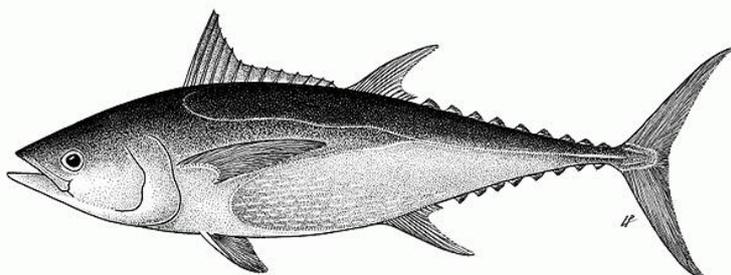


FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

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

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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: | SAI Global Ireland | |
| Assessor Name | Peer Reviewer | Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification |
| Virginia Polonio | Deirdre Hoare | 2 nd Surveillance |
| 1. Scope of Assessment | | |
| | | By-Product surveillance |
| 2. Fishery By-Product | | |
| | | Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) |
| 3. Fishery By-Product Location | | |
| | | Thailand |
| 4. Fishery Method | | |
| | | Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll |
| 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. The species is considered data deficient, research is carried out in the Indian Ocean however, more information from the Pacific Ocean is needed to evaluate the stock status. It appears not to have enough measures in place to restrict total catches of longtail tuna. However, as the species is not classified by the IUCN as vulnerable or endangered and the stock is considered to be not overfished, but subject to overfishing, the assessment team recommends the approval of this byproduct. The team also recommends that the catch levels should be stabilised or reduced in future to prevent the stocks becoming overfished.

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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. |
| <p><i>Determination: Administrative and legal frameworks are in place at the national and international levels. Although the relevant tuna RFMOs do include resolutions specifically covering albacore tuna, on balance the nature of these resolutions may not be sufficient to restrict fishing effort and ensure the effective management of the stock.</i></p> <p>National</p> <p>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:</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. – 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. <p>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”.</p> <p>International</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Species-Specific</p> | |

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The IOTC has implemented a number of conservation and management measures specific to the longtail tuna. However, these are primarily focussed on the gathering of information and do not appear to work with the recommendations that the Scientific committee has been doing in the last stock assessment. There is no TAC and the % of catches is above the limit recommended for the period of time between 2010-2014. WCPFC does not appear to have enacted species specific management measures for longtail tuna.
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 exists, however research programmes could be significantly improved to decrease scientific advice uncertainty. The management plan is not working to keep the stock status below MSY.

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, the summary of its results are shown in the table below. The total catch in 2014 in the Indian Ocean was 147,587t (Where MSY is estimated to be 122,000t).

The management advice shows that there is a continued high to very high risk of exceeding MSY-based reference points by 2016, even if catches are reduced to 90% of the current (2013) levels (100% risk that B2016FMSY) or are reduced to 70% of the current levels (76% probability BFMSY). If the Commission wishes to recover the stock to levels above the MSY reference points, the Scientific Committee recommends catches should be reduced by 30% of current levels which corresponds to catches slightly below to MSY in order to recover the status of the stock in conformity with the decision framework described in Resolution 15/10.

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| Area ¹ | Indicators | 2015 stock status determination |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Indian Ocean | Catch ² 2014: 147,587 t Average catch ² 2010–2014: 158,393 t | 25%* |
| | MSY (1,000 t) (80% CI): 122 (106–173) F _{MSY} (80% CI): 0.55 (0.48–0.78) B _{MSY} (1,000 t) (80% CI): 221 (189–323) F ₂₀₁₃ /F _{MSY} (80% CI): 1.43 (0.58–3.12) B ₂₀₁₃ /B _{MSY} (80% CI): 1.01 (0.53–1.71) B ₂₀₁₃ /B ₁₉₅₀ (80% CI): 0.41 (n.a.) | |

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.

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| 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 does not come from a species which is categorised by the IUCN as vulnerable or endangered, however there is evidence to suggest that it is at risk of over-exploitation.

The longtail tuna is considered by IUCN as data deficient species and there are no known conservation measures for this species. More research is needed to determine the impact of fisheries on this species population, including better catch and effort information. However, the byproduct is not coming from a species considered as vulnerable or endangered. The stock is considered to be not overfished, but subject to overfishing, therefore catch levels should be stabilised or reduced in future to prevent the stocks becoming overfished.

R8

5. REFERENCES

- R1 – Longtail tuna drawing <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/2495/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:

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<http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc>

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/170351/0>

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