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Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients

Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0

Fishery Under Assessment	**Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) FAO 31**
Date	**July 2019**
Assessor	**Jim Daly**

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: TC Union Agrotech Co Ltd and others				
Address:				
Country: Thailand		**Zip:**		
Tel. No.:		**Fax. No.:**		
Email address:		**Applicant Code**		
Key Contact:		**Title:**		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		**SAI Global Ltd**		
Assessor Name	**Peer Reviewer**	**Assessment Days**	**Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval**	**Whole fish/ By-product**
Jim Daly	Virginia Polonio	0.5	Surveillance 2	By-product
Assessment Period	2018			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	IOTC
Main Species	Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)
Fishery Location	FAO 31 (Atlantic Western Central)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll, baitboats
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	PASS
Clauses Failed	NONE
Peer Review Evaluation	Approve the byproduct
Recommendation	PASS

Assessment Determination
The stock 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). In their 2016 assessment SCRS complied historical catch and CPUE (Catch per Unit Effort) data for the Northern Stock (ALB-N, Subcomponent AL-32). The next assessment is due in 2020. Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. In FAO 31 there are three different stocks controlled by ICAAT; in the area under assessment the species is evaluated as ALB-N stock, subcomponent AL32. The SCRS Report (ICCAT 2016) compiled catch data by major gear for this stock (1930-2014). The SCRS report also revised Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) data based on new information provided from the fleets, including the Venezuelan pelagic longline fleet. Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, the stock passes Clause C1.1. In the 2016 assessment results were produced by projecting forward the estimated 2014 population; for 2015 and 2016 catches of 26,000 t were assumed. The population from 2017 onwards was projected with alternative TAC and harvest control rules (HCR, as combinations of target fishing mortality (FTAR), threshold biomass (BTHRESH) and the interim biomass limit reference point (BLIM). In the forward projections, HCRs are evaluated every three years and fishing mortality projected assuming perfect implementation. ICCAT recommend setting the objective of maintaining the stock in the green area of the Kobe plot with a 60% probability while maximizing long-term yield, and, if B<BMSY, to recover it by 2020 at the latest, while maximizing average catch and minimizing inter-annual fluctuations in TAC levels. The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and passes Clause C1.2. IUCN have listed albacore tuna (global stock) as near threatened; the species does not appear in the CITES appendices (both sites accessed 09.07.19). The assessment team recommends the approval of albacore tuna (FAO 31) as a by-product species under the current IIFO RS Standard (By-product) v 2.0.
Peer Review Comments
ICCAT has been abiding by scientific advice in recent years in terms of setting the total allowable catch (TAC). Catches have been below TAC levels in recent years, except for two years. A recovery plan was put into place in 2009 and updated in 2011 and 2013. The most recent assessment indicates the recovery plan is likely to be successful if catches are maintained at the current TAC. However there is some room to exceed the TAC overfishing is not occurring and the population is no longer overfished. The observer program still has low coverage (5%). However the stock is in a good shape. PR agrees with the conclusion and recommends the approval of this by-product.
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 (*Thunnus alalunga*)	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	*Thunnus alalunga*	ALB-N stock, subcomponent AL32	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		**Albacore tuna** (*Thunnus alalunga*)	
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**

Evidence

C1.1:

ICCAT:

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. These 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.

Species-specific stock assessments:

In FAO 31 there are three different stocks controlled by ICAAT; in the area under assessment the species is evaluated as ALB-N stock, subcomponent AL32. The SCRS Report (ICCAT 2016) compiled catch data by major gear for this stock (1930-2014). Overall catches show a decreasing trend since 2006 (~37000 t) reaching a minimum of about 20,000 t in 2011. This decline in catches was mostly due to the decrease in the catches of baitboat and troll fisheries in the Cantabrian Sea (Spanish fleet).

Since 2012, overall catches increased slightly to a maximum of about 26,500 t in 2014, caused mostly by an increase in the catches of the European trawl and baitboat fisheries of Canarias, Azores and Madeira, as well as Japanese and Chinese Taipei longline fisheries (especially in 2013). The SCRS report also revised Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) data based on new information provided from the fleets, including the Venezuelan pelagic longline fleet. Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, the stock passes Clause C1.1.

C1.2:

In the 2016 assessment results were produced by projecting forward the estimated 2014 population; for 2015 and 2016 catches of 26,000 t were assumed. The population from 2017 onwards was projected with alternative TAC and harvest control rules (HCR, as combinations of target fishing mortality (FTAR), threshold biomass (BTHRESH) and the interim biomass limit reference point (BLIM). In the forward projections, the HCRs are evaluated every three years and the fishing mortality is projected assuming perfect implementation.

The outcomes of the projections of the base case are shown in **Figure 1**, which indicate the projected probability of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot within the time-frame indicated:

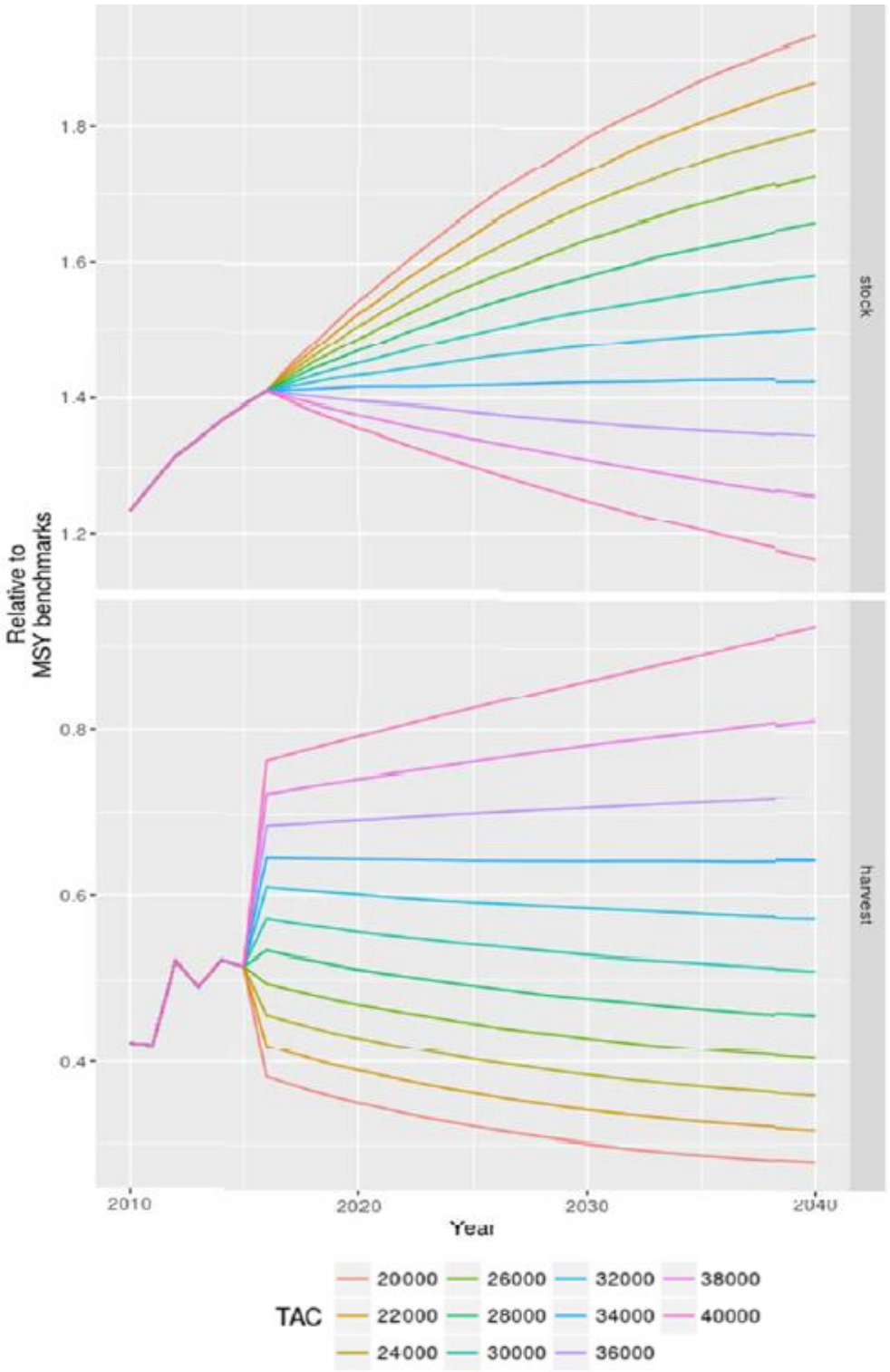

Figure 1: Projection of B/BMSY (upper panel) and F/FMSY (lower panel) at Constant TAC for the North Atlantic Albacore Base Case Scenario **R2**

Management Recommendations:

ICCAT recommend setting the objective of maintaining the stock in the green area of the Kobe plot with a 60% probability while maximizing long-term yield, and, if B<BMSY, to recover it by 2020 at the latest, while maximizing average catch and minimizing inter-annual fluctuations in TAC levels.

Simulations conducted so far suggest that HCRs with combinations of F targets below FMSY together with BTHRESHOLD values below BMSY allow for reasonably good compromises between sustainability targets and fishery profit and stability.

Relative abundance indices compiled by SCRS from data modelling show that the stock has continued to increase over the last decades and was likely somewhere in the green area of the Kobe plot, however without additional information, the magnitude of the recovery was not well determined and remains sensitive to many different assumptions

IUCN have listed albacore tuna as near threatened; the species does not appear in the CITES appendices (both sites accessed 12.07.2018).

The assessment team recommends the approval of albacore tuna (FAO 310 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 (2014) ICCAT Report: REPORT OF THE 2014 ICCAT NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING: Executive Summary https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2014_ALB_REPORT_EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.pdf
- CITES Species Endangered list: http://checklist.cites.org/#/en accessed 09.07.19
- IUCN Red list: http://www.iucnredlist.org/search accessed 09.07.19
- Fishsource: Albacore North Atlantic: https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/638

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2