MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment
THA56
Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*)
in FAO Area 57
(Indian Ocean longtail tuna)

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:	Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 57
	Country of origin of the product:	Thailand
	Stock:	Indian Ocean longtail tuna
Date	August 2024	
Report Code	THA56	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Thailand	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): TC Union Agrotech Co. Ltd, Chotiwat Manufacturing Public Co. Ltd			
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	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	August 2024 – August 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*)
Stock	Indian Ocean longtail tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Area 57
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine, gillnet, line
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	**APPROVED**

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
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. Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, *Thunnus tonggol* is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material. Longtail tuna in the Indian Ocean is managed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Stock assessments are conducted using all available data, and although this data is incomplete, the stock assessment takes this into account to the extent possible. C1.1 is met. The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2023 and concluded that stock biomass is most likely slightly below the target reference point level, with a low probability of being below the default limit reference point level. C1.2 is met. Therefore, longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) in the Indian Ocean is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly assessed Indian Ocean (FAO Area 57) longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) under category C, as the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against. Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process, and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered with a high probability to have a biomass above the limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2. Therefore, Indian Ocean longtail tuna is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.
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 € 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]
Longtail tuna	*Thunnus tonggol*	Indian Ocean	Yes	C	Data Deficient[3]	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/170351/48496004

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		**Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*)**	
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 most recent stock assessment for Indian Ocean longtail tuna was conducted in 2023 using a number of data-limited methods (IOTC 2023). The available data are frequently incomplete, leading to relatively high levels of uncertainty. Data sources used in the stock assessment include estimates of total landings for most countries; partial CPUE trend data; size frequency data for selected fisheries only (IOTC 2017).

Fishery removals are incorporated into the assessment to the extent possible, and the design of the stock assessment is intended to take into account the incompleteness of the assessment data.

Catches are presented in the figure below:

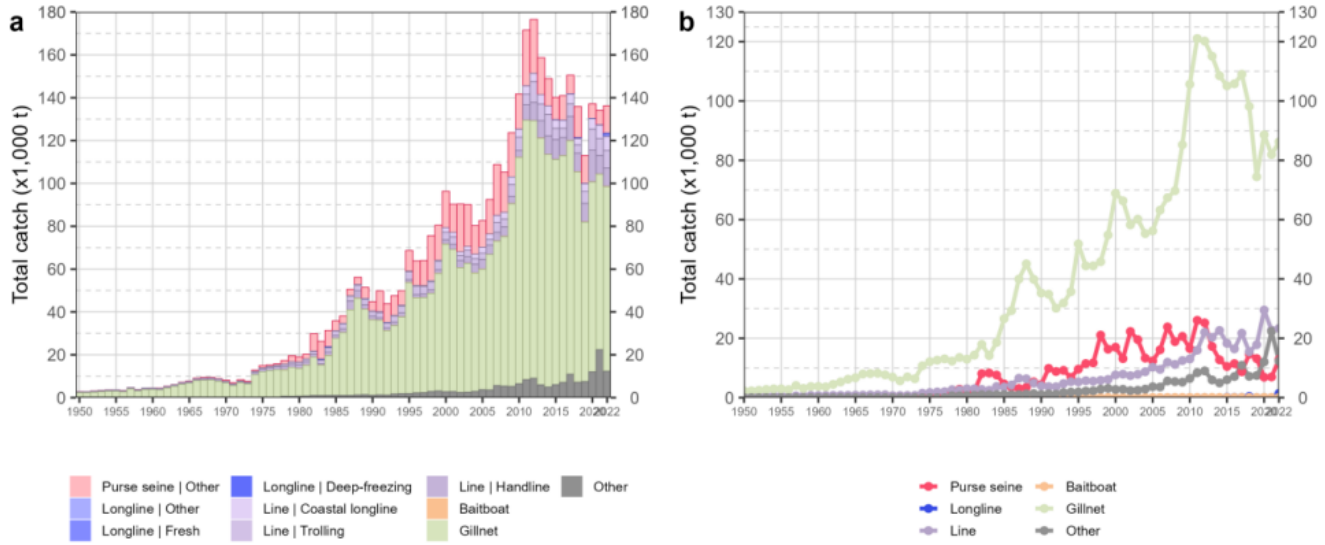

Figure 1. Annual time series of (a) cumulative nominal catches (t) by fishery and (b) individual nominal catches (t) by fishery group for longtail tuna during 1950-2022 (IOTC 2023)

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 2023 IOTC species executive summary provides an indication of the stock status relative to an established reference point. B_{MSY} is estimated to be 433,000t, with an 80% confidence interval of 272,000 – 690,000t. $B_{current}$ / B_{MSY} – i.e., the ratio of the current biomass to the target reference point level – was estimated in 2023 to be 0.96, with an 80% confidence interval of 0.44 – 1.19. This means that stock biomass is most likely to be around, but slightly below, the target reference point level. No limit reference points are defined for the stock; however, as per the MT byproduct assessment guidance, the limit reference point can be assumed to be half the target reference point level. Therefore stock biomass is unlikely to be below the default limit reference point level.

Figure 2 shows the Kobe plot from the main 2023 stock assessment:

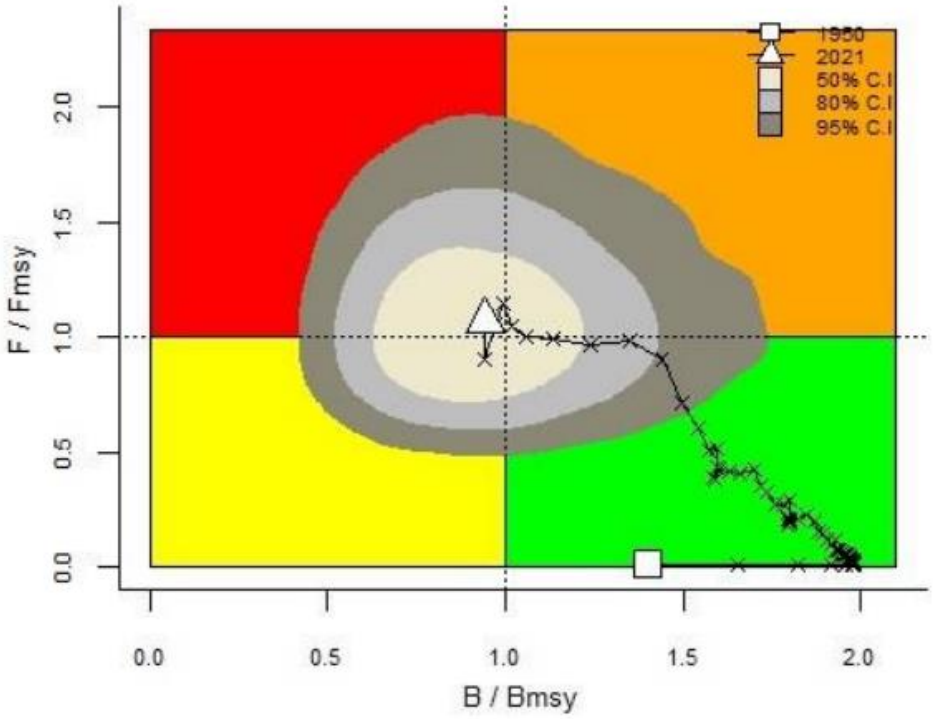

Figure 2. Longtail tuna C-MSY Indian Ocean assessment Kobe plot. The Kobe plot presents the trajectories (median) for the range of plausible model trajectories included in the formulation of the final management advice. The shaded contour lines represent 50%, 80%, and 95% confidence intervals of estimated stock status in 2021 (IOTC 2023).

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). Species executive summary, longtail tuna
https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock_status/2023/Longtail_tuna_ES_2023.pdf

IOTC (2017).
https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/species_summaries/english/Longtail_tuna_Supporting_information.pdf

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