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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** | **Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) FAO 21 (Atlantic Northwest), 31 (Atlantic Western Central), 41 (Atlantic Southwest)** |
| **Date** | **March 2018** |
| **Assessor** | **Jim Daly** |

| **Application details and summary of the assessment outcome** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Name: Sarval Bio-Industries Noroeste S.A.U.** | | | | |
| **Address:** | | | | |
| **Country:** | | **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** |
| Jim Daly | Deirdre Hoare | 1 | Initial | By-product |
| **Assessment Period** | 2017 | | | |

| Scope Details | |
|---|---|
| **Management Authority (Country/State)** | ICCAT |
| **Main Species** | Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) |
| **Fishery Location** | FAO 21 (Atlantic Northwest), 31 (Atlantic Western Central), 41 (Atlantic Southwest) |
| **Gear Type(s)** | Longline, baitboat and purse seine. |
| **Outcome of Assessment** | |
| **Overall Outcome** | PASS |
| **Clauses Failed** | None |
| **Peer Review Evaluation** | Pass |
| **Recommendation** | Approve byproduct |

**Assessment Determination**

The Regional Fishery Management Organisation (RFMO) managing the fishery in the assessment area is the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT). A single stock for the entire Atlantic is currently assumed. A Multi-annual Management and Conservation Programme initiated in 2012 for yellowfin tuna is still in place. An ICCAT Recommendation in 2016 called for an annual TAC, seasonal closures for the protection of juveniles and measures to reduce Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) –related mortality and other fishing related mortality of small yellowfin.

The recently launched Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) has been designed to primarily serve the needs of the Tropical Tuna Working Group (TTWG) in their stock assessments.

Yellowfin tuna form part of a MSC certified (with components under assessment) fishery in the Western Central Atlantic (FAO 31) swordfish fishery.

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass close to BMSY.

IUCN has categorised yellowfin tuna as a near-threatened species. The species does not appear in the current CITES appendices (both sites accessed 26.03.18).

The assessment team recommends approving this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard.

**Peer Review Comments**

**Notes for On-site Auditor**

## Species-Specific Results

| Category | Species | % landings | Outcome (Pass/Fail) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Category A | | | A1 | |
| | | | A2 | |
| | | | A3 | |
| | | | A4 | |
| Category B | | | | |
| Category C | Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) | | 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]

## 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yellowfin tuna | *Thunnus albacares* | Atlantic | N/A | ICCAT | 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** | | **Yellowfin tuna *Thunnus albacares*** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **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 |

**ICCAT:**

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is an intergovernmental organization responsible for the management and conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean. Scientists from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) analyse fisheries statistics and advise the Commission on the need for specific conservation and management measures.

A Multi-Annual Management and Conservation Programme initiated in 2012 for yellowfin tuna is still in place. The latest stock assessment (desk-study) for Atlantic yellowfin tuna was undertaken in 2016. In 2016 ICCAT Recommendation 16-01 called for an annual TAC (Atlantic) of 110,000t to remain in place until changed based on scientific advice. Other conservation measures announced in Recommendation 16-01 include seasonal closures for the protection of juveniles and measures to reduce Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) related and other fishing mortality of small yellowfin.

**Yellowfin tuna:**

Yellowfin tuna is a cosmopolitan species distributed mainly in the tropical and subtropical oceanic waters of the three oceans. A single yellowfin tuna stock for the entire Atlantic is currently assumed. Juvenile yellowfin tuna form mixed schools with skipjack and juvenile bigeye, and are mainly limited to surface waters, while larger fish form schools in surface and sub-surface waters. Growth rates are relatively slow initially, increasing at the time the fish leave the nursery grounds. Younger age classes of yellowfin tuna (40-80 cm) exhibit a strong association with FADs.

**Species-Specific Stock Assessments:**

A full stock assessment was conducted for yellowfin tuna in 2011, applying both an age-structured model and a non-equilibrium production model to the available catch data through 2010. As has been done in previous stock assessments stock status was evaluated using both production and age-structured models. The estimate of MSY (~144,600 t) may be below what was achieved in past decades because overall selectivity has shifted to smaller fish. 2010 reported catches were well below MSY levels, stock biomass was estimated to most likely be about 15% below the Convention objective and fishing mortality rates most likely about 13% below FMSY. The Atlantic yellowfin tuna stock was estimated to be overfished in 2010. Maintaining catch levels at 110,000 t had been expected to lead to a biomass somewhat above BMSY by 2016 with a 60% probability. Overall

catches in 2012-2014 were lower than 110,000t. In 2015 catches of yellowfin tuna (Atlantic and Mediterranean) were reported as 108,917t (ICCAT Statistical Bulletin (July 2017).

A yellowfin tuna stock assessment (SCRS) meeting was undertaken in July 2016 with the aim of providing management advice to the Commission. For 2015 data, about 53% of the Contracting Parties (CPC)) submitted preliminary estimates of yellowfin nominal catches. The agreed nominal catch for 2015 and 2016 for projections was set at 110,337t. Relative abundance estimates were derived from Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) data from six CPC's. The ASPIC Production Model was used. The results of the model indicate that the stock status was estimated to be not overfished nor subject to overfishing, although current biomass was close to BMSY level.

**Conclusions from the 2016 (SCRS) Stock Assessment:**

The Group expressed concern that spatial and targeting shifts in longline fisheries might have affected the trends of their standardized CPUE series. The Group recommended making advancements on multispecies stock assessment approaches for the tropical tuna complex in the Atlantic. Increased harvests on FADs could also have negative consequences for yellowfin and bigeye tuna, as well as other by-catch species.

**References:**


- FAO Species Fact Sheets (Yellowfin tuna) http://www.fao.org/fishery/species
- ANON (June 2015): ICCAT REPORT 2014-2015 (II)) STOCK ASSESSMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY YELLOWFIN TUNA: pp14-31 http://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/YFT_ENG.pdf
- ANON (July 2016) REPORT OF THE 2016 ICCAT YELLOWFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (SCRS, San Sebastian, Spain) pp1-103. http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2016_YFT_ASSESSMENT_ENG.pdf
- ANON (July 2017) ICCAT STATISTICAL BULLETIN TUNA CATCH BY SPECIES: Section 2 Table 6 http://www.iccat.int/en/pubs_sbull.htm
- ICCAT Recommendation (2016-01): MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS 2016 pp1-22 http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2016-01-e.pdf
- CITES Species Endangered list: http://checklist.cites.org/#/en (accessed 26.03.18)
- IUCN Red list: http://www.iucnredlist.org/search (accessed 26.03.18)
- MSC Track a Fishery: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/search?q=certified+yellowfin (accessed 26.03.18)

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| *Standard clauses 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.