

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
LOCATION:	Thailand (FAO areas 34, 51, 57, 61, 71,77)
DATE OF REPORT:	April 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME			
Name:			
Address:			
Country:	Zip:		
Tel. No.	Fax. No.		
Email address:	Applicant Code		
Key Contact:	Title:		
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification	
Deirdre Hoare	Virginia Polonio	Re-certification	
1. Scope of Assessment		By-Product re-certification review year 2016	
2. Fishery By-Product		Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	
3. Fishery By-Product Location		Thailand	
4. Fishery Method		Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll	
5. Outcome of Assessment		Approve byproduct	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Effective fishery management and research frameworks are established at the national and international levels. Due in part to the presence of international RFMOs focused on the management of tuna in general and Yellowfin specifically, the assessment team recommends approving the byproduct with a high compliance rating.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

The management of the fishery used to produce the By-Product must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the management of the fishery.

LOW	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the management of the stock.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.

Determination: *There are effective legal and administrative frameworks in place at the national and international levels, and these appear to be effectively applied specifically to yellowfin tuna. However due to the increase in fishing mortality above MSY and the high risk of this continuing the compliance level has been reduced to medium.*

National

The Thailand Department of Fisheries (DOF) is the primary fishery management organisation in Thailand. The DOF is responsible for the implementation of Thai fishery legislation, the undertaking of fishery and aquaculture research, fishery control and enforcement, the management of international fishery affairs, and the engagement of fishery and aquaculture stakeholders. The current Thai fisheries management objectives are set out in The Master Plan – Marine Fisheries Management in Thailand. The Master Plan applies for the ten years beginning in 2009. The Plan includes five major strategies, the third of which is “Development and Promotion of Responsible and Sustainable Fisheries”.

International

As widely distributed and highly migratory species, the management of most tunas is necessarily internationally-focussed. Many tuna stocks are managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) which coordinate the scientific output and management approach of their member states with regards to tuna. Thailand is a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and a co-operating non-member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The IATTC is responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and other marine resources in the eastern Pacific Ocean and in the Atlantic the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Both these RFMOs include yellowfin tuna within their remit.

Species-Specific

The IOTC has implemented a number of conservation and management measures specific to the yellowfin tuna. These include resolutions on the limitation of fishing capacity, a ban on discarding, the establishment of target and limit reference points, and a number of measures aimed at ensuring the accurate recording of catch and effort. The WCPFC has also implemented species-specific measures, including a target fishing mortality (at or below F_{MSY}) and a ban on discards. ICCAT and IATTC management 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, the most recent Stock Assessment meeting was held in Spain in July 2016. Management recommendations from this are yet to be published.

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B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

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LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>	
LOW	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.
HIGH	Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.

Determination: Research to support the management of the stock is coordinated by the tuna RFMOs, and appears to be of sufficient detail to permit full stock assessments and management recommendations. However, research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.

M

National

Research supporting the management of Thai fisheries is the responsibility of two main organisations. The Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau (MFRDB) within the DOF is responsible for marine fisheries research. The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) is mandated to study and enhance mangrove forests, sea grass, coral reefs, and marine animals. The DMCR is responsible for the rehabilitation of natural resources and the environment and has elaborated main strategies with an emphasis on the role of public participation in preservation, protection, conservation, utilization and rehabilitation of natural resources through proactive and integrated natural resources management.

International

Management of yellowfin tuna by the RFMOs is supported by concerted data collection and stock assessment efforts. The IOTC produces regular stock assessments which are made available on its website, the most recent of which reported that the total catch of yellowfin in 2015 in the Indian Ocean was 407,575t (Where MSY is estimated to be around 422,000t). The WCPFC also conducts stock assessment activities, but does not make the results publically available. However, the 2015 tuna fishery yearbook reported that total catches of yellowfin tuna in the commission area were 575,901t.

ICCAT uses international data to produce a stock assessment report for yellowfin tuna every 4 years. A new stock assessment was conducted in 2016. The full stock assessment conducted for yellowfin tuna was in 2016 by ICCAT, applying both an age-structured model and a non-equilibrium production model to the available catch data. According to this report, management recommendations were to be developed and presented to the species group meeting in September 2016. Adopted recommendations will be included in the Yellowfin Tuna Executive Summary. This report has yet to be published.

IATTC uses an integrated statistical; age-structured stock assessment model based on the assumption that there is a single stock of yellowfin in the EPO. The recent fishing mortality rates (F) are slightly below the MSY level ($F_{mult} = 1.02$), and the recent levels of spawning biomass (S) are estimated to be below that level ($S_{recent}/SMSY = 0.95$). As noted in the most recent and previous assessments, these interpretations are uncertain, and highly sensitive to the assumptions made about the steepness parameter (h) of the stock-recruitment relationship, the average size of the older fish (L2), and the assumed levels of natural mortality (M).

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C. STOCK STATUS	LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

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<i>C. The fish used to produce the fish By- Product is not considered to be critically at risk of over exploitation in accordance with the IUCN guidance.</i>	
LOW	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.
MEDIUM	The fish By- Product is from a species that is classified as vulnerable, but has a management regime in place that will control the level of fishing permitted. Or if a species is deemed to be endangered but the sub-group from where the fish By- Product is harvested is deemed scientifically to be at no risk of over exploitation.
HIGH	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.
Determination: <i>The byproduct does not come from a species which is categorised by the IUCN as vulnerable or endangered.</i>	
<p>The IUCN redlist continues to categorise yellowfin tuna as 'near threatened'. The species does not appear in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>This species is fast-growing, widely distributed and highly productive. It is important in commercial fisheries around the world. All stocks are being fished below current maximum sustainable yield (MSY). Based on weighted declines of biomass or spawning stock biomass (SSB) across all stocks, there has been an estimated 33% decline globally over the past 10 years (1998–2008), or three generation lengths.</p> <p>This species is listed as Near Threatened, primarily as population declines would be much greater if it were not for the catch quotas that have been implemented.</p>	
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5. REFERENCES

R1 – <http://fishbase.org/summary/speciessummary.php?genusname=Thunnus&speciesname=albacares>

R2- FAO country fisheries overview, Thailand: ftp://ftp.fao.org/Fi/DOCUMENT/fcp/en/FI_CP_TH.pdf

R3 – Thailand Department of Fisheries master plan:

<http://www.fisheries.go.th/planning/files/Marine%20Master%20Plan.pdf>

R4 – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: <http://www.wcpfc.int/>

R5 – Indian Ocean Tuna Commission: <http://www.iotc.org/about-iotc/structure-commission>

R6 – IOTC tuna stock status summary, 2016:

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

R7 – WCPFC yellowfin tuna conservation and management measures:

<http://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/CMM%202013-01%20CMM%20for%20bigeye%20yellowfin%20%26%20skipjack%20tuna.pdf>

R8 – WCPFC tuna fishery yearbook, 2014: https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/YB_2014.pdf

R9 - IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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