



RESPONSIBLE
SUPPLY

IFFO RS
Global Standard for Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients

IFFO RS Limited

T: +44 (0) 2030 539 195
E: Standards@iffors.com
W: www.iffors.com

Unit C, Printworks | 22 Amelia Street
London, SE17 3BZ | United Kingdom



RESPONSIBLE
SUPPLY

IFFO
RS

ASSURED



Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients Fishery Assessment Methodology and Template Report V2.0



RESponsible
SUPPLY

IFFO RS
Global Standard for Responsible Supply
of Marine Ingredients



Fishery Under Assessment	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Date	July 2018
Assessor	V.Polonio

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome				
Name: TC Union Agrotech Co Ltd and others				
Address:				
Country: Thailand		Zip:		
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:		
Email address:		Applicant Code		
Key Contact:		Title:		
Certification Body Details				
Name of Certification Body:		SAI Global		
Assessor Name	Pier Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval	Whole fish/ By-product
V. Polonio	J. Daly	1	Surveillance 1	By-product
Assessment Period	2017			

Scope Details	
Management Authority (Country/State)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Main Species	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Fishery Location	FAO 77, 81, 87 (Pacific Ocean)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	PASS
Clauses Failed	NONE
Pier Review Evaluation	PASS
Recommendation	Approval

Assessment Determination
<p>Legal and administrative frameworks exist at the Thai national level, in addition to the research and management frameworks implemented at the international level by tuna RFMOs. Following the latest assessment carried by Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in 2015 the status of albacore tuna in the Southern Pacific Ocean (FAO regions 81, 87) was deemed to be not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.</p> <p>IUCN has categorised albacore tuna as a near threatened species. The species does not appear on the current list of CITES appendices (both sites accessed 26.07.18).</p> <p>Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy).</p> <p>The assessment team recommends the approval of albacore tuna as a by-product species under the current IFFO RS By-product Standard v 2.0.</p>
Pier Review Comments
<p>Recommendations noted in this report are to decrease longline catches to avoid future decreasing of critical biomass. The results of the 2018 stock assessment should be reviewed in advance of the next surveillance audit in order to verify the implementation of these recommendations.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor

Note: This table should be completed for whole fish assessments only.

General Results

General Clause	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
M1 - Management Framework	
M2 - Surveillance, Control and Enforcement	
F1 - Impacts on ETP Species	
F2 - Impacts on Habitats	
F3 - Ecosystem Impacts	

Species-Specific Results

Category	Species	% landings	Outcome (Pass/Fail)
Category A			A1
			A2
			A3
			A4
Category B			
Category C	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	N/A	PASS
Category D			

[List all Category A and B species. List approximate total % age of landings which are Category C and D species; these do not need to be individually named here]

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT REPORT

This assessment template uses a modular approach to assessing fisheries against the IFFO RS standard.

Whole Fish

The process for completing the template for a **whole fish** assessment is as follows:

1. **ALL ASSESSMENTS:** Complete the Species Characterisation table, to determine which categories of species are present in the fishery.
2. **ALL ASSESSMENTS:** Complete clauses M1, M2, M3: Management.
3. **IF THERE ARE CATEGORY A SPECIES IN THE FISHERY:** Complete clauses A1, A2, A3, A4 for **each** Category A species.
4. **IF THERE ARE CATEGORY B SPECIES IN THE FISHERY:** Complete the Section B risk assessment for **each** Category B species.
5. **IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C SPECIES IN THE FISHERY:** Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C species.
6. **IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D SPECIES IN THE FISHERY:** Complete Section D.
7. **ALL ASSESSMENTS:** Complete clauses F1, F2, F3: Further Impacts.

A fishery must score a pass in **all applicable clauses** before approval may be recommended. To achieve a pass in a clause, the fishery/species must meet **all** of the minimum requirements.

By-products

The process for completing the template for **by-product raw material** is as follows:

1. **ALL ASSESSMENTS:** Complete the Species Characterisation table with the names of the by-product species and stocks under assessment. The ‘% landings’ column can be left empty; all by-products are considered as Category C and D.
2. **IF THERE ARE CATEGORY C BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT:** Complete clause C1 for **each** Category C by-product.
3. **IF THERE ARE CATEGORY D BYPRODUCTS UNDER ASSESSMENT:** Complete Section D.
4. **ALL OTHER SECTIONS CAN BE DELETED.** Clauses M1 - M3, F1 - F3, and Sections A and B do not need to be completed for a by-product assessment.

By-product approval is awarded on a species-by-species basis. Each by-product species scoring a pass under the appropriate section may be approved against the IFFO RS Standard.

SPECIES CATEGORISATION

The following table should be completed as fully as the available information permits. Any species representing more than 0.1% of the annual catch should be listed, along with an estimate of the proportion of the catch each species represents. The species should then be divided into Type 1 and Type 2 as follows:

- **Type 1 Species** can be considered the ‘target’ or ‘main’ species in the fishery. They make up the bulk of annual landings and are subjected to a detailed assessment.
- **Type 2 Species** can be considered the ‘bycatch’ or ‘minor’ species in the fishery. They make up a small proportion of the annual landings and are subjected to relatively high-level assessment.

Type 1 Species must represent 95% of the total annual catch. Type 2 Species may represent a maximum of 5% of the annual catch (see Appendix B).

Species which make up less than 0.1% of landings do not need to be listed (NOTE: ETP species are considered separately). The table should be extended if more space is needed. Discarded species should be included when known.

The ‘stock’ column should be used to differentiate when there are multiple biological or management stocks of one species captured by the fishery. The ‘management’ column should be used to indicate whether there is an adequate management regime specifically aimed at the individual species/stock. In some cases it will be immediately clear whether there is a species-specific management regime in place (for example, if there is an annual TAC). In less clear circumstances, the rule of thumb should be that if the species meets the minimum requirements of clauses A1-A4, an adequate species-specific management regime is in place.

NOTE: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it **cannot** be approved for use as an IFFO RS raw material. This applied to whole fish as well as by-products.

TYPE 1 SPECIES (Representing 95% of the catch or more)

Category A: Species-specific management regime in place.

Category B: No species-specific management regime in place.

TYPE 2 SPECIES (Representing 5% OF THE CATCH OR LESS)

Category C: Species-specific management regime in place.

Category D: No species-specific management regime in place.

Common name	Latin name	Stock	% of landings	Management	Category
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Southern Pacific	N/A	WCPFC	C

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment. 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. A Category C species does not meet the minimum requirements of clause C1 should be re-assessed as a Category D species.

Species Name		
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>Evidence</p> <p>Fisheries Management in Thailand:</p> <p>The Fisheries Act is the principal legislative instrument dealing with fisheries and the cultivation of aquatic animals in the country. The act is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MAC). Its Department of Fisheries (DOF) is the principal government agency responsible for managing and developing fisheries and aquaculture. Its mandate and structure are set out in the Royal Decree on Administration (1994), which provides DOF with the authority and responsibility to (<i>inter alia</i>) :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply, implement and enforce the Fisheries Act and other relevant laws related to fishery matters. - Study, research and develop aquatic resources, the aquatic environment, aquaculture, fish enhancement including genetic research and fishing gear. - Survey, explore, analyse and research fishery grounds within and outside Thai waters. <p>Current Thai fisheries management objectives are set out in the Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). This plan includes different measures to manage the fleet targeting tuna such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The issuing of valid fishing permits from DOF. - Compliance with all Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) Legislation. - All laws, recommendations and regulations linked with (Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs) and - Implementation of the Port State Measures (PSM) Programme. <p>Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):</p> <p>The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) was established by the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPF Convention) which entered into force on 19 June 2004. The Commission supports three subsidiary bodies; the Scientific Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee, and the Northern Committee, that each meet once during each year.</p> <p>The Scientific Committee (SC) meets annually and ensures that the Commission has the best available scientific information on which to consider appropriate conservation and management measures. The</p>		

Scientific Committee utilizes the services of fisheries scientists and also coordinates with the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) on certain matters to ensure consistent advice is provided to the Commission. Additional information and recommendations on the stock assessment process are also provided by the Albacore Working Group (ALBWG 2017).

Species-specific Management: South Pacific albacore

The main fishing grounds for this stock in the assessment area are FAO 77, 81, 87 (Southern Pacific Ocean). The stock in this area was last evaluated in 2015 by the Scientific Committee of the WCPFC. The next stock assessment is planned in 2018. Preliminary estimates of total catch of South Pacific albacore (within the WCPFC Convention Area south of the equator) for 2016 was 58,033t; an 8% decrease from 2015 and a 13% decrease over 2011-2015. If 2015 fishing effort levels continue into the future, the stock is predicted to continue to decline on average, falling to $S_{Bcurrent}/S_{BF=0} = 0.35$ in 2033 with a 7% predicted probability of being below the LRP (20% $S_{BF=0}$). Overall vulnerable biomass (a CPUE proxy) in longline fisheries is estimated to decrease by 7% from 2013-2033;

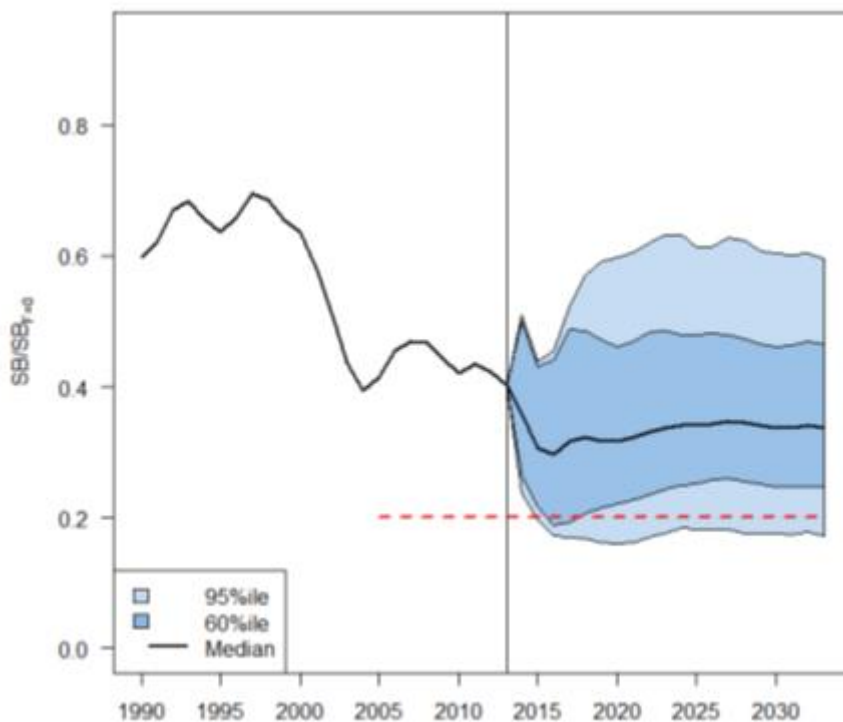


Figure 1. Stochastic projections of adult stock status under 2014 longline and troll effort levels. The limit reference point (20% $S_{BF=0}$) is indicated by horizontal dashed red line.

Conclusions from the 2015 were that the spawning stock was above both the level that will support MSY and the adopted spawning biomass limit reference point, and overfishing is not occurring (F less than F_{msy}). Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process.

Management advice:

The Scientific Committee recalls its previous advice that longline fishing mortality and longline catch be reduced to avoid further decline in the vulnerable biomass so that economically viable catch rates can be maintained, especially for longline catches of adult albacore.

Albacore Working Group:

In the last ALBWG some Management advice and implications were defined for this stock. The main measures are listed below:

- While overfishing is not occurring, further increases in effort will yield little or no increase in long-term catches and result in further reduced catch rates.
- Decline in abundance of albacore is a key driver in the reduced economic conditions experienced by many PICT domestic longline fleets. Furthermore, reductions in prices are also impacting some distant water fleets.
- For several years, the Scientific Committee has noted that any increases in catch or effort in sub-tropical longline fisheries are likely to lead to declines in catch rates in some regions, especially for longline catches of adult albacore, with associated impacts on vessel profitability.

Despite the fact that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, the Scientific Committee reiterates advice recommending that longline fishing mortality and longline catch be reduced to avoid further decline in the vulnerable biomass so that economically viable catch rates can be maintained. The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy),

The assessment team recommends the approval of albacore tuna as a by-product species under the current IFFO RS By-product Standard v 2.0.

References

- Harley, S. J et al (August 2015) WCPFC Scientific Committee: Stock assessment for South Pacific albacore tuna. Rev 1. 101pp <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/21776>
- Anon (2017) WCPFC Scientific Committee: Stock Status & Trends plus Management Advice and Implications 13pp <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/04/south-pacific-albacore-tuna>
- FAO country fisheries overview, Thailand: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/facp/THA/en>
- Thailand Department of Fisheries Management Plan (FMP): <https://fisheries-refugia.org/downloads/inception-workshop/docs/21-21-fr-inception-workshop-marine-fisheries-management-plan-thailand/file>
- Thailand Fisheries Management Plan workshop 2016 <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/tha165156.pdf>
- Pilling G., R. Scott, P. Williams, S. Brouwer and J. Hampton (August 2017) WCPFC Scientific Committee: A compendium of fisheries indicators for tuna stocks 37pp <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29521>
- CITES Species Endangered list: <http://checklist.cites.org/#/en> accessed 26..07.18
- IUCN Red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search> accessed 26..07.18

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2

