

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
LOCATION:	Thailand (FAO areas 51, 57, 61, 71)
DATE OF REPORT:	31/10/14
ASSESSOR:	Sam Peacock

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			
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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	IFFO151
Key Contact: :	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:		
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Sam Peacock	Dave Garforth	Initial
1. Scope of Assessment		
By-Product initial		
2. Fishery By-Product		
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)		
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
Thailand		
4. Fishery Method		
Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll		
5. Outcome of Assessment		
Approve byproduct		

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>There are legal, administrative and research frameworks in place at the national and international levels, and there is evidence that these are applied specifically to bigeye tuna. As the species is not categorised as threatened or endangered by the IUCN, the assessment team recommends the approval of the byproduct against the IFFO standard.</p>

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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: There are effective legal and administrative frameworks in place at the national and international levels, and these appear to be effectively applied specifically to bigeye tuna. H

National

The Thailand Department of Fisheries (DOF) is the primary fishery management organisation in Thailand. The DOF is responsible for the implementation of Thai fishery legislation, the undertaking of fishery and aquaculture research, fishery control and enforcement, the management of international fishery affairs, and the engagement of fishery and aquaculture stakeholders. 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 bigeye tuna within their remit.

Species-Specific

The IOTC has implemented a number of conservation and management measures specific to the bigeye tuna. These include resolutions on the limitation of fishing capacity, a ban on discarding, the establishment of target and limit reference points, and a number of measures aimed at ensuring the accurate recording of catch and effort. The WCPFC has also implemented species-specific measures, including a target fishing mortality (at or below F_{MSY}) and a ban on discards.

R1 – R7

B. STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>B. Research in support of fisheries management should exist.</i>		
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.	
<p><i>Determination: Research to support the management of the stock is coordinated by the tuna RFMOs, and appears to be of sufficient detail to permit full stock assessments and management recommendations.</i></p> <p>National</p> <p>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.</p> <p>International</p> <p>Management of bigeye tuna by the IOTC and WCPFC is supported by concerted data collection and stock assessment efforts. The IOTC produces regular stock assessments which are made available on its website, the most recent of which reported that the total catch of bigeye in 2012 in the Indian Ocean was 115,793t (Where MSY is estimated to be around 132,000t). The WCPFC also conducts stock assessment activities, but does not make the results publically available. However, the 2012 tuna fishery yearbook reported that total catches of bigeye tuna in the commission area were 161,561t.</p> <p>R1, R6, R7</p>		H
C. STOCK STATUS		
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE		
<i>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.</i>		
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.	
<p><i>Determination: The byproduct comes from a species which is categorised by the IUCN as vulnerable; however the Indian Ocean purse seine fishery is undergoing assessment against the MSC standard, and is considered not at risk of overfishing by the IOTC.</i></p> <p>The IUCN redlist categorises bigeye tuna as ‘vulnerable’. The Indian Ocean purse seine fishery is undergoing assessment against the MSC standard, and is considered not at risk of overfishing by the IOTC.</p> <p>R8</p>		H

5. REFERENCES

R1 – FAO country fisheries overview, Thailand: ftp://ftp.fao.org/Fi/DOCUMENT/fcp/en/FI_CP_TH.pdf

R2 – Thailand Department of Fisheries master plan:
<http://www.fisheries.go.th/planning/files/Marine%20Master%20Plan.pdf>

R3 – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: <http://www.wcpfc.int/>

R4 – Indian Ocean Tuna Commission: <http://www.iotc.org/about-iotc/structure-commission>

R5 – IOTC bigeye tuna stock assessment, 2013:
http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/science/species_summaries/Bigeye%20tuna%20%5BE%5D.pdf

R6 – WCPFC bigeye tuna conservation and management measures:
<https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/CMM%202013-01%20CMM%20for%20bigeye%20yellowfin%20%26%20skipjac%20tuna.pdf>

R7 – WCPFC tuna fishery yearbook, 2012: http://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/WCPFC_YB_2012_0.pdf

R8 - IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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