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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> FAO 51 Western Indian Ocean
Date	February 2019
Assessor	Jim Daly

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: Marine Biotechnology Products Ltd				
Address:				
Country: Mauritius		Zip:		
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:		
Email address:		Applicant Code		
Key Contact: Arasen Moodelly		Title: Quality Manager		
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	V.Polonio	0.5	Surveillance Year 2	By-product
Assessment Period	2018			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
Main Species	Albacore tuna <i>T.alalunga</i>
Fishery Location	Western Indian Ocean FAO 51
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine, longline
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	PASS
Clauses Failed	NONE
Peer Review Evaluation	AGREE
Recommendation	APPROVE

Assessment Determination
<p>Albacore tuna in the assessment area is managed by the Regional RFMO, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Resolutions are binding on its members; Scientific advice is provided by the IOTC's Scientific Committee. No new stock assessment was carried out for albacore in 2018, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2016 assessment and other indicators presented in 2018.</p> <p>Trends in the CPUE series suggest that the longline vulnerable biomass has declined to around 65% of the levels observed in 1980-82. Catches have also increased substantially since 2007 for some fleets (i.e., Indonesian and Taiwan, China longline fisheries), although there is substantial uncertainty regarding the reliability of catch estimates. Biomass is considered to be above the SBMSY level (SB2014/SBMSY = 1.80 (1.38-2.23)) from the SS3 model.</p> <p>The stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY target reference points indicates that the stock is not overfished and not subject to overfishing. A precautionary approach is applied to management advice. 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 of the assessment. As Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are also included in the stock assessment process the species also passes Clause C1.1 of the assessment.</p> <p>There is a ban on discarding tropical tuna (bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin) caught in purse seine fisheries and the use of artificial lights and aircraft are also prohibited in purse seine fisheries. There is uncertainty surrounding reported tuna catches from the coastal fisheries of Sri Lanka, Comoros and Madagascar. Observer coverage is low in the purse seine fishery (5%) and much lower than levels mandated by other RFMO's. Interactions between sea turtles, sharks and other fish occur in associated purse seine fisheries.</p> <p>The Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative (SIOTI) has been jointly established by key regional governments, local processors, producers' organisations and their fishing vessels with the support of WWF. The goal is to reach MSC Certification (Purse seine, FAO 51, Skipjack, Yellowfin, Bigeye) by 2022. Some recent progress has been noted.</p> <p>Global stocks of albacore tuna are classified as near threatened (population decreasing) under the current IUCN Red List (accessed 21.02.19).</p>

Albacore tuna in the Western Indian Ocean is recommended for approval as by-product material under IFFO RS Standard v 2.0 for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.

Peer Review Comments

Notes for On-site Auditor

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

Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)	
Category A			A1	
			A2	
			A3	
			A4	
Category B				
Category C	Albacore tuna <i>T.alaunga</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>T.alalunga</i>	FAO 51	N/A	IOTC	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 <i>T.alalunga</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
Evidence			
C 1.1:			
The majority of albacore catches are attributed to vessels flagged to distant water fishing nations (i.e., Taiwan, China and Japan), followed by coastal countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia. Albacore tuna are currently caught almost exclusively using drifting longliners, with the remaining catches recorded using purse seines and other gears. Catches from the longline fisheries are split between deep-freezing longliners, and fresh-tuna longliners (Figure 1):			

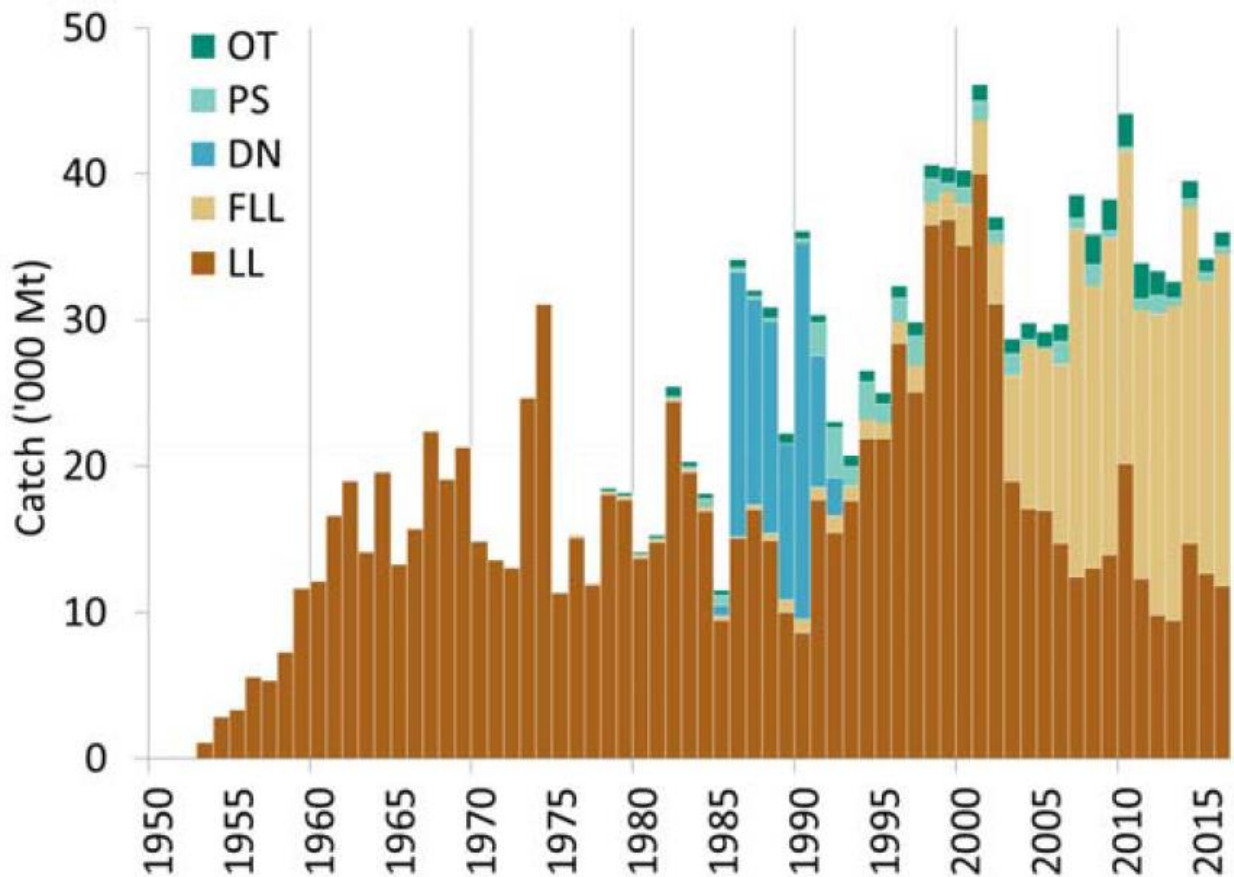


Figure 1: Catches of albacore by gear (1950-2017) R1

Catch estimates for 2017 (38,347 t) are marginally below the current estimated MSY levels. Trends in the CPUE series suggest that the longline vulnerable biomass has declined to around 65% of the levels observed in 1980-82. Catches have also increased substantially since 2007 for some fleets. Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. **The species passes Clause C 1.1 of the assessment.**

C1.2:

A Kobe 2 Strategy matrix was calculated to quantify the risk of different future catch scenarios, using the projections from the SS3 model (**Figure 2**):

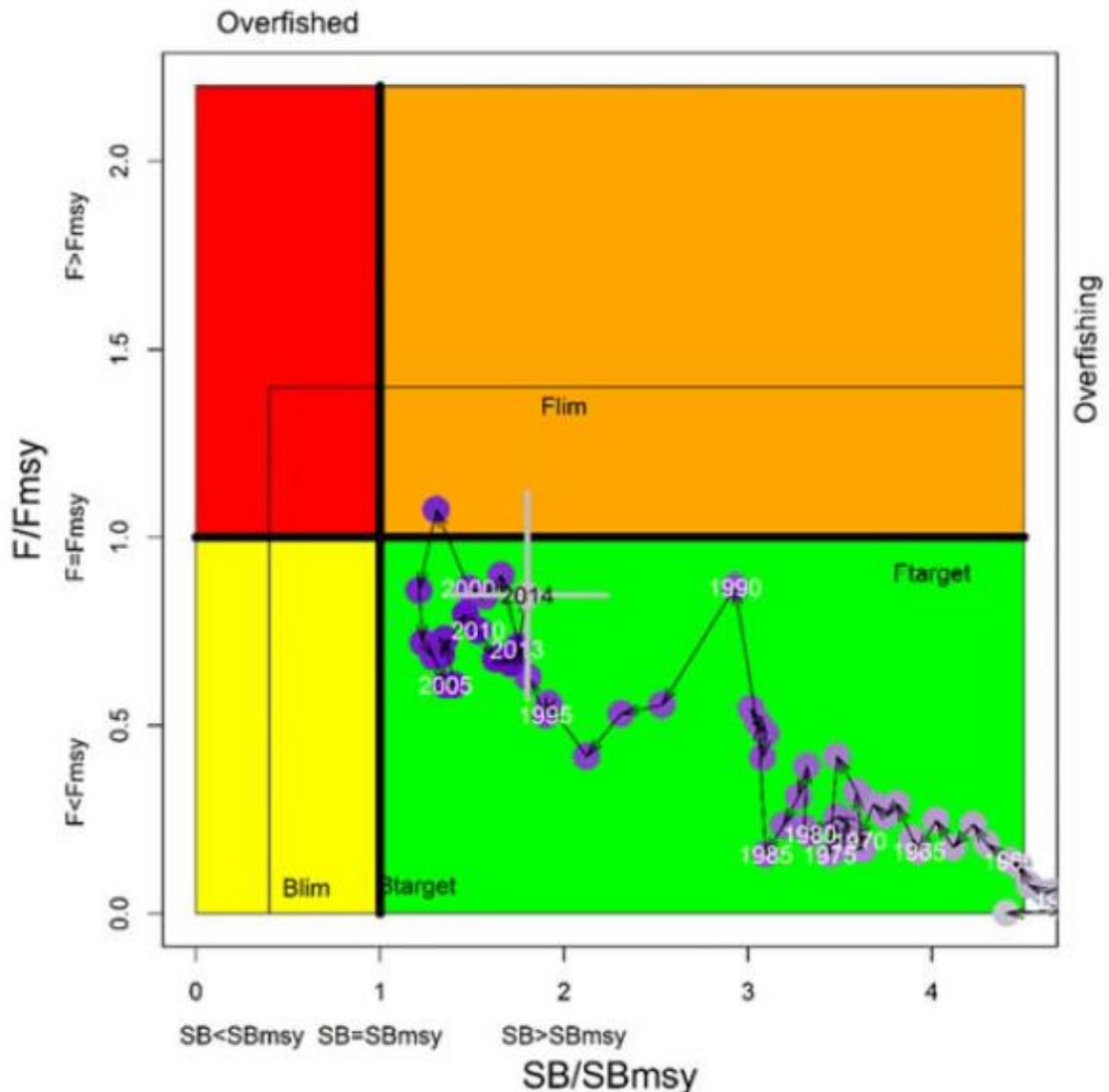


Figure 2: Albacore: SS3 Aggregated Indian Ocean assessment Kobe plot. Blue circles indicate the trajectory of the point estimates for the SB ratio and F ratio for each year 1950–2014 **R1**

Current fishing mortality is considered to be below the provisional target reference point of FMSY, and the provisional limit reference point of 1.4*FMSY. Current spawning biomass is considered to be above the target reference point of SBMSY, and therefore above the limit reference point of 0.4*SBMSY. 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.**

References

R1 IOTC Executive Summary Albacore Tuna (2018):

http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/species_summaries/english/Albacore2018.pdf

R2 Fishsource Albacore tuna: https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/853

R3: IUCN Red List: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2