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Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients

Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0

Version No.: 2.0 **Date:** July 2017

Fishery Under Assessment	**Kawakawa** *Euthynnus affinis*
Date	**January 2018**
Assessor	**Conor Donnelly**

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**
Conor Donnelly	Sam Dignan	1	Surveillance	By-product
Assessment Period	2017-2018			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) and signatory countries
Main Species	Kawakawa *Euthynnus affinis*
Fishery Location	FAO Fishing Areas 57 and 71 (Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific Ocean)
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine, gillnets, handlines and trolling
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	Pass
Clauses Failed	None
Peer Review Evaluation	Maintain approval
Recommendation	Maintain approval

Assessment Determination

Management is co-ordinated at an international level through the RFMO, the IOTC, and the regional fishery body SEAFDEC.

SEAFDEC have developed a regional plan of action for the sustainable utilisation of neritic tunas in Southeast Asia (RPOA-Neritic Tunas) including Kawakawa. Data on stocks and catch rates appears poor but latest information suggests stocks in the Indian Ocean are at risk of falling below or are below MSY and catch rates exceed that required to achieve MSY whereas in the Pacific catch rates are below that required to achieve MSY. Under RPOA-Neritic Tunas advice has been provided on setting TACs to achieve MSY.

At the Indian Ocean level, IOTC recommend further analysis of the CPUE data should be undertaken in preparation for the next stock assessment so that more traditional approaches for assessing stock status may be used and the Scientific Committee recommends that catches should be reduced by 20% of 2013 levels if the Commission wants to recover stock to MSY.

The species is classed as of 'least concern' by IUCN http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/170336/0 accessed 26 January 2018. It is not listed by CITES https://www.speciesplus.net/#/ (accessed 26 January 2018).

The potential impacts of the fishery on Kawakawa are considered during the management process and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts including advising reduced TACs to enable stocks to meet MSY. As such there is no substantial evidence the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species at present so the assessment team recommends approving this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard.

Peer Review Comments

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	NA
M2 - Surveillance, Control and Enforcement	NA
F1 - Impacts on ETP Species	NA
F2 - Impacts on Habitats	NA
F3 - Ecosystem Impacts	NA

Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)	
Category A			A1	
			A2	
			A3	
			A4	
Category B				
Category C				
Category D	Kawakawa *Euthynnus affinis*	Unknown	Pass	

[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
Kawakawa	*Euthynnus affinis*	Eastern Indian Ocean, Western Central Pacific Ocean		No species specific management regime	D

CATEGORY D SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category D species are those which make up less than 5% of landings and are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. In a by-product assessment, Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In both cases, the comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

The process for assessing Category D species involves the use of a Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) to further subdivide the species into 'Critical Risk', 'Major Risk' and 'Minor Risk' groups. If there are no Category D species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted.

Productivity and susceptibility ratings are calculated using a process derived from the APFIC document "Regional Guidelines for the Management of Tropical Trawl Fisheries, which in turn was derived from papers by Patrick *et al* (2009) and Hobday *et al* (2007). Table D1 should be completed for each Category D species as follows:

- Firstly, the best available information should be used to fill in values for each productivity and susceptibility attribute.
- Table D2 should be used to convert each attribute value into a score between 1 and 3.
- The average score for productivity attributes and the average for susceptibility attributes should be calculated.
- Table D3 should be used to determine whether the species is required to meet the requirements of Table D4. A species which does not need to meet the requirements of D4 is automatically awarded a pass.
- Table D4 should be used to assess those species indicated by Table D3 to determine a pass/fail rating.
- Any Category D species which has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as Endangered or Critically Endangered, or which appears in the CITES appendices, automatically results in a fail.

D1	Species Name	Kawakawa	
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)	2	2
	Average maximum age (years)	6	1
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	210,000 - 680,000	3
	Average maximum size (cm)	100 Fork Length (FL)	2
	Average size at maturity (cm)	43	2
	Reproductive strategy	Open water / substratum egg scatterers	1
	Mean trophic level	4.5	3
		Average Productivity Score	**2**
	Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Overlap of adult species range with fishery	No information	3
	Distribution	Throughout region / global distribution	NA
	Habitat	Epi-pelagic in neritic waters	1
	Depth range	0-50m	3
	Selectivity	Mesh size 2.5-9cm (purse seine)	3
	Post-capture mortality	Retained	3
		Average Susceptibility Score	**2.6**
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	**Table D4**
		Compliance rating	**Medium**

References

http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/170336/0 accessed 26 January 2018.

Fishbase, http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?ID=96&AT=kawakawa accessed 26 January 2018

Reviewed Native Distribution Map for *Euthynnus affinis*: Degree of habitat suitability interpreted as probability of occurrence http://www.aquamaps.org (accessed 15 February 2018)

Yingyuad, W. and Chanrachkij, I. (2010). Purse seine fisheries of Thailand. South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDC). Pg 43 (mesh size), pg 58 (neritic tunas)

http://map.seafdec.org/downloads/pdf/Report%20Purse%20Seine%20Fisheries%20of%20Thailand%20for%20printing%20New%20format.pdf

IOTC (2016a). Executive Summary: Kawakawa. Updated December 2016

http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/species_summaries/english/Kawakawa

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	Low productivity/ High risk	Medium productivity/ Medium risk	High productivity/ Low risk
	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Average age at maturity (years)	>4	2 to 4	<2
Average maximum age (years)	>30	10 to 30	<10
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	<1 000	1 000 to 10 000	>10 000
Average maximum size (cm)	>150	60 to 150	<60
Average size at maturity (cm)	>150	30 to 150	<30
Reproductive strategy	Live bearer, mouth brooder or significant parental investment	Demersal spawner "berried"	Broadcast spawner
Mean trophic level	>3.25	2.5–3.25	<2.5

Susceptibility attributes		High susceptibility/ High risk	Medium susceptibility/ Medium risk	Low susceptibility/ Low risk
		Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Availability	1) Overlap of adult species range with fishery	>50% of stock occurs in the area fished	Between 25% and 50% of the stock occurs in the area fished	<25% of stock occurs in the area fished
	2) Distribution	Only in the country/ fishery	Limited range in the region	Throughout region/ global distribution
Encounterability	1) Habitat	Habitat preference of species make it highly likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. demersal, muddy/sandy bottom)	Habitat preference of species make it moderately likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. rocky bottom/reefs)	Depth or distribution of species make it unlikely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. epi-pelagic or meso-pelagic)
	2) Depth range	High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20 to 60 m depth)	Medium overlap with trawl fishing gear (10 to 20 m depth)	Low overlap with trawl fishing gear (0 to 10 m, >70 m depth)
Selectivity		Species >2 times mesh size or up to 4 m length	Species 1 to 2 times mesh size or 4 to 5 m length	Species <mesh size or >5 m length
Post capture mortality		Most dead or retained Trawl tow >3 hours	Alive after net hauled Trawl tow 0.5 to 3 hours	Released alive Trawl tow <0.5 hours

Note: Availability 2 is only used when there is no information for Availability 1; the most conservative score between Encounterability 1 and 2 is used.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4	Species Name		
	Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements		
	D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.	Pass
	D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.	Pass
		Outcome:	Pass

Evidence

The Regional Fishery Management Organisation (RFMO) and inter-governmental organisation with an interest in Kawakawi in the Indian Ocean and Western and Central Pacific are:

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), an intergovernmental organisation responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. It works to achieve this by promoting cooperation among its Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties in order to ensure the conservation and appropriate utilisation of fish stocks and encouraging the sustainable development of fisheries. Members include Thailand, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines, I. R. of Iran.

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an autonomous inter-governmental body established in 1967. The mandate of SEAFDEC as endorsed by the 41st Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council is "*to develop and manage the fisheries potential of the region by rational utilization of the resources for providing food security and safety to the people and alleviating poverty through transfer of new technologies, research and information dissemination activities*". SEAFDEC comprises 11 Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Center operates through the Secretariat located in Thailand and has five Technical Departments, namely the Training Department; the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD); the Aquaculture Department (AQD); the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD); and the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD).

In the Indian Ocean, a 2015 stock assessment was used to estimate MSY for the Indian Ocean Kawakawa stock:

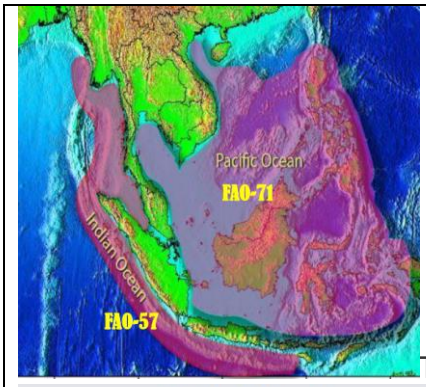
Area[1]	Indicators		2016 stock status determination
Indian Ocean	Catch 2015[2]: Average catch 2011–2015:	152,772 t 158,817 t	
	MSY (1,000 t) [*] F_{MSY} [*] B_{MSY} (1,000 t) [*] F_{2013}/F_{MSY} [*] B_{2013}/B_{MSY} [*] B_{2013}/B_0 [*]	152 [125 –188] 0.56 [0.42–0.69] 202 [151–315] 0.98 [0.85–1.11] 1.15 [0.97–1.38] 0.58 [0.33–0.86]	

The IOTC has not adopted reference points for the neritic tunas, including Kawakawa, under its mandate, although Kawakawa in the Indian Ocean is subject to a number of generic measures adopted by the Commission:

- Resolution 15/01 *on the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 15/02 *mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*
- Resolution 14/05 *concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC area of competence and access agreement information*
- Resolution 15/11 *on the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties*
- Resolution 10/08 *concerning a record of active vessels fishing for tunas and swordfish in the IOTC area*

The IOTC notes that there remains considerable uncertainty about stock structure and total catches. Stock assessment information for the Indian Ocean Kawakawa is available, the latest assessment was in 2015. Due to a lack of data it was undertaken using a simple modelling approach and it has been recommended that further analysis of CPUE data should be undertaken in preparation for the next assessment to enable more traditional approach for assessing stock status to be used. Although not currently considered to be overfished or subject to overfishing, the IOTC note that the continued increase of annual catches has increased pressure on the stock and there is a high risk of exceeding MSY-based reference points by 2016 if catches are maintained at 2013 levels (96% risk that B2016<BMSY, and 100% risk that F2016>FMSY) or an even higher risk if catches are increased further (120% of 2013 levels: 100% risk that SB2016<SBMSY, and 100% risk that F2016>FMSY). Consequently the Scientific Committee of the IOTC recommends that catches should be reduced by 20% of 2013 levels.

The only stock assessment in the Pacific Ocean seem to have been undertaken by SEAFDEC as part of a Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas (RPOA-Neritic Tuna) for neritic tunas. The draft plan was adopted in June 2014 together with a draft Capacity Building Program to support the implementation of the RPOA-Neritic Tuna. (http://www.seafdec.org/regional-plan-action-sustainable-utilization-neritic-tuna-asean-region-drafted/). A scientific working group (SWG) supports the implementation of RPOA-Neritic Tunas and meets annually, most recently in Malaysia in 2017 (SEAFDEC, 2017). The plan covers bullet tuna, kawakawa, frigate tuna, longtail tuna and Spanish mackerel within the Southeast Asian waters of FAO areas 57 and 71:

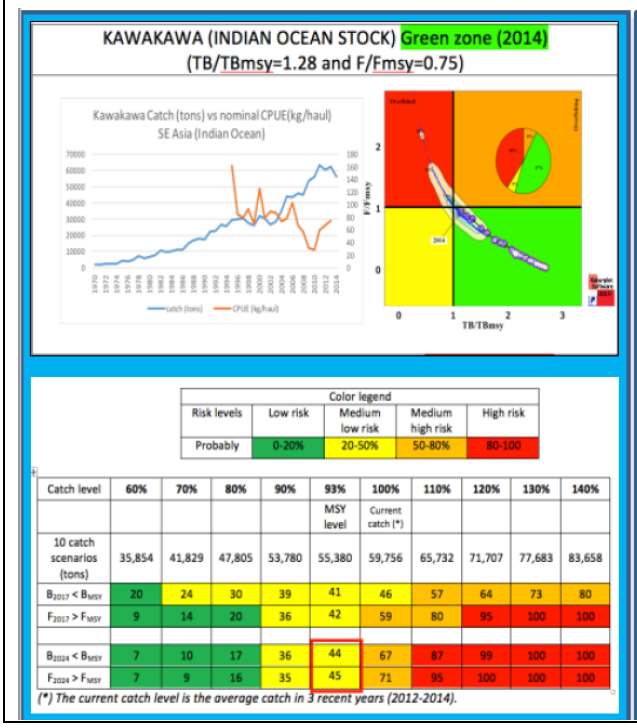


The main objectives of the RPOA-Neritic Tunas plan are:

6 Main Objectives

1. Determining available data and information, improving data collection and developing key indicators
2. Improving sustainable fisheries management
3. Improving sustainable interaction between fisheries and marine ecosystem
4. Improving compliance to rules and regulations and access to markets
5. Social Issues
6. Regional Cooperation

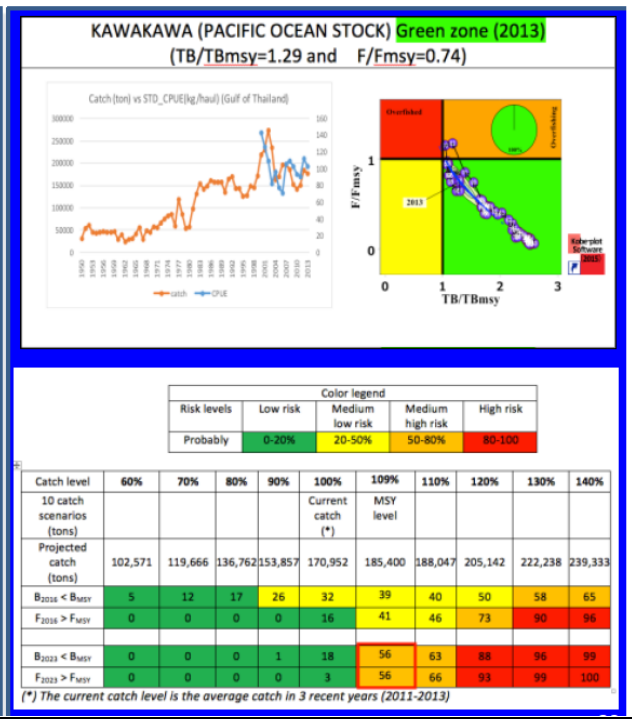
A stock and risk assessment has been undertaken for Kawakawa stocks falling within SEAFDEC waters, identifying MSY for each Kawakawa stock and recommending a TAC with reference to the MSY.



Color legend					
Risk levels	Low risk	Medium low risk	Medium high risk	High risk	
Probably	0-20%	20-50%	50-80%	80-100	

Catch level	60%	70%	80%	90%	93%	100%	110%	120%	130%	140%
					MSY level	Current catch (*)				
10 catch scenarios (tons)	35,854	41,829	47,805	53,780	55,380	59,756	65,732	71,707	77,683	83,658
$B_{2017} < B_{MSY}$	20	24	30	39	41	46	57	64	73	80
$F_{2017} > F_{MSY}$	9	14	20	36	42	59	80	95	100	100
$B_{2024} < B_{MSY}$	7	10	17	36	44	67	87	99	100	100
$F_{2024} > F_{MSY}$	7	9	16	35	45	71	95	100	100	100

(*) The current catch level is the average catch in 3 recent years (2012-2014).



Color legend					
Risk levels	Low risk	Medium low risk	Medium high risk	High risk	
Probably	0-20%	20-50%	50-80%	80-100	

Catch level	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	109%	110%	120%	130%	140%
10 catch scenarios (tons)					Current catch (*)	MSY level				
Projected catch (tons)	102,571	119,666	136,762	153,857	170,952	185,400	188,047	205,142	222,238	239,333
$B_{2016} < B_{MSY}$	5	12	17	26	32	39	40	50	58	65
$F_{2016} > F_{MSY}$	0	0	0	0	16	41	46	73	90	96
$B_{2023} < B_{MSY}$	0	0	0	1	18	56	63	88	96	99
$F_{2023} > F_{MSY}$	0	0	0	0	3	56	66	93	99	100

(*) The current catch level is the average catch in 3 recent years (2011-2013)

References

About the IOTC. Accessed 26 January 2018

http://www.iotc.org/

About SEAFDEC. Accessed January 2018.

http://www.seafdec.org/about/

IOTC (2016a). Executive Summary: Kawakawa. Updated December 2016

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

IOTC (2016b). Kawakawa supporting information. Updated December 2016

http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/species_summaries/english/Kawakawa%20Supporting%20Information.pdf

SEAFDEC (2017). Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable exploitation of Neritic Tunas in Southeast Asia.

http://www.oppbob.org/app/webroot/img/Nov2017_Kochi/OPP-Regional%20Dialogue_SEAFDEC%20Presentation_Final.pdf

Standard clause 1.3.2.2

SOCIAL CRITERION

In addition to the scored criteria listed above, applicants must commit to ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery adhere to internationally recognised guidance on human rights. They must also commit to ensuring there is no use of enforced or unpaid labour in the fleet(s) operating upon the resource.

Appendix A - Determining Resilience Ratings

The assessment of Category B species described in this assessment report template utilises a resilience rating system suggested by the American Fisheries Society. This approach was chosen because it is also used by FishBase, and so the resilience ratings for many thousands of species are freely available online. As described by FishBase, the following is the process used to arrive at the resilience ratings:

"*The American Fisheries Society (AFS) has suggested values for several biological parameters that allow classification of a fish population or species into categories of high, medium, low and very low resilience or productivity (Musick 1999). If no reliable estimate of r_m (see below) is available, the assignment is to the lowest category for which any of the available parameters fits. For each of these categories, AFS has suggested thresholds for decline over the longer of 10 years or three generations. If an observed decline measured in biomass or numbers of mature individuals exceeds the indicated threshold value, the population or species is considered vulnerable to extinction unless explicitly shown otherwise. If one sex strongly limits the reproductive capacity of the species or population, then only the decline in the limiting sex should be considered. We decided to restrict the automatic assignment of resilience categories in the Key Facts page to values of K, t_m and t_{max} and those records of fecundity estimates that referred to minimum number of eggs or pups per female per year, assuming that these were equivalent to average fecundity at first maturity (Musick 1999). Note that many small fishes may spawn several times per year (we exclude these for the time being) and large live bearers such as the coelacanth may have gestation periods of more than one year (we corrected fecundity estimates for those cases reported in the literature). Also, we excluded resilience estimates based on r_m (see below) as we are not yet confident with the reliability of the current method for estimating rm. If users have independent r_m or fecundity estimates, they can refer to Table 1 for using this information*."

Parameter	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Threshold	0.99	0.95	0.85	0.70
r_{max} (1/year)	> 0.5	0.16 - 0.50	0.05 - 0.15	< 0.05
K (1/year)	> 0.3	0.16 - 0.30	0.05 - 0.15	< 0.05
Fecundity (1/year)	> 10,000	100 - 1000	10 - 100	< 10
t_m (years)	< 1	2 - 4	5 - 10	> 10
t_{max} (years)	1 - 3	4 - 10	11 - 30	> 30

[Taken from the FishBase manual, "Estimation of Life-History Key Facts", http://www.fishbase.us/manual/English/key%20facts.htm#resilience]

Appendix B – Background on the 5% catch rule

The proposed fishery assessment methodology uses a species categorisation approach to divide the catch in the assessment fishery into groups. These groups are:

- **Category A:** "Target" species with a species-specific management regime in place.
- **Category B:** "Target" species with no species-specific management regime in place.
- **Category C:** "Non-target" species with a species-specific management regime in place.
- **Category D:** "Non-target" species with no species-specific management regime in place

The distinction between 'target' and 'non-target' species is made to enable the assessment to consider the impact of the fishery on all the species caught regularly, without requiring a full assessment be conducted for each. Thus 'target' species are subjected to a more detailed assessment, while 'non-target' species are considered more briefly. For the purposes of the IFFO RS fishery assessment, 'target' and 'non-target' species are defined by their prevalence in the catch, by weight. Applicants must declare which species are considered 'target' species in the fishery, and the combined weight of these must be at least 95% of the annual catch. The remaining 5% can be made up of 'non-target' species. Note also that ETP species are considered separately, irrespective of their frequency of occurrence in the catch.

The proposed use of 5% as a limit for 'non-target' species is one area in which feedback is being sought via the public consultation. The decision to propose a value of 5% ensures consistency with other fishery assessment programmes, such as the MSC which uses 5% to distinguish between 'main' and 'minor' species (see MSC Standard, SA3.4 and GSA3.4.2); and Seafood Watch, which uses 5% when defining the 'main' species for the assessment (see Seafood Watch Standard, Criterion 2). The value is also consistent with the approached used in Version 1 of the IFFO RS Standard, in which up to 5% of the raw material could be comprised of 'unassessed' species.

Comments on this proposition are welcomed along with any other feedback on the proposed approach.