MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

USA14

Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)

in FAO areas 71, 77, & 81

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 71, western central Pacific Ocean FAO 77, eastern central Pacific Ocean FAO 81, western southern Pacific Ocean
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles Flag countries: Seychelles, South Africa
	Stock:	Western central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) yellowfin tuna
Date	August 2024	
Report Code	USA14	
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	N/A	

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 2
Assessment Period	August 2024 – August 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
Stock	Western central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) yellowfin tuna
Fishery Location	FAO 71, western central Pacific Ocean FAO 77, eastern central Pacific Ocean FAO 81, western southern Pacific Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole & line, and 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 is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material. For assessment and management purposes, two discrete stocks of yellowfin tuna are recognized in the Pacific Ocean differentiated by the 150°W: 1. Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) yellowfin (west of 150°W), managed via the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). 2. Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) yellowfin (east of 150°W), managed by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Although the western boundary of FAO area 77 is at 175°W, only one stock may be assessed for each by product report, per MarinTrust guidance. For the purposes of this report, the WCPO yellowfin tuna stock was assessed for fishing efforts occurring in FAO Areas 71, 77, & 81 The last stock assessment was performed in August 2023 by the WCPFC and reference points are defined, this stock is assessed under Category C. 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 the limit reference point, thus it PASSES Clause C1.2. Therefore, *Thunnus albacares* - yellowfin tuna in FAO 71, 77 and 81 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 Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus* albacares) in FAO 71, 77 and 81 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 to have a biomass well above the limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2. Therefore, WCPO yellowfin tuna (FAO 71, 77 and 81) is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.
Notes for On-site Auditor
Confirm that only yellowfin tuna originating from the WCPO stock are being sourced for the scope of the BP. Only fish harvested from the west of 150°W should be considered and if there are tuna being sourced from the east side of this boundary, a second BP report for the EPO stock is required.

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*	Western central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) 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/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 (*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

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 last stock assessment of yellow tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO; west of 150◦ W) was performed in August 2023 by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The stock assessment was based on a general approach of integrated modelling using the MULTIFAN-CL4 (MFCL version number 2.2.x.0) framework. MFCL implements a size-based, age- and spatially structured population model. Each new assessment of the stock typically involves updates to fishery catch (Figure 1), effort, and size composition data, updates to tag-recapture data when tagging data is used, implementation of new features in the MFCL modelling software, changes to preparatory data analysis, such as Catch Per Unit Effort - CPUE standardisations, and consideration of new information on biology, population structure and potentially other population parameters (WCPFC, 2023).

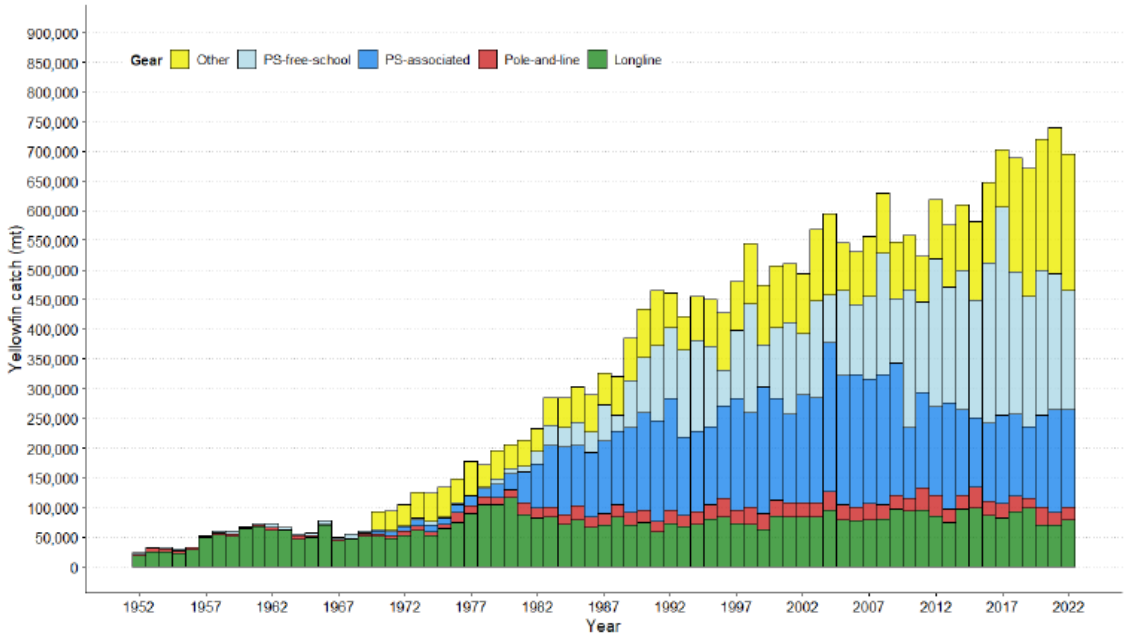

Figure 3: Annual catches of yellowfin by gear type in the WCPO area covered by the assessment.

Figure 1. Source: WCPFC (2023).

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.

Overall, median depletion of yellow tuna in WCPO for the recent period (2018–2021; SBrecent/SBF=0) is estimated at 0.47 (80 percentile range including estimation and structural uncertainty 0.42–0.52, full range 0.33–0.60) and no models estimate the stock to be below the Limit Reference Point - LRP of 20%SBF = 0. The recent (2017–2020) median fishing mortality (Frecent/FMSY) was 0.50 (80 percentile range, including estimation and structural uncertainty 0.41–0.62, full range 0.26–0.78). WCPFC concluded that the stock is not overfished, nor undergoing overfishing (Figure 2).

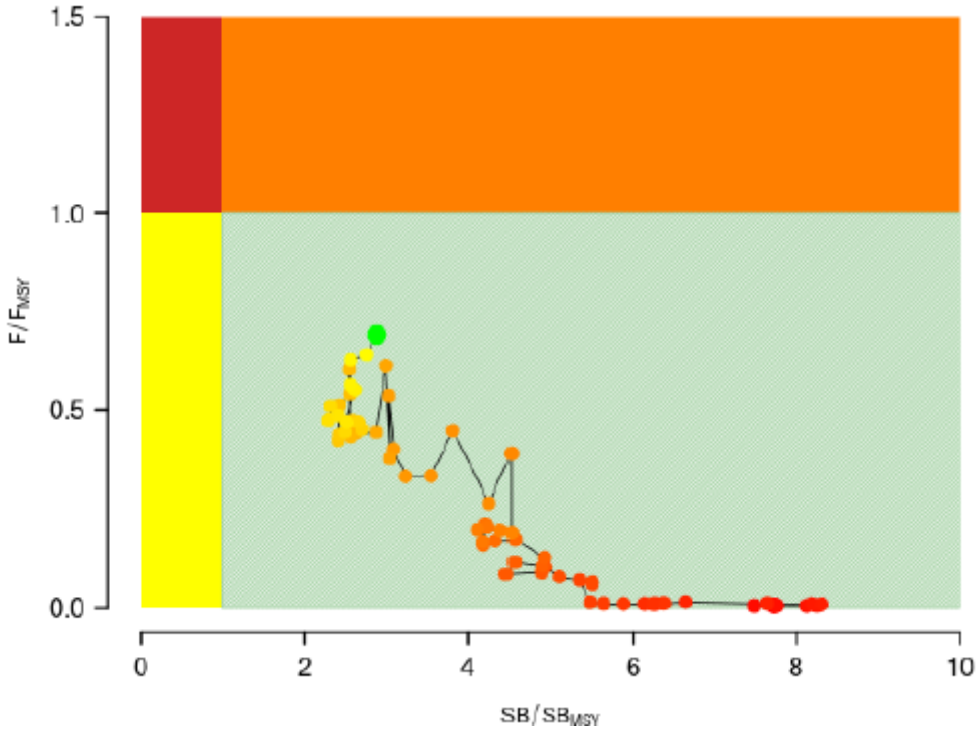

Figure 2. Kobe plot summarising the results for the diagnostic case model over the model period. The green point is the estimated 2021 status, the redder the point the further back in time (WCPFC, 2023).

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point, the fishery achieves a PASS against C1.2.

References

WCPFC. 2023. Stock assessment of yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean: 2023. https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/19352

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