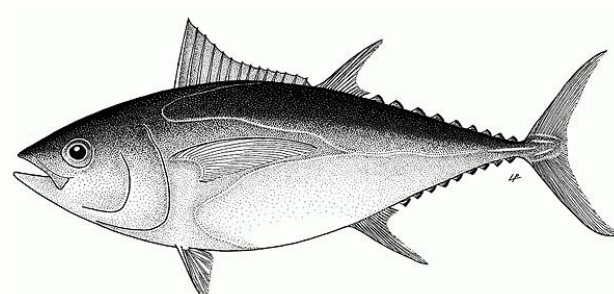


FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
LOCATION:	Thailand (FAO areas 51, 57, 61, 71)
DATE OF REPORT:	November 2016
ASSESSOR:	Virginia Polonio

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

Form No: 9a	Report Ref:	Page 1 of 6	CCM Code:
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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name:		
Address:		
Country: Thailand	Zip:	
Tel. No.	Fax. No.	
Email address:	Applicant Code	
Key Contact: :	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Virginia Polonio	Deirdre Hoare	2 nd Surveillance
1. Scope of Assessment		
1. Scope of Assessment		By-Product surveillance
2. Fishery By-Product		
2. Fishery By-Product		Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		Thailand
4. Fishery Method		
4. Fishery Method		Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll
5. Outcome of Assessment		
5. Outcome of Assessment		Maintain byproduct approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Legal and administrative frameworks exist at the national and international level. Sufficient research is conducted on the species to allow informed management of bigeye tuna. The assessment team recommends maintaining approval of this byproduct material.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>The management of the fishery used to produce the By- Product must include a legal and administrative basis for the implementation of measures and controls to support the management of the fishery.</i>	
LOW	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is not established.
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is somehow established, but there is evidence of not being efficient to ensure the management of the stock.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.

Determination: A legal and administrative framework that ensures an efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently H

National

The Fisheries Act (1947, as amended in 1953 and 1985) 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:

- 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.
- Study, research and develop preservation and food processing of aquatic products, including analysis, inspection and certification of the quality of aquatic products.
- Survey, explore, analyze and research fishery grounds within and outside Thai waters.
- Promote and develop the possibilities for people to get involved in fishing, aquaculture and fishery products processing.

Therefore, the Thailand Department of Fisheries (DOF) is the primary fishery management organisation in Thailand. The current Thai fisheries management objectives are set out in The Master Plan – Marine Fisheries Management in Thailand. The Master Plan applies for the ten years beginning in 2009. The Plan includes five major strategies, the third of which is “Development and Promotion of Responsible and Sustainable Fisheries”.

International

As widely distributed and highly migratory species, the management of most tunas is necessarily internationally-focussed. Many tuna stocks are managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) which coordinate the scientific output and management approach of their member states with regards to tuna. Thailand is a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and a co-operating non-member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Both these RFMOs include albacore tuna within their remit.

Species-Specific

The IOTC has implemented a number of conservation and management measures specific to the albacore tuna. However, these are primarily focussed on the gathering of information and do not appear to place any significant restrictions on the scale of member state’s fisheries, and there is no TAC. The WCPFC passed a resolution in 2005 recognising that the level of fishing should not be increased and requiring members and co-operating non-

members to ensure their fleets did not increase effort. The WCPFC also has a number of measures in place to ensure the accurate reporting of albacore catch.

R1 – R7

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.

LOW	Research to support the management of the stock does not exist
MEDIUM	Research to support the management of the stock exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty.
HIGH	Research to support the management of the stock exists, and research programmes for provision of scientific advice are considered adequate.

Determination: Research to support the management of the stock is coordinated by the tuna RFMOs, however, continued monitoring and improvement in data collection, reporting and analysis is required to reduce the uncertainty in assessments.

National

Research supporting the management of Thai fisheries is the responsibility of two main organisations. The Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau (MFRDB) within the DOF is responsible for marine fisheries research. The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) is mandated to study and enhance mangrove forests, sea grass, coral reefs, and marine animals. The DMCR is responsible for the rehabilitation of natural resources and the environment and has elaborated main strategies with an emphasis on the role of public participation in preservation, protection, conservation, utilization and rehabilitation of natural resources through proactive and integrated natural resources management.

International

Management of albacore by the IOTC and WCPFC is supported by concerted data collection and stock assessment efforts. The IOTC produces regular stock assessments but no new stock assessment was carried out for bigeye tuna in 2014 or 2015, thus, stock status is determined on the basis of the 2013 SS3 assessment and other indicators presented in 2015.

The summary of its results are shown in the table below. The total catch in 2013 in the Indian Ocean was 100,231t (Where MSY is estimated to be 132,600t).

The management advice details that if catch remains below the estimated MSY levels, then immediate management measures are not required. However, continued monitoring and improvement in data collection, reporting and analysis is required to reduce the uncertainty in assessments.

M

Area ¹	Indicators		2015 stock status ² determination
Indian Ocean	Catch in 2014: Average catch 2010–2014:	100,231 t 102,214 t	
	MSY (1,000 t) (plausible range): F _{MSY} (plausible range): SB _{MSY} (1,000 t) (plausible range): F ₂₀₁₂ /F _{MSY} (plausible range): SB ₂₀₁₂ /SB _{MSY} (plausible range): SB ₂₀₁₂ /SB ₁₉₅₀ (plausible range):	132 (98–207) ³ n.a. (n.a.–n.a.) ³ 474 (295–677) ³ 0.42 (0.21–0.80) ³ 1.44 (0.87–2.22) ³ 0.40 (0.27–0.54) ³	

¹Boundaries for the Indian Ocean stock assessment are defined as the IOTC area of competence.

²The stock status refers to the most recent years' data used in the SS3 assessment.

³The point estimate is the median of the plausible models investigated in the 2013 SS3 assessment.

R1, R6, R7

C. STOCK STATUS

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE

C. The fish used to produce the fish By- Product is not considered to be critically at risk of over exploitation in accordance with the IUCN guidance.

LOW	The fish By-Product must not come from a species that is listed as extinct, or critically endangered.
MEDIUM	The fish By- Product is from a species that is classified as vulnerable, but has a management regime in place that will control the level of fishing permitted. Or if a species is deemed to be endangered but the sub-group from where the fish By- Product is harvested is deemed scientifically to be at no risk of over exploitation.
HIGH	The fish By- Product comes from a fishery that is not deemed to be at risk of over exploitation from fishing activities.

Determination: The byproduct comes from a species which is categorised by the IUCN as vulnerable but not overfished and overfishing is occurring and the Indian purse seine (FAO51 &57) is certified against MSC standard since February 2016.

The IUCN has classified this species as Vulnerable. The results of the last stock assessment has shown that the effort is decreasing and thus, on the weight-of-evidence available in 2015, the bigeye tuna stock is determined to be not overfished and is not subject to overfishing.

R8

5. REFERENCES

- R1 – Bigeye tuna drawing <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2498/en>
- R2 – FAO country fisheries overview, Thailand: ftp://ftp.fao.org/Fi/DOCUMENT/fcp/en/FI_CP_TH.pdf
- R3 – Thailand Department of Fisheries master plan: <http://www.fisheries.go.th/planning/files/Marine%20Master%20Plan.pdf>
- R4 – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: <http://www.wcpfc.int/>
- R5 – Indian Ocean Tuna Commission: <http://www.iotc.org/about-iotc/structure-commission>
- R6 – IOTC tuna stock status summary, 2016: <http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc>

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Form No: 9a	Report Ref:	Page 5 of 6	CCM Code:

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R7 – WCPFC albacore tuna conservation and management measures:

http://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/WCPFC2_Records_F.pdf

R8 – WCPFC tuna fishery yearbook, 2013: https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/WCPFC_YB_2013.pdf

R9 - IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/21856/0>

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Form No: 9a	Report Ref:	Page 6 of 6	CCM Code:
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