

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY By-Product:	Yellowfin Tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
LOCATION:	Ecuador (FAO 77/87)
DATE OF REPORT:	September 2016
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

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1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME		
Name:		
Address:		
Country: Ecuador	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
Deirdre Hoare	Sam Dignan	Initial
1. Scope of Assessment		
		By-Product initial year 2016
2. Fishery By-Product		
		Yellowfin Tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
3. Fishery By-Product Location		
		Ecuador (FAO 77/87)
4. Fishery Method		
		Purse seine, longline
5. Outcome of Assessment		
		Approve byproduct

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Effective fishery management and research frameworks are established at the national and international levels. Due in part to the presence of international RFMOs focused on the management of tuna in general and Yellowfin specifically, the assessment team recommends approving the byproduct with a medium compliance rating.

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.

Fishery management framework:

The government body with responsibility for fisheries management in Ecuador is The National Fisheries Institute (Instituto Nacional de Pesca de Ecuador INP). The primary legal instrument is the Fisheries and Fisheries Development Law (Ley de pesca y desarrollo pesquero 1974) which has been revised in 1985 (Law reforming the Fisheries and Fisheries Development Law, *Ley Reformatoria de la Ley de Pesca y Desarrollo Pesquero*), in order to include aquaculture among the activities it regulates. The law covers capture, aquaculture, processing and trade.

The National Council for Fisheries Development (*Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Pesquero*), which is a government body attached to the Ministry of Foreign Commerce, Industrialization, Fisheries and Competitiveness (*Ministerio de Comercio Exterior, Industrialización, Pesca y Competitividad*), is responsible for the development of the national fisheries policy, the approval of the fisheries development plans and programmes, and the yearly assessment of the results in order to allow authorities to make necessary changes. The council also determines which aquatic species can be exploited according to the technical reports of the National Institute for Fisheries (*Instituto Nacional de Pesca*), and issues the reports required by the Law and its Regulations.

The Ministry of Foreign Commerce, Industrialization, Fisheries and Competitiveness is in charge of the supervision and implementation of the national fisheries policy, via the Under Secretariat for Fishery Resources (*Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros*). The Under Secretariat for Fishery Resources fulfils the following functions: it ensures compliance with the laws and regulations concerning fisheries; drafts the fisheries development plans and programmes and submits them to the National Council for Fisheries Development for approval; supervises the activities to be performed by the fisheries public sector and coordinates its relations with the private sector; manages the fisheries financial credit and supervises its use; and approves the reports and plans submitted by the companies working in the fisheries sector.

Lastly, the Directorate General for Fisheries (*Dirección General de Pesca*) is the specialized body of the Ministry responsible for the control and supervision of fisheries, hunting and harvesting of aquatic resources, the implementation of the fisheries programmes adopted by the Government, and the control of the industry and the trade of fish products.

Species-specific management:

As a highly-migratory species, effective management of yellowfin tuna stocks is necessarily international. Ecuadorian tuna fisheries are conducted in the Pacific, and as such fall under the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Ecuador is a member of this Commission, and the resolutions of this commission form the basis for yellowfin tuna management within Ecuadorian waters.

IATTC currently uses an interim limit reference point for yellowfin tuna but target reference points and harvest control rules are not used. Management measures specific to the purse seine fisheries include a mandatory

closure for 62 days in 2014, 2015 and 2016 during one of two predefined time periods. If a fisheries observer is onboard from the On-Board Observer Program of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), the vessels (182-272 metric tons carrying capacity) can make one 30 day trip during the specified closures dates. An additional time/area closure off the coast of Central and South America for purse seine vessels is also in place. Discarding bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna is prohibited. Purse seine vessels are also prohibited from setting on data buoys. There are no management measures specific to the longline fishery for yellowfin tuna.

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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 organisations conduct and publish regular stock assessments for yellowfin tuna in the relevant geographical regions, and these assessments are used to inform management of the stocks.

Scientific research and advice in support of the management of Ecuadorian fisheries is provided by the National Fisheries Institute (INP). The mission of the INP is ‘Providing services and advice to the fisheries-aquaculture sector through research and scientific-technical assessment of aquatic resources and ecosystems for sustainable management and for quality assurance and safety of fishery and aquaculture products in all phases of production’. This includes the development of stock-specific management plans and the planning and conducting of research in support of these functions. In addition to the INP, the national fisheries research of other signatories to the IATTC is collated and utilised in the management of the international yellowfin fishery. The IATTC produces regular fishery status reports, the most recent of which was published in 2016. An integrated statistical age-structured stock assessment was used in the assessment, which produced estimates of stock size and MSY, amongst a range of other summary data.

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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 not considered to be vulnerable or threatened.

Yellowfin tuna has been categorised by the IUCN as “near threatened”.

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5. REFERENCES

R1 – Yellowfin tuna image

<http://fishbase.org/summary/speciessummary.php?genusname=Thunnus&speciesname=albacares>

R2- FAO fisheries and aquaculture country page, Ecuador:

http://www.fao.org/fishery/legalframework/nalo_ecuador/en

R3- Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca <http://www.institutopesca.gob.ec/valores-mision-vision/>

R4- IATTC fishery status report, 2016:

<http://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/FisheryStatusReports/FisheryStatusReport14.pdf>

R5 – IUCN red list: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>