

FISHERY By-Product SURVEILLANCE REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Bigeye Tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
LOCATION:	Mauritius / FAO Area 51 (Western Indian Ocean)
DATE OF REPORT:	21/10/13
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name: Marine Biotechnology Products Ltd		
Address: Motorway M2, Riche Terre, Port Louis		
Country: Mauritius	Zip:	
Tel. No. (230) 204 7730	Fax. No.	
Email address: info@mbp.mu	Applicant Code	
Key Contact: : Terence Brown	Title: General Manager	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Dave Garforth	Initial
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product initial
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Bigeye Tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		FAO Area 51 (Western Indian Ocean)
4. Fishery Method		
		Purse seiner
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Approve byproduct

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

Auditor to confirm that only Indian Ocean bigeye tuna is used.

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean is managed primarily by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, which votes on international management measures based on a scientific understanding of the stock. The IUCN has rated the species as vulnerable. The assessment team recommend the approval of this byproduct material.

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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.

Determination: The Indian Ocean bigeye tuna stock is widely distributed, and managed primarily by the international Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Mauritius also has a fishery management framework in place. The assessment team considers an effective administrative and management framework to be in place.

As a highly migratory species, Indian Ocean bigeye tuna is 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 byproducts are sourced is landed.

Indian Ocean bigeye tuna is considered to be a single stock, distributed throughout the ocean.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

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 tuna.¹ The IOTC has 31 Members and 2 cooperating non-members. Mauritius is a full Member.²

Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) in the Indian Ocean is currently subject to a number of Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission:

- Resolution 10/02 mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPC’s)
- Resolution 10/08 concerning a record of active vessels fishing for tunas and swordfish in the IOTC area
- Resolution 12/03 on the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence
- Resolution 12/07 concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC area of competence and access agreement information
- 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

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competence.³

Mauritius

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. It makes provision for registration of fishers; collection of fisheries information; setting up of marine protected areas (fishing reserves and marine parks and reserves) and fish farming; prohibition of fishing by use of poisonous substances, spears or explosives; closed periods for net fishing and fishing of oysters; prohibition of fishing of undersized fish, crabs or lobsters in the berried state, turtles and marine mammals; prohibition of sale of toxic fish and fish products unfit for human consumption; import of fish and fish products; import of fishing vessels; and licensing of nets and fishing implements.⁴

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.

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 IOTC, and despite the inherent difficulties of multi-national research efforts, scientific understanding of the stock appears to generally be good.

The functions and responsibilities of the IOTC include:

- 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.**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

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. Total bigeye tuna catch in 2011 was estimated to be 87,420t. This is estimated to be considerably below MSY (approx. 103,000t – 114,000t), and the stock is not currently considered overfished.³

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 categorised bigeye tuna as vulnerable, but the management regime in place in the Indian Ocean controls the level of fishing permitted (see section A).</p> <p>The IUCN has categorised bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) as ‘vulnerable’.⁵</p>	

5. REFERENCES

- 1 – IOTC website – “About IOTC”: <http://www.iotc.org/English/info/mission.php>
- 2 – IOTC website – “Structure of the Commission”: <http://www.iotc.org/English/info/comstruct.php>
- 3 – IOTC–SC15 2012. Report of the Fifteenth Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee. Mahé, Seychelles, 10–15 December 2012: [http://www.iotc.org/files/proceedings/2012/sc/IOTC-2012-SC15-R\[E\].pdf](http://www.iotc.org/files/proceedings/2012/sc/IOTC-2012-SC15-R[E].pdf)
- 4 – FAO Country Fisheries Profile, Mauritius (2006): <http://www.fao.org/fi/oldsite/FCP/en/MUS/profile.htm>
- 5 – IUCN Red List: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search>

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