

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
LOCATION:	Thailand (FAO areas 51, 57, 61, 71)
DATE OF REPORT:	April 2015
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

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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
Sam Peacock	Deirdre Hoare	Surveillance

1. Scope of Assessment	By-Product surveillance
2. Fishery By-Product	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location	Thailand
4. Fishery Method	Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll
5. Outcome of Assessment	Maintain byproduct approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Legal and administrative frameworks exist at the national level, in addition to the research and management frameworks implemented at the international level by tuna RFMOs. Although sufficient research is conducted on the species to allow informed management, there do not currently appear to be significant measures in place to restrict total catches of albacore at the international level. The assessment team recommend maintaining approval of this byproduct material.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>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.</i>		
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.	
<p><i>Determination: Administrative and legal frameworks are in place at the national and international levels. Although the relevant tuna RFMOs do include resolutions specifically covering albacore tuna, on balance the nature of these resolutions may not be sufficient to restrict fishing effort and ensure the effective management of the stock.</i></p> <p>National</p> <p>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”.</p> <p>International</p> <p>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). Both these RFMOs include albacore tuna within their remit.</p> <p>Species-Specific</p> <p>The IOTC has implemented a number of conservation and management measures specific to the albacore tuna. However, these are primarily focussed on the gathering of information and do not appear to place any significant restrictions on the scale of member state’s fisheries, and there is no TAC. The WCPFC passed a resolution in 2005 recognising that the level of fishing should not be increased and requiring members and co-operating non-members to ensure their fleets did not increase effort. The WCPFC also has a number of measures in place to ensure the accurate reporting of albacore catch.</p>		M
R1 – R7		

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE		
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.	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>National</p> <p>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.</p> <p>International</p> <p>Management of albacore by the IOTC and WCPFC 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 in 2013 in the Indian Ocean was 38,297t (Where MSY is estimated to be 47,600t). The WCPFC also conducts stock assessment activities, but does not make the results publically available. However, the 2013 tuna fishery yearbook reported that total catches of albacore tuna in the commission area were 143,227t.</p> <p>R1, R6, R7</p>		H
C. STOCK STATUS		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<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.	
<p><i>Determination: The byproduct does not come from a species which is categorised by the IUCN as vulnerable or endangered.</i></p> <p>The IUCN redlist continues to categorise albacore tuna as ‘near threatened’. The species is not listed in the CITES appendices.</p> <p>R8</p>		H

5. REFERENCES

- R1 – FAO country fisheries overview, Thailand: ftp://ftp.fao.org/Fi/DOCUMENT/fcp/en/FI_CP_TH.pdf
- R2 – Thailand Department of Fisheries master plan:
<http://www.fisheries.go.th/planning/files/Marine%20Master%20Plan.pdf>
- R3 – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: <http://www.wcpfc.int/>
- R4 – Indian Ocean Tuna Commission: <http://www.iotc.org/about-iotc/structure-commission>
- R5 – IOTC tuna stock status summary, 2014:
http://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/species_summaries/english/Table%201%20Status%20of%20the%20Stocks.pdf
- R6 – WCPFC albacore tuna conservation and management measures:
http://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/WCPFC2_Records_F.pdf
- R7 – WCPFC tuna fishery yearbook, 2013: https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/WCPFC_YB_2013.pdf
- R8 - IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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