By-Product assessment report

BP113 – Valofish Tunisia
March 2025

Report code	BP008	Date of issue	March 2025

1. Application details		
Applicant	Valofish Tunisia	
Applicant country	Tunisia	
2. Certification Body details		
Name of Certification Body (CB)	LRQA	
Contact information for CB	LRQA Marin Trust: mt-ca@lrqa.com	
Assessor name	Sam Peacock	
CB internal peer reviewer name	Sam Dignan	
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation	
Comments on the assessment	India and Tanzania are categorised as High Risk flag states, and so additional information was requested from the applicant. The applicant response indicated that all catch is taken in high seas areas, and landed in medium-risk port states. Therefore, all three species are downgraded to Medium Risk and may be Approved source with caution.	
3. Approval validity	Valid from 03/2025	Valid until 03/2026

4. By-product assessment outcomes		
By-product species name *Common and Latin names*	**Flag country(ies)**	**MarinTrust approval status**
Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, FAO 51, 57	India, Indonesia, Tanzania, Seychelles	Approved source with caution
Yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*, FAO 51, 57	India, Indonesia, Tanzania, Seychelles	Approved source with caution
Bigeye tuna, *Thunnus obesus*, FAO 51, 57	India, Indonesia, Tanzania, Seychelles	Approved source with caution

Guidance for on-site auditor

For the audit, the auditor will check how the facility manages by-products deemed medium risk. Any by-products downrated from high to medium risk will require additional due diligence checks.

It is important that facilities check all raw materials from and verify their suppliers especially if there is a perceived risk of sourcing from known or suspected IUU fishing activity. This requires checking supplier records or procedures in place to understand how the supplier can ensure there is no IUU in the raw material they provide. For raw materials risk rated medium, additional or more frequent checks may be required until the facility is certain that the raw materials are not from IUU fishing activity.

The audit requirements are covered in clause 2.11.3 of the MarinTrust Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients (the MarinTrust Standard) and associated interpretation guidance.

Approved by-products

- No further checks are required beyond those included in the MarinTrust Standard.

Additional checks of Approved Source with Caution by-products

- Review supplier records or procedures in place.

Additional checks of by-products Approved Source with Caution via Step 3 assessment

- In addition to checks for medium risk Approved Source with Caution by-products, by-products that have had risk downgraded from high to medium at Step 3 (use **Appendix 1** to identify these by-product species), confirm that the relevant traceability information continues to be collected for this by-product. During the audit, a traceability check on any by-products downgraded from high to medium risk shall be included as part of the required traceability checks (Section 4).

Guidance for the applicant/certificate holder

The applicant/certificate holder is responsible for ensuring the relevant actions are taken to comply with the MarinTrust Standard.

The certificate holder is responsible for communicating any changes to the by-products sourced by submitting a scope extension request through the MarinTrust online Application Portal.

Appendix 1 – assessment outcomes

By-product species name *Common and Latin names*	**Flag country(ies)**	**IUCN Red List** *Select IUCN red list category from dropdown*	**CITES Appendices** *Select CITES appendix status from dropdown*	**Step 2 risk status** *Low risk/ Medium risk/ High risk*	**Step 3 required** *Yes / No*	**Step 3 risk Outcome** *Not applicable /Risk downgraded to Medium risk/ Remains High risk*
Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, FAO 51, 57	India, Indonesia, Tanzania, Seychelles	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium risk
Yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*, FAO 51, 57	India, Indonesia, Tanzania, Seychelles	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium risk
Bigeye tuna, *Thunnus obesus*, FAO 51, 57	India, Indonesia, Tanzania, Seychelles	Vulnerable	Not listed	High risk	Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium risk

Appendix 2 – detailed assessment outcomes

(step 2 and step 3 if applicable)

Step 2 outcomes

Assessor note: Copy and paste from Spreadsheet.

Flag state	Risk rating	Flag score	Port score	General score	Flag State is contracting party or cooperating non-contracting party to all relevant RFMOs	'Carded' under EU Carding system	Flag state party to PSMA	Flag state mandatory vessel tracking for commercial seagoing fleet	WGI Governance rank
India	High	2.75	3	3.47	1	1		5	50.94%
Indonesia	Medium	3.33	2.56	2.47	1	1	1	1	59.43%
Tanzania	High	1.83	2.78	2.3	2	1	5	1	30.19%
Seychelles	Medium	1.79	2.39	1.57	1	1	1	1	62.26%

Step 3 outcomes

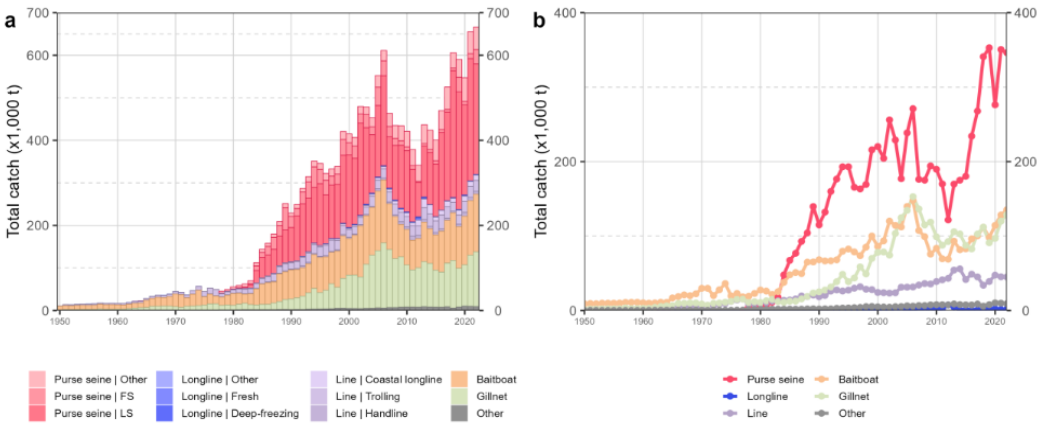
Category C assessment

Assessor note: Duplicate for each species/stock.

Species name		Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, FAO 51, 57	
Fishing area and stock		**Not confirmed by applicant but assumed based on application information to be Indian Ocean skipjack**	
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

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.

The stock assessment conducted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) takes all fishery removals into account. The most recent assessment was conducted in 2023. Landings in recent years were reported as a total catch in 2022 of 666,408t, and an average catch 2018-2022 of 613,061t (IOTC 2023). Full catch datasets, including catch and effort by month, species, gear, and vessels flag, and size-frequency datasets, are made available on the IOTC website (IOTC 2024).

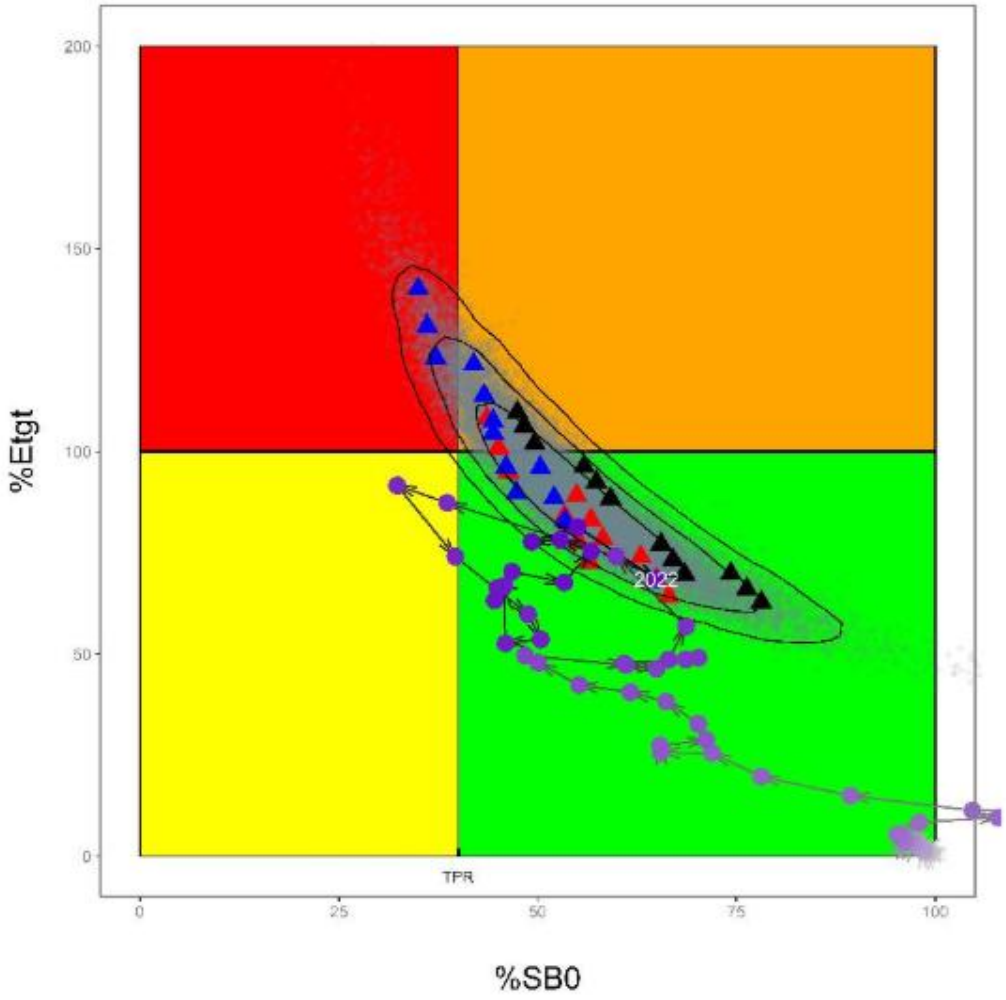


Annual time series of (a) cumulative nominal catches (metric tonnes; t) by fishery and (b) individual nominal catches (metric tonnes; t) by fishery group for Indian Ocean skipjack tuna during 1950-2022 (IOTC 2023)

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.

The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2023, as reported in a 2023 stock status report published by the IOTC (IOTC 2023). The stock assessment conclusion states that "The outcome of the 2023 stock assessment model is more optimistic than the previous assessment (2020) despite the high catches recorded in the period 2021-2022, which exceeded the catch limits established in 2020 for this period" (IOTC 2023).

Biomass was estimated to be around 53% of the unfished level, which is above $SB_{MSY.}$ The IOTC also notes that "Over the history of the fishery, biomass has been well above the adopted limit reference point ($20\%SB_0$)" (IOTC 2023).



Indian Ocean skipjack tuna, Kobe plot of the 2023 stock assessment. Triangles represent outputs from individual models, grey dots represent uncertainty from individual models (IOTC 2023)

References

IOTC (2023). Indian Ocean Skipjack Tuna Stock Status: Executive Summary. https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock_status/2023/Skipjack_ES_2023.pdf

IOTC (2024). Available datasets. https://www.iotc.org/data/datasets

Species name		Yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*, FAO 51, 57	
Fishing area and stock		**Not confirmed by applicant but assumed based on application information to be Indian Ocean yellowfin**	
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

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.

The stock assessment conducted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) takes all fishery removals into account. The most recent assessment was conducted in 2021. Landings in recent years were reported as a total catch in 2022 of 410,332t, and an average catch 2018-2022 of 429,421t (IOTC 2023a). Full catch datasets, including catch and effort by month, species, gear, and vessels flag, and size-frequency datasets, are made available on the IOTC website (IOTC 2023b).

Fishery removals of yellowfin tuna are incorporated into the stock assessment process and therefore C1.1 is met.

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.

The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2021 using data from 1950-2020, as reported in a 2023 stock status report published by the IOTC (IOTC 2023a). The stock assessment conclusion states that "overall stock status estimates do not differ substantially from the previous assessment". Biomass was estimated to be around 31% of the unfished level and 87% of B_{MSY}. The biomass is therefore estimated to be below the target reference point. However, the assessment notes that the biomass limit reference point is defined as 50% of B_{MSY}, and therefore the stock is considered to have a biomass above the limit reference point in its most recent stock assessment (IOTC 2023a).

In response to Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna falling below the target reference point, the IOTC has put in place an interim plan for rebuilding the stock (IOTC 2023). The rebuilding plan limits and reduces total catch by all member states, requiring a 21% reduction in total catch relative to 2014

from most members. The plan also requires member states to reduce the efficiency of fishing effort by phasing out supply vessels and gillnet gears. Taken together these measures represent a clear response to the stock falling below the target reference point.

The stock is considered to be above the limit reference point and measures are in place to support rebuilding, therefore C1.2 is met.

References

IOTC (2023). Compendium of Active Conservation and Management Measures for the Indian Ocean Tuna. https://www.iotc.org/cmms

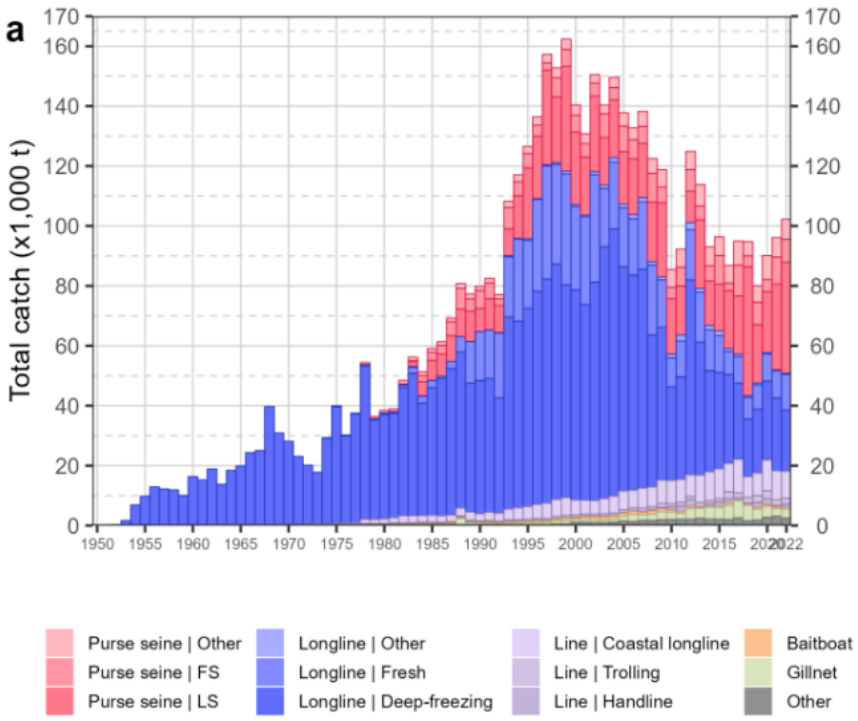
IOTC (2023a). Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock Status: Executive Summary. https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock_status/2023/Yellowfin_ES_2023.pdf

IOTC (2023b). Available datasets. https://www.iotc.org/data/datasets

Species name		Bigeye tuna, *Thunnus obesus*, FAO 51, 57	
Fishing area and stock		**Not confirmed by applicant but assumed based on application information to be Indian Ocean bigeye**	
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

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.

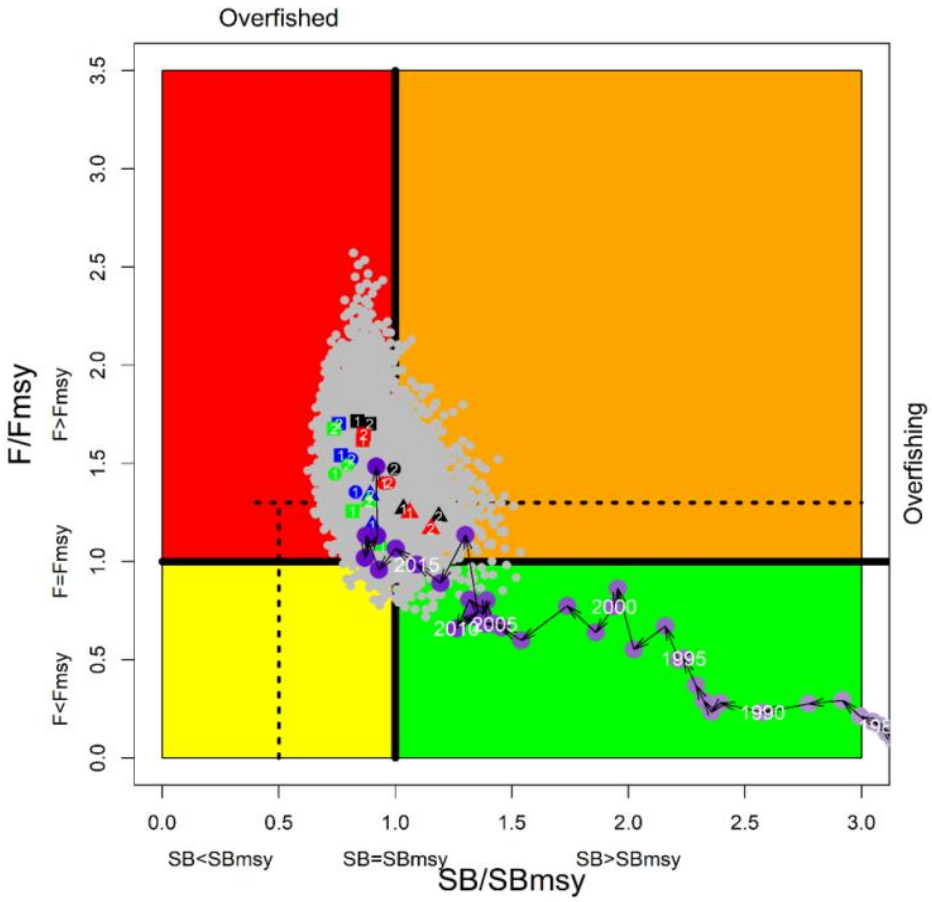
Bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean (IO bigeye) is subject to regular stock assessment by the IOTC. The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2022 using a Stock Synthesis model with 24 model configurations. The assessment incorporated international catch data, and the range of models used was intended to capture uncertainty on stock recruitment relationship, longline selectivity, growth, and natural mortality (IOTC 2023).



Indian Ocean bigeye tuna, catches (IOTC 2023)

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.

The 2022 stock assessment concluded that spawning biomass levels in 2021 were 25% of the unfished level, and 90% of the level which can support MSY. Taking into account the uncertainty in the assessment process, the IOTC documentation concludes that the stock is "overfished and subject to overfishing" (IOTC 2023). This conclusion indicates that the stock is likely below the target reference point. However, the limit reference point for the stock is defined as $0.5*SB_{MSY}$; i.e. the level at which stock biomass is half the level which can support MSY. As the stock is currently estimated to be at 90% of this level, it is likely above the limit reference point. Additionally, none of the outcomes of the 24 models indicated that biomass was below the LRP.



Aggregated Indian Ocean stock assessment Kobe plot for bigeye tuna. Coloured points represent stock status estimates from each of the 24 models. Purple dots represent the time series of stock status estimates. Grey dots represent uncertainty from individual models. Dashed lines indicate IO bigeye tuna limit reference points (IOTC 2023).

References

IOTC (2023). Indian Ocean bigeye tuna stock status and advice, executive summary. https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock_status/2023/Bigeye_ES_2023.pdf

Traceability information

Applicant indicated that all catch is taken in the high seas. Catch taken by Indian-flagged vessels is landed in India. Catch taken by Tanzania-flagged vessels is landed in Seychelles.

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

Species name	Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, FAO 51, 57			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*			
Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
	India	Medium	Medium	Downgraded to medium risk
	Tanzania	Medium	Medium	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*, FAO 51, 57			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*			
Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
	India	Medium	Medium	Downgraded to medium risk
	Tanzania	Medium	Medium	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Bigeye tuna, *Thunnus obesus*, FAO 51, 57			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*			
Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
	India	Medium	Medium	Downgraded to medium risk
	Tanzania	Medium	Medium	Downgraded to medium risk