



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *OMN02 Yellowfin Tuna in FAO Areas 51 & 57 (Indian Ocean Yellowfin)*

MarinTrust Programme

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Yellowfin tuna, <i>Thunnus albacares</i>
	Geographical area:	FAO Areas 51 & 57
	Country of origin of the product:	Oman
	Stock:	Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna
Date	May 2024	
Report Code	OMN02	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Oman	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): International Sea Food Company SAOC			
Country: Oman			
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	Initial
Assessment Period	May 2024 – May 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Yellowfin tuna, <i>Thunnus albacares</i>
Stock	Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 51 & 57
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine (free and associated schools), longline, handline, gillnet, and pole-and-line.
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>Yellowfin tuna has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Yellowfin in the Indian Ocean is managed relative to reference points and undergoes regular stock assessment, and was therefore assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment for Indian Ocean Yellowfin was carried out in 2021, and concluded that stock biomass is currently under the target reference point. However, biomass is above the limit reference point and a rebuilding plan is in place, and so the byproduct meets the MT requirements. For these reasons, the byproduct should be approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment is the yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) purse seine (free and associated schools), longline, handline, gillnet, and pole-and-line in FAO Areas 51, 57 (Indian 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.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment for the species was conducted by the IOCT in 2021 and concluded that the stock biomass was above the limit reference point. It passes category C.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor’s recommendation to pass the yellowfin tuna caught with purse seine (free and associated schools), longline, handline, gillnet, and pole-and-line in FAO Areas 51 and 57 under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.</p>
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 a 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	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Indian Ocean Yellowfin	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
<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Fishery removals of yellowfin tuna are incorporated into the stock assessment process and therefore C1.1 is met.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The stock is considered to be above the limit reference point and measures are in place to support rebuilding, therefore C1.2 is met.</p>			
<p>References</p> <p>IOTC (2023). Compendium of Active Conservation and Management Measures for the Indian Ocean Tuna. https://www.iotc.org/cmms</p> <p>IOTC (2023a). Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock Status: Executive Summary. https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock_status/2023/Yellowfin_ES_2023.pdf</p>			

IOTC (2023b). Available datasets. https://www.iotc.org/data/datasets	
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		
	<p>Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant) <i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i></p>		
	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			
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	