

FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY:	Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
LOCATION:	Mauritius / FAO Area 51 (Western Indian Ocean)
DATE OF REPORT:	November 2016
ASSESSOR:	Sam Dignan

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: Mauritius		Zip:	
Tel. No.		Fax. No.	
Email address:		Applicant Code	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-assessment
Sam Dignan	Deirdre Hoare	1	Re-assessment
Scope Details			
1. Scope of Assessment		By-product re-assessment – IFFO Global Standard for Responsible Supply (Issue 1)	
2. Fishery		Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	
3. Fishery Location		Mauritius / FAO Area 51 (Western Indian Ocean)	
4. Fishery Method		Longline	
5. Outcome of Assessment		Approve by-product	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean are managed primarily by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, which votes on international management measures based on a scientific understanding of the stock. The latest assessment of the Indian Ocean bigeye tuna stock found that the stock was not overfished and was not subject to overfishing. The IUCN has rated the species as vulnerable. The assessment team recommend the approval of this byproduct material.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
A. 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 the efficient management of the fishery is not established.	
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures the efficient management of the fishery is somewhat established, but there is evidence of it not being efficient to ensure the conservation of the stock.	
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures the efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.	
<p><i>Determination: International and national fisheries management frameworks are in place and are applied to bigeye tuna. However, management measures are generally not species-specific, and there are no quota or other over-arching effort restrictions in place; therefore a medium compliance rating is appropriate.</i></p> <p>As a highly migratory species, Indian Ocean bigeye are fished by a large number of nations throughout the Indian Ocean, and landed in many countries. The main organisation responsible for the coordination of the international management of the stock is the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). For the purposes of this assessment, the legal and administrative framework in Mauritius is also relevant as this is the country in which the fish from which the fishery by-product are sourced is landed. Indian Ocean bigeye are considered to be a single stock, distributed throughout the Indian Ocean.</p> <p>Indian Ocean Tuna Commission</p> <p>The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is an intergovernmental organization established under Article XIV of the FAO constitution. It is mandated to manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. The objective of the Commission is to promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of stocks covered by this Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks. 16 species fall under the Commission’s management mandate, including bigeye. The IOTC has 32 Commission Contracting Parties (Members) and 4 Commission Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. Mauritius is a full Member.</p> <p>Bigeye in the Indian Ocean are currently subject to a number of conservation and management measures adopted by the IOTC, although not all are species specific, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolution 10/02 mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-contracting Parties (CPC’s); ▪ Resolution 12/03 on the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence; ▪ Resolution 12/11 on the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. ▪ Recommendation 10/13 On the implementation of a ban on discards of skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, and non-targeted species caught by purse seiners ▪ Resolution 12/13 for the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence. <p>Mauritius</p> <p>Fisheries in Mauritius fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries. The overriding principle in government strategy for fisheries is managing capture fisheries within sustainable limits while ensuring continuous and even supply of fish and fishery products for the local market. The Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 1998 (FMRA) provides the necessary legal framework for fisheries and marine living resources management.</p> <p>R2 – R6</p>		M

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 conservation and management of the stock does not exist	
MEDIUM	Research to support the conservation and 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 for the provision of scientific advice are considered adequate	
<p>Determination: Research to support the management of the stock is coordinated by the IOTC, and despite the inherent difficulties of multi-national research efforts, scientific understanding of the stock appears to generally be good.</p> <p>The functions and responsibilities of the IOTC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to keep under review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information, catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation and management of the stocks and to fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Commission; to encourage, recommend, and coordinate research and development activities in respect of the stocks and fisheries covered by the Commission. <p>The annual Scientific Committee report, which details the proceedings of the IOTC Scientific Committee meetings, includes sections summarising the scientific understanding of each species under the Commission’s mandate.</p> <p>Total bigeye catch in 2014 was estimated to be 100,231 t. The latest assessment of the Indian Ocean bigeye tuna stock found that the stock was not overfished and was not subject to overfishing.</p> <p>R2 – R6</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>Determination: The IUCN has rated bigeye as vulnerable.</p> <p>The IUCN has rated bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) as ‘Vulnerable’. However, the latest assessment of the Indian Ocean bigeye tuna stock found that the stock was not overfished and was not subject to overfishing.</p> <p>R6, R7</p>		M

5. REFERENCES

- R1** – Image of bigeye tuna: <http://iotc.org/science/wp/working-party-tropical-tunas-wptt>
- R2** – IOTC website – “About IOTC”: <http://iotc.org/about-iotc>
- R3** – IOTC website – “Structure of the Commission”: <http://iotc.org/about-iotc/structure-commission>
- R4** – Report of the 17th Session of the IOTC Working Party on Temperate Tunas, 2015: <http://iotc.org/documents/report-17th-session-iotc-working-party-tropical-tunas>
- R5** – FAO Country Fisheries Profile, Mauritius (2006): <http://www.fao.org/fi/oldsite/FCP/en/MUS/profile.htm>
- R6** – Status summary for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries: http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc#key_table
- R7** – IUCN Red List: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search>

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