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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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<b>Fishery Under Assessment</b>	<b>Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) 31 (Atlantic Western Central), 34 (Atlantic Eastern Central)</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>May 2019</b>
<b>Assessor</b>	<b>Jim Daly</b>

<b>Application details and summary of the assessment outcome</b>				
<b>Name: Southeast Asian Packaging and Canning</b>				
<b>Address:</b>				
<b>Country: Thailand</b>		<b>Zip:</b>		
<b>Tel. No.:</b>		<b>Fax. No.:</b>		
<b>Email address:</b>		<b>Applicant Code</b>		
<b>Key Contact:</b>		<b>Title:</b>		
<b>Certification Body Details</b>				
<b>Name of Certification Body:</b>		<b>SAI Global Ltd</b>		
<b>Assessor Name</b>	<b>Peer Reviewer</b>	<b>Assessment Days</b>	<b>Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval</b>	<b>Whole fish/ By-product</b>
Jim Daly	Virginia Polonio	0.5	Surveillance 2	By-product
<b>Assessment Period</b>	2018			

<b>Scope Details</b>	
<b>Management Authority (Country/State)</b>	ICCAT
<b>Main Species</b>	Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )
<b>Fishery Location</b>	FAO 31 (Atlantic Western Central), FAO 34 (Atlantic Eastern Central)
<b>Gear Type(s)</b>	Longline, baitboat and purse seine.
<b>Outcome of Assessment</b>	
<b>Overall Outcome</b>	PASS
<b>Clauses Failed</b>	NONE
<b>Peer Review Evaluation</b>	APPROVE
<b>Recommendation</b>	PASS

<b>Assessment Determination</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>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. A stock assessment for yellowfin tuna was conducted in 2016, at which time catch and effort data through 2014 were available. An assessment was undertaken in 2019.</p> <p>Yellowfin tuna form part of an MSC certified (with components under assessment) fishery in the Western Central Atlantic (FAO 31) swordfish fishery. This Certificate expires March 2023.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>IUCN has categorised yellowfin tuna (Global stock) as a near-threatened species. This species does not appear in current CITES appendices (both sites accessed 10.05.19).</p> <p>The assessment team recommends approving this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard for by-products.</p>
<b>Peer Review Comments</b>
<b>Notes for On-site Auditor</b>

## Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)	
Category A			A1	
			A2	
			A3	
			A4	
Category B				
Category C	Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )		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	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	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 <i>Thunnus albacares</i>	
C1	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	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
			<b>Clause outcome: PASS</b>
<p><b>Evidence: C1.1</b></p> <p><b>C1.1:</b></p> <p><b>ICCAT:</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. A single stock for the entire Atlantic is currently assumed. 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.</p> <p><b>C 1.2:</b></p> <p><b>Species-Specific Stock Assessments:</b></p> <p>A yellowfin tuna stock assessment (SCRS) meeting was undertaken (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 catches 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 (<b>Table 1</b>), although current biomass was close to BMSY level.</p> <p><b>Conclusions from the 2016 (SCRS) Stock Assessment:</b></p> <p>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.</p>			

**Updates (2019) from SCRS:**

Results from seven models were summarized to produce estimated probabilities of achieving Convention objectives ( $B > B_{MSY}$ ,  $F < F_{MSY}$ ), for a given level of constant catch, for each year up to 2024. Maintaining catch levels at the current TAC of 110,000 t was expected to result in healthy stock status ( $B > B_{MSY}$ ,  $F < F_{MSY}$ ) 2017 with at least 68% probability, increasing to 97% by 2024.

Trends in biomass and fishing mortality relative to the levels that produce MSY, were generally similar for all models used to develop management advice (2016 assessment) although small differences in current stock status were noted. Model specific Kobe status plots with annual trajectories of stock status, indicate that for most models the 2014 stock status was near  $B_{MSY}$  and below  $F_{MSY}$  (**Figure 1, Table 1**). 2014 stock biomass was estimated to be about 0.95  $B_{MSY}$  (overfished) and the fishing mortality rate was about 0.77  $F_{MSY}$  (no overfishing): **Table 1**:

**Table 1: Yellowfin Tuna Summary (ICCAT 2018) R8**

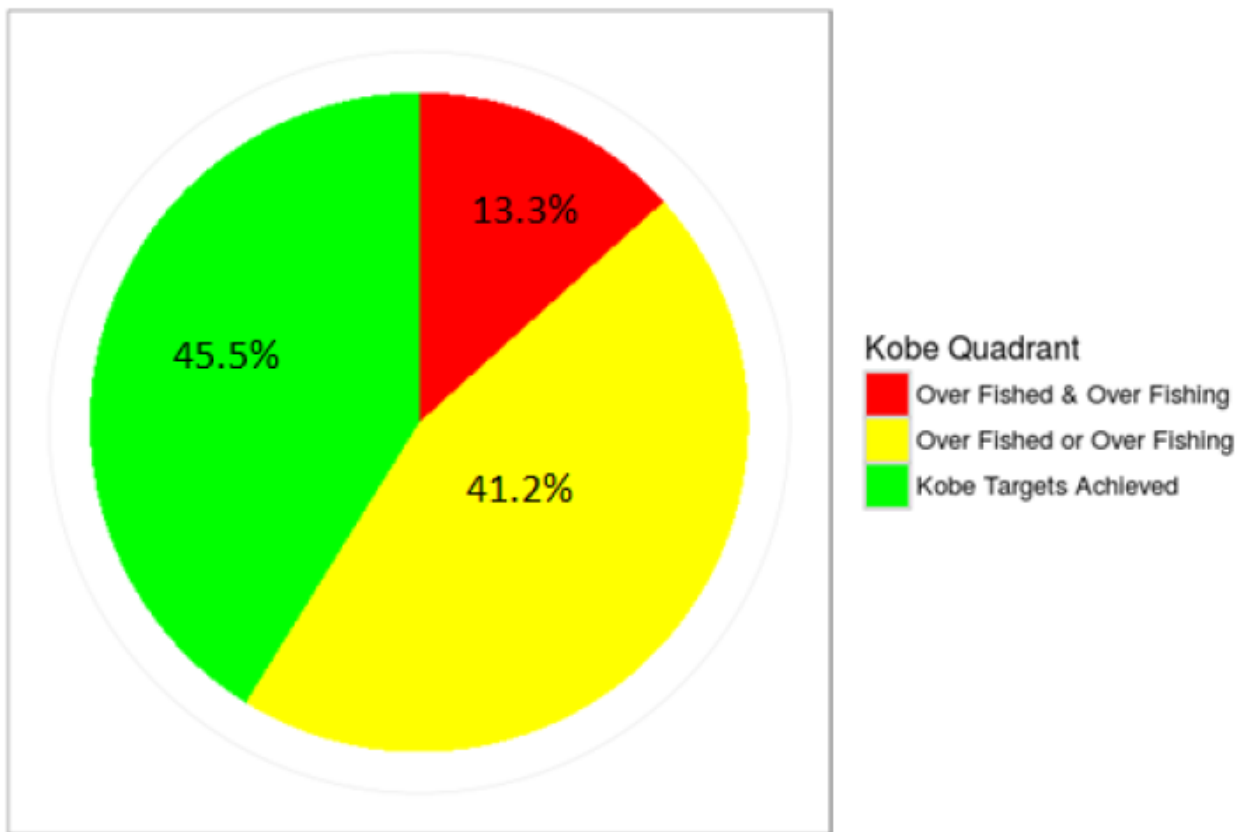
ATLANTIC YELLOWFIN TUNA SUMMARY	
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	126,304 t (119,100 - 151,255 t) <sup>1</sup>
2017 Yield	139,316 t
Relative Biomass $B_{2014}/B_{MSY}$	0.95 (0.71-1.36) <sup>1</sup>
Relative Fishing Mortality: $F_{CURRENT(2014)}/F_{MSY}$	0.77 (0.53-1.05) <sup>1</sup>
2014 Total Biomass	464,712 t (308,287 - 731,485 t) <sup>1</sup>
Stock Status (2014)	Overfished: Yes Overfishing: No ***

[Rec. 16-01]

- Revised time-area closure for FAD associated surface fishing
- TAC of 110,000 t (since Rec. 11-01).
- Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas for vessels 20 meters or greater
- Specific limits of number of longline and/or purse seine boats for a number of fleets
- Specific limits on FADs, non-entangling FADs required

<sup>1</sup> Median (10th-90th percentiles) from joint distribution of age-structured and production model bootstrap outcomes considered.

\*\*\* NOTE: Overall catches have exceeded TAC by 17-37% since 2015. The stock status may have degraded since 2014, and overfishing may be occurring.



**Figure 1** Summary of current status estimates for the yellowfin tuna stock based on age structured and production models making use of the catch and effort data through 2014. **R8**

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 above the limit reference point (or proxy).

#### References:

**R1** FAO Species Fact Sheets (Yellowfin tuna)

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/species>

**R2** 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](http://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/YFT_ENG.pdf)

**R3** 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](http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2016_YFT_ASSESSMENT_ENG.pdf)

**R4** ANON (July 2017) ICCAT STATISTICAL BULLETIN TUNA CATCH BY SPECIES: Section 2 Table 6

[http://www.iccat.int/en/pubs\\_sbull.htm](http://www.iccat.int/en/pubs_sbull.htm)

**R5** 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>

**R6** CITES Species Endangered list:  
<http://checklist.cites.org/#/en> (accessed 26.03.18)

**R7** IUCN Red list:  
<http://www.iucnredlist.org/search> (accessed 26.03.18)

**R8** ICCAT Oct 2018 REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS) 459pp Yellowfin tuna pp 24-43  
[https://iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2018/REPORTS/2018\\_SCRS\\_REP\\_ENG.pdf](https://iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2018/REPORTS/2018_SCRS_REP_ENG.pdf)

*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.