



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

THA09

Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)

in FAO Areas 51 & 57

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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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:	Thailand
	Stock:	Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna
Date	July 2024	
Report Code	THA09	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Thailand	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Piyo Bhokabhan Co. Ltd, Chotiwat Manufacturing Public Co. Ltd, Sirisaengarumpee Co. Ltd, Golden Prize Canning, Thai Union Ingredients Co. Ltd, South East Asian Packaging and Canning Ltd, TC Union Agrotech Co. Ltd, SPA International Food Group Co. Ltd, TCF Co. Ltd, Asian Alliance International Public Company Limited			
Country: Thailand			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Matthew Jew	0.2	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	July 2024 – July 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	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin trust raw material. Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Therefore, <i>Thunnus albacares</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna is managed relative to target and limit reference points and is subject to annual quotas, and was therefore assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The stock was most recently assessed in 2021 using data from 1950 – 2020. The stock assessment outputs are considered reliable, and therefore C1.1 is met. The stock assessment concluded that while stock biomass was below the target reference point level, it was above the limit reference point. For this reason, C1.2 is met.</p> <p>Therefore, yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) in FAO Areas 51 and 57 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified the yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) in FAO Areas 51 and 57 under category C, as the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.</p> <p>Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process, and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass above the limit reference point: the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, the yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) in FAO Areas 51 and 57 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
N/A

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 (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	
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).

Catches are shown below in Figure 1.

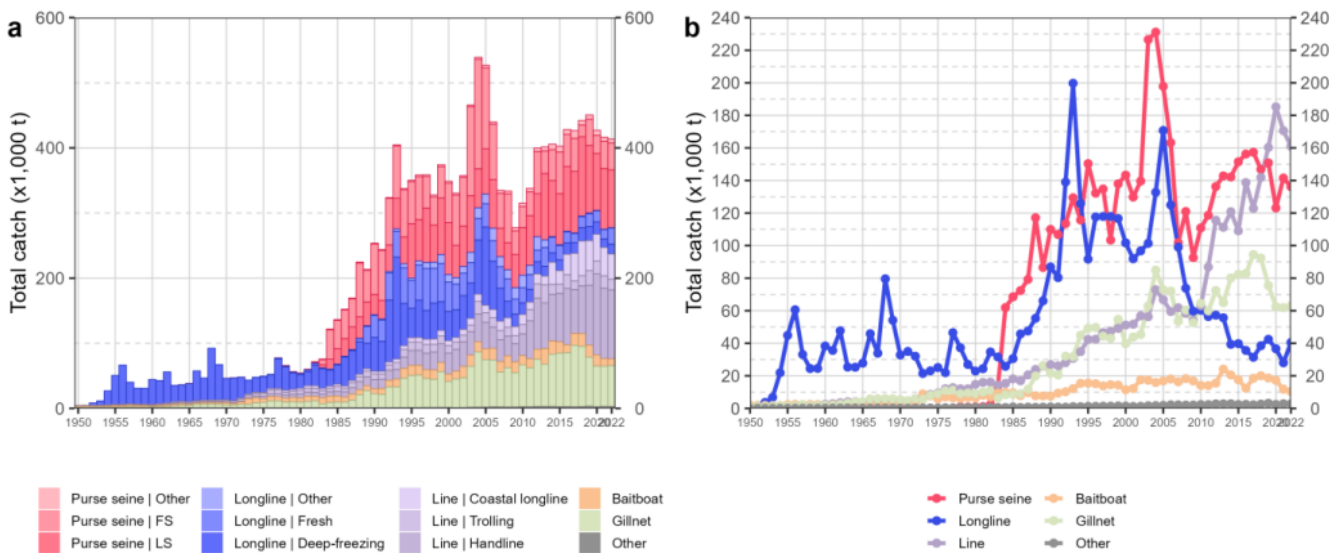


Figure 1. Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna, annual time series of (left) cumulative nominal catches by fishery and (right) individual nominal catches by fishery group, 1950 – 2022 (IOTC 2023a).

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore the stock PASSES clause C1.1.

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 (see Figure 2).

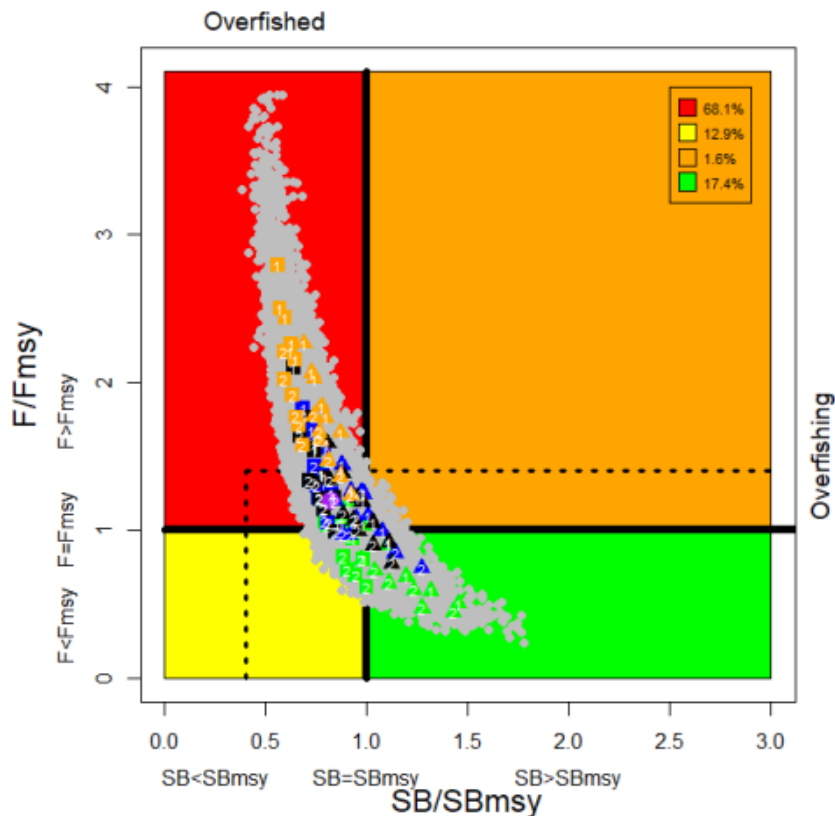


Figure 2. Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna, Kobe plot showing current (2020) stock status relative to SB_{MSY} (x-axis) and F_{MSY} (y-axis) (IOTC 2023a)

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it PASSES clause C1.2.

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>

Links

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