MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

USA12

Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)

in FAO 41 and 47

(southern Atlantic Ocean)

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
	Geographical area:	FAO 41 and 47 (southern Atlantic Ocean)
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles Flag countries: Seychelles, South Africa
	Stock:	Atlantic Ocean yellowfin tuna
Date	August 2024	
Report Code	ECU15	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Seychelles Flag countries: Seychelles, South Africa	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Indian Ocean Tuna Ltd			
Country: Seychelles Flag countries: Seychelles, South Africa			
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
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	August 2024 – August 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
Stock	Atlantic Ocean yellowfin tuna
Fishery Location	FAO areas 41 and 47 (Atlantic Ocean)
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	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 Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. *Thunnus albacares* - yellowfin tuna is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, *Thunnus albacares* - yellowfin tuna is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material. There is a single stock of yellowfin tuna. Tunas are highly migratory species managed by International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas – ICCAT. As the Atlantic Ocean stock of yellowfin tuna is subject to a management regime, it is assessed under category C. The most recent stock assessment of Yellowfin tuna in Atlantic Ocean was carried out in 2019, thus the report is based on the same stock assessment as last year's report. Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the stock assessment process, so the stock PASSES Clause C1.1. Stock biomass is considered to be above B_{MSY}, thus it PASSES Clause C1.2. Therefore, *Thunnus albacares* - Yellowfin tuna in FAO 41 and 47 is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus* albacares) in FAO 41 and 47 (Atlantic Ocean) under category C, as the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against. As last year's report, 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 well above the limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2. Therefore, Atlantic Ocean yellowfin tuna (FAO 41 and 47) is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.
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 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 yellowfin tuna	Yes	C	Least Concern[3]	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/es/species/21860/46913402

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 (*Thunnus albacares*)**	
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

Note: the report is based on the same stock assessment as last year's report.

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 of Yellowfin tuna in Atlantic Ocean was carried out in 2019 (ICCAT, 2019). 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 for estimate 42% of the total catch (ICCAT, 2019). Four models were used for developing the management advice and one of the estimates provided by the models was the historical fishing mortality relative to fishing mortality consistent with achieving maximum sustainable yield - F_{MSY}. Overall, the models estimate that the fishing mortality in 2018 was near the F_{MSY}.

There is an overall Total allowable Catches (TACs) for yellow tuna established by ICCAT since 2012 of 110,000 tonnes, unallocated by country [Rec. 11-01 (reiterated in Rec. 16-01)]. Although catches are above the TAC from 2014 to 2020, the stock is considered not to be overfished, no overfishing is occurring.

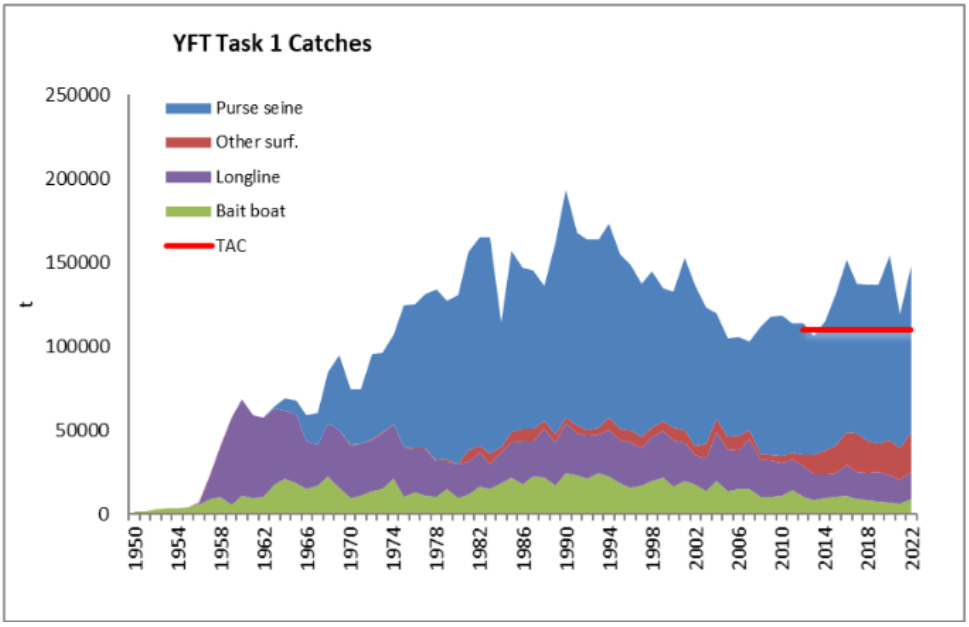

Figure 1. Yellowfin tuna total catch 1950 – 2022 by main fishing gear group (ICCAT, 2019).

Therefore, fishery removals are incorporated into the stock assessment process, the fishery achieves a PASS against 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.

According to ICCAT (2019), the ratio of spawning biomass SSB_{2018}/SSB_{MSY} is estimated at 1.17 (range 0.75-1.62). This indicates that the stock in 2018 was not overfished. Overall, the models estimate that the fishing mortality in 2018 was near the fishing mortality that would produce MSY.

ATLANTIC YELLOWFIN TUNA SUMMARY

Estimates	Mean (90% confidence intervals)
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	121,298 t (90,428 - 267,350 t)[1]
2018 Yield	135,689 t
Relative Biomass[2]: B_{2018}/B_{MSY}	1.17 (0.75 - 1.62)
Relative Fishing Mortality: F_{2018}/F_{MSY}	0.96 (0.56 - 1.50)

2018 Total Biomass[3] 729,436 t

Stock Status (2018) Overfished: No[4]
Overfishing: No[5]

[Rec. 16-01]
- No fishing with natural or artificial floating objects during January and February in the area encompassed by the African coast, 20º W, 5ºN and 4ºS.
- TAC of 110,000 t (since Rec. 11-01).
- Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas for vessels 20 meters or greater
- Specific limits of number of longline and/or purse seine boats for a number of fleets
- Specific limits on FADs, non-entangling FADs required

1) Minimum and maximum values of 90%LCI and 90%UCI among all runs by the Stock Synthesis, JABBA, and MPB
2) SSB (Stock Synthesis) or exploited biomass (production models)
3) Mean of the central estimates of the SS, JABBA and MPB models
4) (24% probability of overfished status)
5) (43% probability of overfishing taking place)

Figure 2. Source: ICCAT (2019).

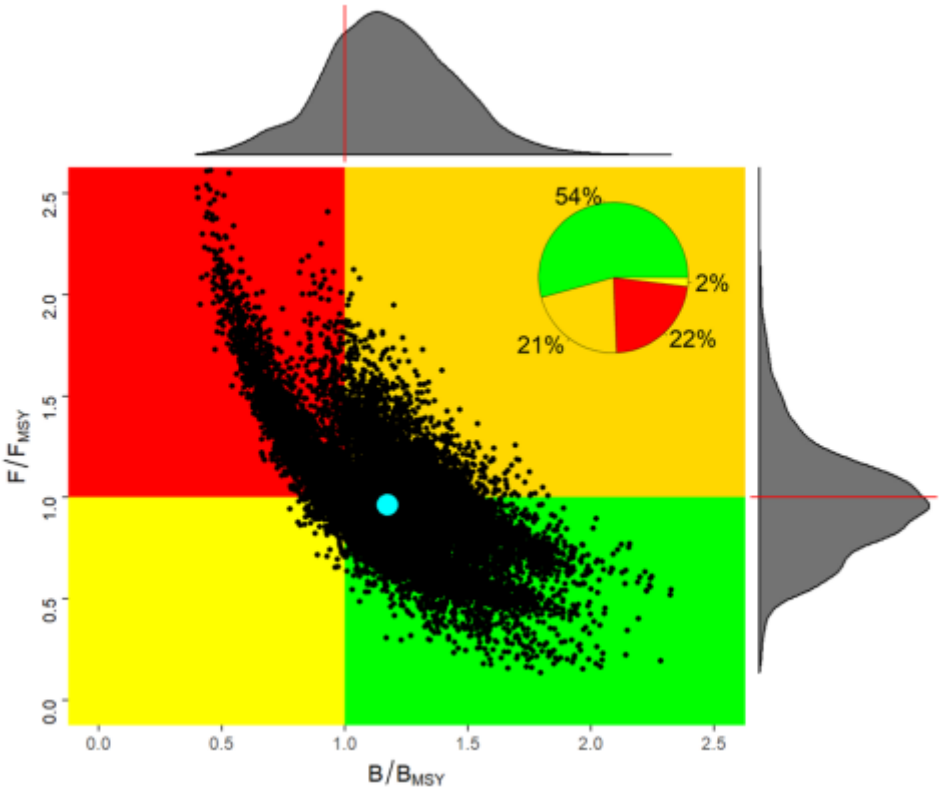

Figure 3. Kobe plot estimated from the combination of Stock Synthesis, JABBA and MPB model runs chosen to develop the management advice (ICCAT, 2019).

Despite ICCAT's not employing an explicit limit reference point in managing this stock, given that stock biomass is considered to be above B_{MSY}, it can correspondingly be considered to be above any nominal limit reference point (or proxy); **therefore, the fishery achieves a PASS against C1.2.**

References

ICCAT. 2019. Yellowfin tuna Summary report 2019. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/YFT_ENG.pdf

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