

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
LOCATION:	Atlantic
DATE OF REPORT:	January 2017
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
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Key Contact: Frank Trearty	Title:	
Certification Body Details		
Name of Certification Body:	SAI Global (Ireland)	
Assessor Name	Peer Reviewer	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification
Deirdre Hoare	Sam Dignan	Surveillance Yr 2
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product surveillance year 2016
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		UK & Ireland
4. Fishery Method		
		Longline
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Maintain approval

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT
3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION
<p>There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, which is applied specifically to the albacore stocks in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment, although significant improvements could be made to increase the level of certainty in management decisions. The assessment team recommends the approval of this by-product material against the IFFO RS standard.</p>

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.
<i>Determination: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the international, EU, and national levels, and these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment.</i>	
<p>Fishery management framework:</p> <p>As albacore tuna is a widely-distributed and highly migratory species found in both national and international waters, its management is coordinated by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The ICCAT currently has 50 contracting members, including the UK and Ireland (through the EU). ICCAT coordinates fishery science and management efforts for a number of Atlantic tunas including albacore. More broadly, fisheries management in the UK & Ireland is informed by the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). In force since 1983, the CFP aims to reconcile resource conservation with the preservation of income and jobs in coastal zones that offer few alternatives in terms of production or employment. It therefore covers not just resources but also markets and structures.</p> <p>The CFP has undergone a series of updates, including the most recent reform which was implemented from 1st January 2014. The principal aim of the new CFP is to achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for all stocks by 2015 where possible, and at the latest by 2020. The 2014 reform also details the gradual roll-out of a landing obligation (prohibiting discards), which began in selected fisheries in 2015 and will eventually encompass all commercial fisheries from 2019. Finally, the 2014 reform increases the role and importance of management at the regional level, and encourages more intensive stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The primary authorities with responsibility for implementing the CFP are the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Ireland, the Marine Management Organisation (in cooperation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) in England and Wales, and Marine Scotland, a Directorate of the Scottish Government, in Scotland.</p> <p>Species-specific management:</p> <p>Albacore in the Atlantic are considered by ICCAT to be two separate stocks, a southern and a northern stock. Both stocks are subject to an annual quota, which is 28,000t for the northern stock (2014-2016) and 24,000t for the southern stock (2014-2016). Additionally, there is a third stock, in the Mediterranean, which does not appear to be subject to a quota but which is included in the ICCAT stock assessment and management process.</p> <p>For the northern stock, a 1998 ICCAT recommendation restricts the total fishing capacity of the fleet to the 1993-1995 average.</p> <p>R2 – R7, R9</p>	
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.
Determination: Research to support the management of the stocks exists, but there is considerable uncertainty which could be improved by better data collection and fishery-independent surveys.	
<p>ICCAT is supported by a range of scientific activities carried out by contracting states, culminating in biennial stock assessment meetings and stock assessment reports. The most recent meeting for albacore tuna was held in May 2016. Reference points have been calculated for the northern and southern stocks, including SSBMSY, BMSY, FMSY and Flim. Assessments are based primarily on catch and CPUE data. The ICCAT report states that there is substantial uncertainty on current stock status in both fisheries. During the 2016 stock assessment meeting some new information on biology was made available to the group. However, the biological parameters for both stocks remain the same as in previous assessment.</p> <p>The Mediterranean stock is even less well-understood, with the first stock assessment only being conducted in 2011 and the limited available data meaning it is categorised as a 'data poor' fishery.</p>	
R7, R8	

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: Albacore tuna has been categorised by the IUCN as 'least concern' in the European and Mediterranean regional assessments, and therefore a high compliance rating is appropriate.	
<p>The IUCN has categorised <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> as 'least concern' in its Europe and Mediterranean regional assessments.</p>	
R10	

5. REFERENCES

- R1. Image of *Thunnus alalunga* by Ernst Holfinger:
<http://fishbase.org/photos/PicturesSummary.php?StartRow=5&ID=142&what=species&TotRec=10>
- R2. About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm
- R3. CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm
- R4. CFP – Discarding and the Landing Obligation:
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm
- R5. Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fisheries Department:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries>
- R6. Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>
- R7. ICCAT: <https://www.iccat.int/en/>
- R8. ICCAT 2016 albacore tuna stock assessment meeting report:
https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2016_ALB_REPORT_ENG.pdf

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- R9.** ICCAT albacore tuna TACs, 2014-2016:
 - a. Northern stock: <https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2013-05-e.pdf>
 - b. Southern stock: <https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2013-06-e.pdf>
- R10.** IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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