



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Report Template

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Fishing Areas 34 (Atlantic, Eastern Central)
	Country of origin of the product:	USA (Flag Country: Ghana)
	Stock:	Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean
Date	22/09/2021	
Report Code	BP191	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	USA (Flag Country: Ghana)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: USA		Zip:	
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:	
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Virginia Polonio	Geraldine Criquet	0.5	Initial
Assessment Period	To September 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
Stock	Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean
Fishery Location	Atlantic Ocean, FAO fishing areas 34 (Atlantic, Eastern Central)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	ICCAT and national authorities of Ghana
Gear Type(s)	Longline, baitboat and purse seine.
Peer Review Evaluation	
Agree with the assessor's recommendation of approval.	
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>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 Marin Trust 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 Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>This assessment covers a single stock (i.e. yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean) when fished within the above FAO fishing areas by vessels from Ghana. It should be noted that the stock was last assessed in 2019 and the next assessment is provisionally scheduled for 2023. There does not appear to be inter-sessional information available for the stock. Consequently, the information upon which this assessment is based is the same as for last year.</p> <p>Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the ICCAT stock assessment process so the stock PASSES Clause C1.1.</p> <p>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 BMSY, biomass can correspondingly be considered to be above any nominal limit reference point (or proxy); therefore, the stock PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>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 Marin Trust v 2.0 by-product standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean stock as category C, reference points or proxies are defined to assess status of the stock relative to.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process so the stock PASSES Clause C1.1. The yellowfin tuna stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point or proxy, it PASSES Clause C1.2. Therefore, the yellowfin tuna stock in the Atlantic Ocean should be approved.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as an MARINTRUST raw material.

IUCN Redlist Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean	ICCAT	C	Near threatened	Not listed

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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.

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. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

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.	Yes
	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.	Yes
Clause outcome:			PASS

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.

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. The stock was last assessed in 2019 and the next assessment is provisionally scheduled for 2023. 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. The total catches series is shown in the figure below (Figure 1).

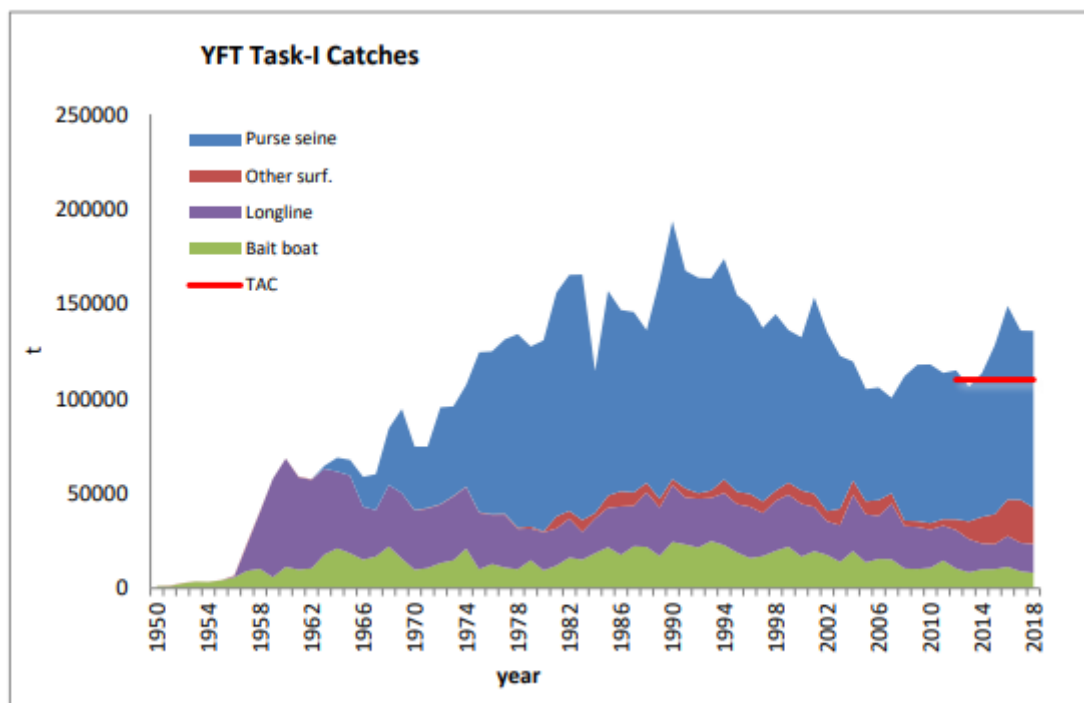


Figure 1. Yellowfin tuna total catch 1950 – 2018 by main fishing gear group. Source: ICAAT 2019

Landings from Ghana in the last 5 years were reported as follows:

Year	Catches
2014	18,939t
2015	19,659t
2016	20,218t
2017	20,398t
2018	23,160t

Therefore, removals are included in the stock assessment process such that the fishery achieves a **PASS** against C1.1.

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.

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 BMSY in the terminal year of the model (i.e. at the end of 2018). In terms of fishing mortality (F), overall, the models estimated F2018 to be near the FMSY, 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 B2018/BMSY was 1.17 (0.75, 1.62) based on a median BMSY 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 BMSY 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 stock assessments. <https://iccat.int/en/assess.html>

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

Links

MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01