



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Yellowfin Tuna, Ecuador*

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

22 Amelia Street

London

SE17 3BZ

E: standards@marin-trust.com

T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Yellowfin Tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Major Fishing Areas 77 & 87 (Pacific, South-East)
	Country of origin of the product:	Ecuador
	Stock:	Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) Yellowfin tuna
Date	June 2022	
Report Code	ESP24	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Ecuador	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Sarval Bio-industries Noroeste			
Country: Spain			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Kate Morris	0.3	Surveillance
Assessment Period	June 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Yellowfin Tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) Yellowfin tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Major Fishing Areas 77 & 87 (Pacific, South-East)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine, pole and line
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	Approve
Clauses Failed	None
Peer Review Evaluation	Approve
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Yellowfin tuna is categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern and does not appear in the CITES appendices. It is managed using target and limit reference points and therefore was assessed under Category C. As in previous MT assessments it should be noted that there are two discrete stocks of yellowfin tuna in the Pacific Ocean: Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) yellowfin, managed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission; and Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) yellowfin, managed by the IATTC. There is no overlap between the stocks, and only the EPO stock is covered by this byproduct assessment. An updated stock assessment has been carried out since the last MT assessment. The new stock assessment concluded that the stock may or may not be above the target reference point, but provided solid evidence that the biomass is above the limit reference point. The stock assessment took account of all international landings. Overall the byproduct meets the MT requirements and should remain approved for use as raw material.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The by-product fishery under assessment here is the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) fishery, targeted by Ecuadorian vessels in FAO 77 & 87. EPO Yellowfin tuna is according to bi-lateral agreements and the IATTC management plan. Yellowfin tuna is correctly classified by the auditor as category C species and the C1 scoring table has been completed by the auditor with sufficient evidence to support their final determination. The fishery under assessment passes C1 scoring. The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to approve this fishery under the Marin Trust v2.0 by-product standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.
Notes for On-site Auditor
There is nothing to highlight to the onsite auditor at this stage.

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 Red list 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 albacare</i>	EPO	Yes	C	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21857/46624561>

CATEGORY C SPECIES

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

Species Name		Yellowfin Tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	
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
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.			
The stock is managed under the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2020 and incorporated landings data from across the region (IATTC 2021). Catch data are made available on the IATTC website (IATTC 2022a). Total yellowfin catch in 2021 was estimated to be 251,471t, of which 50,066t was taken by Ecuador (IATTC 2022b). Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process, therefore C1.1 is met.			
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.			
The most recent assessment for the stock was conducted in 2020. The assessment utilised 48 different models and produced a range of results (IATTC 2021). The models produced results indicating that the spawning stock biomass in early 2020 was between 49% and 219% of the target reference point (S_{MSY_d}). They also estimated that the biomass was between 145% and 345% of the limit reference point (S_{LIMIT}). None of the 48 models produced a result suggesting that the stock biomass was below the limit reference point. Similarly, the assessment estimated that from 2017-2019 the level of fishing mortality was between 22% and 65% of the limit reference point (F_{LIMIT}). It is therefore reasonable to conclude that while the stock biomass may or may not be above the target reference point, there is a high degree of certainty that it is above the limit reference point. Measures are put in place to reflect the estimated status of the stock. For example, the purse seine fishery is closed for different periods depending, in part, on stock status (IATTC 2022c). Other management measures are in place through the IATTC resolutions, including a vessel register and observer programme. The species is considered to be above the limit reference point and therefore C1.2 is met.			
References			
IATTC (2021). Report on the tuna fishery, stocks and ecosystem in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 2020. https://www.iattc.org/en-US/publication/commission/Fishery-Status-Report			
IATTC (2022a). Public domain data for download. https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Data/Public-domain			
IATTC (2022b). Cumulative catches. https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Data/Cumulative-catch			
IATTC (2022c). Closures of the purse seine fishery. https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Management/Closure			
Links			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2	
FAO CCRF		7.5.3	

GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01
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