SPECIES IN THE FISHERY:** Complete the Section B risk assessment for **each** Category B species.
5. **IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C SPECIES IN THE FISHERY:** Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C species.
6. **IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D SPECIES IN THE FISHERY:** Complete Section D.
7. **ALL ASSESSMENTS:** Complete clauses F1, F2, F3: Further Impacts.

A fishery must score a pass in **all applicable clauses** before approval may be recommended. To achieve a pass in a clause, the fishery/species must meet **all** of the minimum requirements.

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
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	ALB-S stock, subcomponents AL33 and AL34	N/A	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		
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: PASS
<p>Evidence</p> <p>Fisheries Management in Thailand:</p> <p>The Fisheries Act 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 (<i>inter alia</i>) :</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. - Survey, explore, analyse and research fishery grounds within and outside Thai waters. <p>Current Thai fisheries management objectives are set out in the Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). This plan includes different measures to manage the fleet targeting tuna such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The issuing of valid fishing permits from DOF. - Compliance with all Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) Legislation. - All laws, recommendations and regulations linked with (Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs) and - Implementation of the Port State Measures (PSM) Programme. <p>ICCAT:</p> <p>The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is an intergovernmental organization responsible for the management and conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean. Scientists from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) analyse fisheries statistics and advise the Commission on the need for specific conservation and management measures. ICCAT 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.</p>		

Albacore tuna:

Albacore is a temperate tuna widely distributed throughout the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. On the basis of the biological information available for assessment purposes, the existence of three stocks is assumed: Northern and Southern Atlantic stocks and sub-components (separated at 5°N) and a Mediterranean stock. However, some studies support the hypothesis that various sub populations of albacore exist in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. Likewise, there is likely intermingling of Indian Ocean and South Atlantic immature albacore which needs further research.

Species-specific stock assessments:

In 2016, a stock assessment of South Atlantic albacore was conducted including catch, effort and size data collated up to 2014 (ICCAT 2016). Recent South Atlantic albacore landings are largely attributed to four fisheries, namely the surface baitboat fleets of South Africa and Namibia, and the longline fleets of Brazil and Chinese Taipei. Albacore landings increased sharply since the mid-1950s to reach values oscillating around 25,000 t between the mid-1960s and the 1980s, 35,000 t until the last decade when they oscillated around 20,000 t. However, total reported albacore landings for 2016 decreased to 13,679 t, which is among the lowest values in the time series.

All aspects of the Southern Atlantic albacore catch limit and sharing arrangement shall be reviewed and revised at the 2020 ICCAT Commission meeting, taking into account results of an updated stock assessment to be conducted in 2020. This review and revision shall also address any over-harvests made in excess of the 2017-2020 TAC; set at 24,000 t (ICCAT 2016). Projections at a level consistent with this TAC showed the probability of being in the green area of the Kobe plot would be higher than 60% in 2020. Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process.

SCRS used two different production models, each with four scenarios, to assess the state of the stock. One model showed more optimistic results than the other. However, the Committee lacked enough objective information to identify the most plausible scenarios and considered them equally likely. Six of eight scenarios indicated that the stock is not overfished and not undergoing overfishing, and two other scenarios indicated that the stock is overfished but not undergoing overfishing. Six scenarios estimated a higher B/BMSY than in the last stock assessment, and seven scenarios estimated a lower F/FMSY than in the previous assessment. This indicated that current stock status has improved since the last assessment (ICCAT 2016).

Considering the whole range of scenarios, the median MSY value was 25,901 t (ranging between 15,270 t and 31,768 t), the median estimate of current B/BMSY was 1.10 (ranging between 0.51 and 1.80 t) and the median estimate of current F/FMSY was 0.54 (ranging between 0.31 and 0.87). The wide confidence intervals reflect the large uncertainty around the estimates of stock status.

Considering all scenarios, there is a 3% probability for the stock to be both overfished and experiencing overfishing, a 31% probability for the stock to be either overfished or experiencing overfishing but not both, and 66% probability that biomass is above and fishing mortality is below the Convention objectives (ICCAT 2016). The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy).

The IUCN have listed albacore tuna as near threatened; the species does not appear in the CITES appendices (both sites accessed 13.07.2018).

The assessment team recommends the approval of albacore tuna (FAO 41 47) as a by-product species under the current IIFO RS Standard (By-product) v 2.0.

References

- Anon (2016) ICCAT Report: REPORT OF THE 2016 ICCAT NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING 99pp
https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2016_ALB_REPORT_ENG.pdf
- Anon (2016) ICCAT Report: REPORT OF THE 2016 ICCAT NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING Executive Summary 8pp
https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB_ENG.pdf
- Anon FAO country fisheries overview, Thailand:
<http://www.fao.org/fishery/facp/THA/en>
- Thailand Department of Fisheries Management Plan (FMP):
<https://fisheries-refugia.org/downloads/inception-workshop/docs/21-21-fr-inception-workshop-marine-fisheries-management-plan-thailand/file>
- CITES Species Endangered list: <http://checklist.cites.org/#/en> accessed 13.07.18
IUCN Red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search> accessed 13.07.18

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2

