MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

CIV01 Yellowfin Tuna in FAO Areas 34, 41 & 47 (Atlantic)

MarinTrust Programme
Unit C, Printworks
22 Amelia Street
London
SE17 3BZ
E: standards@marin-trust.com
T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
	Geographical area:	FAO Areas 34, 41, 47
	Country of origin of the product:	El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, USA, Philippines, Panama
	Stock:	Atlantic Yellowfin
Date	March 2024	
Report Code	CIV01	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, USA, Philippines, Panama	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Marine Biotechnology Products Côte d'Ivoire			
Country:			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Jose Peiro Crespo	0.2	Surveillance
Assessment Period	March 2024 – March 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
Stock	Atlantic Yellowfin
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 34, 41, 47
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, baitboat, purse seine
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Maintain approval

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Yellowfin tuna has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of Least Concern, and does not appear in the CITES appendices. Yellowfin in the Atlantic Ocean is managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) relative to a target reference point (B_{MSY}), and was therefore assessed under Category C. The most recent stock assessment for Atlantic yellowfin was conducted in 2019 using all available catch data plus some catch estimates. At the time of the previous MT assessment, a new stock assessment was due in 2023; this has since been postponed to 2024. Although the byproduct assessment guidance does not explicitly set out the age at which a stock assessment should be considered out of date, the assessor considers that this should be the final MT assessment year for which the 2019 stock assessment remains relevant, and a Category D assessment should be carried out for the 2025 surveillance if no new stock assessment has been conducted by that time. The assessment concluded that stock biomass was above the target reference point, and therefore would also be above any potential limit reference point. The byproduct meets the MT requirements and should be re-approved for use as a raw material.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The by-product fishery under assessment is the Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) longline, baitboat and purse seine in FAO Areas 34, 41 and 47 (Atlantic Ocean). The species is classified as LC by the IUCN. The stock is managed relative to biomass-based reference points and therefore it is assessed as a category C species. The most recent stock assessment for Atlantic yellowfin tuna carried out in 2019 concluded that the stock biomass was above the target (B_{MSY}) and limit reference points. Therefore, it passes category C. The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to pass the Atlantic yellowfin tuna caught with longline, baitboat and purse seine in FAO Areas 34, 41 and 47 (Atlantic Ocean) under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.
Notes for On-site Auditor

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as an MarinTrust raw material.

IUCN Red list Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category[1]	CITES Appendix 1[2]
Yellowfin tuna	*Thunnus albacares*	Atlantic Ocean	Yes	C	Least Concern[3]	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21857/46624561

CATEGORY C SPECIES

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. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name		**Yellowfin tuna**	
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.

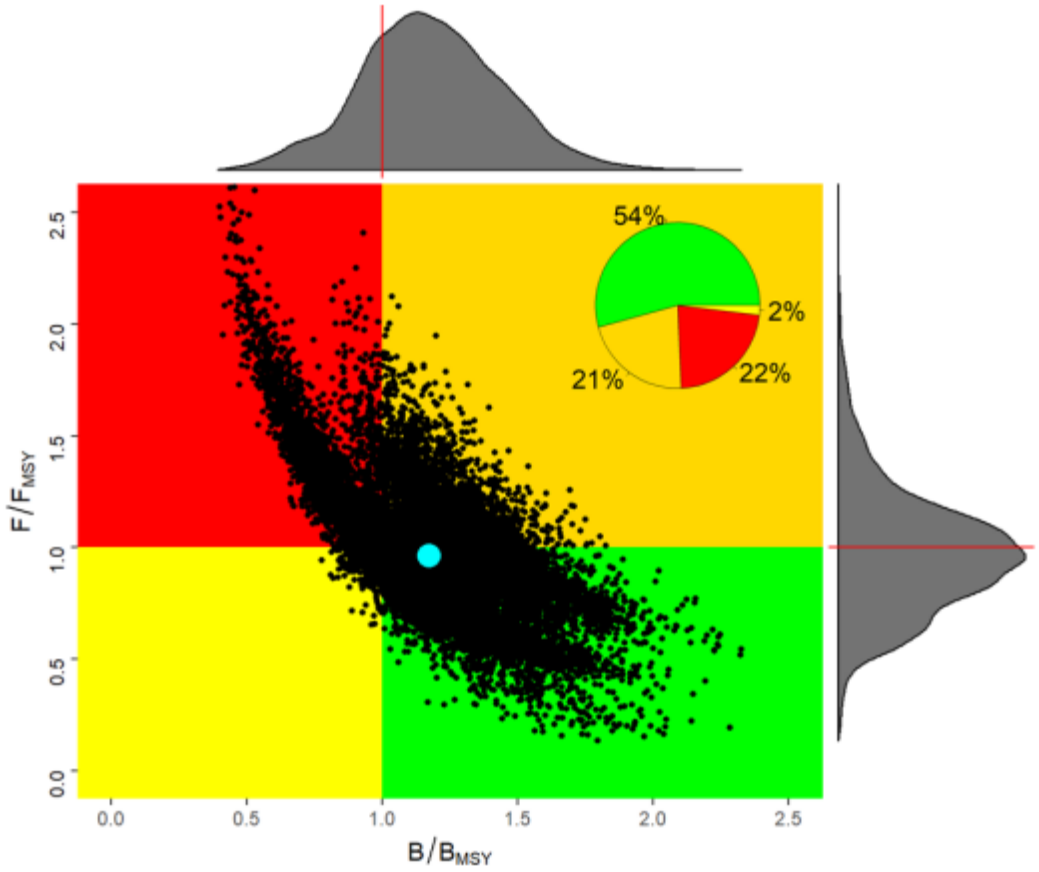
Management of this yellowfin tuna stock is coordinated by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). As in previous MT assessments, the most recent stock assessment carried out for this stock occurred in 2019. A new stock assessment was planned for 2023, but has been postponed until 2024 (ICCAT 2024). Although a proportion of the 2018 catch reports were incomplete, an average of the catch over the previous three years (2015-17) was used as a proxy (ICCAT 2019). This is adequate to meet the requirements of C1.1.

Fishery removals are incorporated into the stock assessment process, 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.

As previously, the most recent stock assessment continues to be that conducted in 2019 (ICCAT 2024). The yellowfin tuna stock does not have an established limit reference point. The 2019 stock assessment concluded that the biomass of the yellowfin tuna stock was above the target reference point of B_{MSY}, and therefore it is appropriate to assume the biomass would also be above any limit reference point.

Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic has not historically been estimated to be below the target reference point, and therefore harvest control rules (HCRs) remain under development.



Kobe plot for Atlantic yellowfin tuna from the 2019 stock assessment. Black dots are model runs, light blue dot is the final estimated stock status (ICCAT 2019)

The stock is considered in its most recent stock assessment to have a biomass above the target reference point, and therefore above any possible limit reference point. C1.2 is met.

References

ICCAT (2019). Yellowfin tuna stock assessment report 2019. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/DetRep/YFT_SA_ENG.pdf

ICCAT (2022). ICCAT Statistical bulletin Vol. 47 Section 2. https://www.iccat.int/sbull/SB47-2022/s2.html

ICCAT (2024). Stock Assessments and Executive Summaries. https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

D1	Species Name	n/a	
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)		
	Average maximum age (years)		
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		
	Average maximum size (cm)		
	Average size at maturity (cm)		
	Reproductive strategy		
	Mean trophic level		
		Average Productivity Score	
	Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Availability (area overlap)		
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)		
	Selectivity of gear type		
	Post-capture mortality		
		Average Susceptibility Score	
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	
		Compliance rating	
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant) *For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision*		
References			
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2			

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	High productivity (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium productivity (medium risk, score = 2)	Low productivity (high risk, score = 3)
Average age at maturity	<5 years	5-15 years	>15 years
Average maximum age	<10 years	10-25 years	>25 years
Fecundity	>20,000 eggs per year	100-20,000 eggs per year	<100 eggs per year
Average maximum size	<100 cm	100-300 cm	>300 cm
Average size at maturity	<40 cm	40-200 cm	>200 cm
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	Demersal egg layer	Live bearer
Mean Trophic Level	<2.75	2.75-3.25	>3.25

Susceptibility attributes	Low susceptibility (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium susceptibility (medium risk, score = 2)	High susceptibility (high risk, score = 3)
Areal overlap (availability) Overlap of the fishing effort with the species range	<10% overlap	10-30% overlap	>30% overlap
Encounterability The position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear, and the position of the stock/species within the habitat relative to the position of the gear	Low overlap with fishing gear (low encounterability).	Medium overlap with fishing gear.	High overlap with fishing gear (high encounterability). Default score for target species
Selectivity of gear type Potential of the gear to retain species	a Individuals < size at maturity are rarely caught	a Individuals < size at maturity are regularly caught.	a Individuals < size at maturity are frequently caught
	b Individuals < size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity are retained by gear.
Post-capture mortality (PCM) The chance that, if captured, a species would be released and that it would be in a condition permitting subsequent survival	Evidence of majority released post-capture and survival.	Evidence of some released post-capture and survival.	Retained species or majority dead when released.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4	Species Name	n/a	
	Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements		
	D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.	
	D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.	
		Outcome:	

Evidence

D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.

D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.

References

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.5.1
GSSI	D.5.01