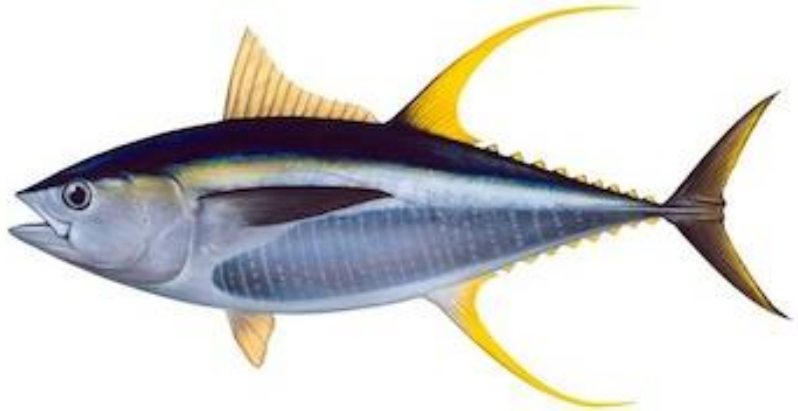
FISHERY ASSESSMENT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



R1

FISHERY:	**Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)**
LOCATION:	**Mauritius/FAO Area 51 (Western Indian Ocean)**
DATE OF REPORT:	**November 2016**
ASSESSOR:	**Sam Dignan**

1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Name:			
Address:			
Country: Mauritius		**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	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-assessment
Sam Dignan	Deirdre Hoare	1	Re-assessment

Scope Details	
1. Scope of Assessment	By-product re-assessment – IFFO Global Standard for Responsible Supply (Issue 1)
2. Fishery	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
3. Fishery Location	Mauritius/FAO Area 51 (Western Indian Ocean)
4. Fishery Method	Longline
5. Outcome of Assessment	Approve by-product

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean are managed primarily by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, which votes on international management measures based on a scientific understanding of the stock. The latest assessment of the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock found the stock to be both overfished and subject to overfishing. The IUCN has rated the species as 'Near Threatened'. The assessment team recommend the approval of this byproduct material.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
A. 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.	
LOW	An administrative framework that ensures the efficient management of the fishery is not established.
MEDIUM	An administrative framework that ensures the efficient management of the fishery is somewhat established, but there is evidence of it not being efficient to ensure the conservation of the stock.
HIGH	A legal and administrative framework that ensures the efficient management of the fishery is established and works efficiently.

Determination: International and national fisheries management frameworks are in place and are applied to yellowfin tuna. However, not all management measures are species-specific, and there are no quota or other over-arching effort restrictions in place; therefore a medium compliance rating is appropriate.

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As a highly migratory species, Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna are fished by a large number of nations throughout the Indian Ocean, and landed in many countries. The main organisation responsible for the coordination of the international management of the stock is the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). For the purposes of this assessment, the legal and administrative framework in Mauritius is also relevant as this is the country in which the fish from which the fishery by-product are sourced is landed. Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna are considered to be a single stock for assessment purposes, distributed throughout the Indian Ocean.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is an intergovernmental organization established under Article XIV of the FAO constitution. It is mandated to manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. The objective of the Commission is to promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of stocks covered by this Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks. 16 species fall under the Commission's management mandate, including yellowfin tuna. The IOTC has 32 Commission Contracting Parties (Members) and 4 Commission Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. Mauritius is a full Member.

Yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean are currently subject to a number of conservation and management measures adopted by the IOTC, although not all are species specific, including:

- Resolution 10/02 mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-contracting Parties (CPC's);
- Resolution 12/03 on the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence;
- Resolution 12/11 on the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.
- Recommendation 10/13 On the implementation of a ban on discards of skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, and non-targeted species caught by purse seiners
- Resolution 12/13 for the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence.
- Resolution 16/01 on an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock

Mauritius

Fisheries in Mauritius fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries. The overriding principle in government strategy for fisheries is managing capture fisheries within sustainable limits while ensuring continuous and even supply of fish and fishery products for the local market. The Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 1998 (FMRA) provides the necessary legal framework for fisheries and marine living resources management.

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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 conservation and management of the stock does not exist	
MEDIUM	Research to support the conservation and 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 for the provision of scientific advice are considered adequate	
Determination: Management of yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean continues to be supported by species specific data collection and stock assessment.		**H**

The functions and responsibilities of the IOTC include:

- to keep under review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information, catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation and management of the stocks and to fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Commission;
- to encourage, recommend, and coordinate research and development activities in respect of the stocks and fisheries covered by the Commission.

The annual Scientific Committee report, which details the proceedings of the IOTC Scientific Committee meetings, includes sections summarising the scientific understanding of each species under the Commission's mandate.

Total yellowfin catches in 2014 were estimated to be 430,327 t. The latest assessment of the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock found that the stock was both overfished and subject to overfishing. A Resolution (Resolution 16/01) has been adopted aimed at rebuilding the yellowfin tuna stock. The Resolution aims to achieve this by reducing catches by 20% from 2014 levels to recover the stocks to levels above the interim target reference points with 50% probability by 2024.

R2 – 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 IUCN have rated yellowfin tuna as 'Near Threatened'.		**M**

The IUCN have rated yellowfin tuna as 'Near Threatened'. The latest assessment of Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna found that the stock was overfished and subject to overfishing. A Resolution (Resolution 16/01) has been adopted aimed at rebuilding the yellowfin tuna stock to target levels.

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5. REFERENCES

R1 – Image of yellowfin tuna: http://iotc.org/science/wp/working-party-tropical-tunas-wptt

R2 – IOTC website – "About IOTC": http://iotc.org/about-iotc

R3 – IOTC website – "Structure of the Commission": http://iotc.org/about-iotc/structure-commission

R4 – Report of the 17th Session of the IOTC Working Party on Temperate Tunas, 2015: http://iotc.org/documents/report-17th-session-iotc-working-party-tropical-tunas

R5 – FAO Country Fisheries Profile, Mauritius (2006): http://www.fao.org/fi/oldsite/FCP/en/MUS/profile.htm

R6 – Status summary for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries: http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc#key_table

R7 – Resolution 16/01 on an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock: http://iotc.org/documents/resolution-1601-interim-plan-rebuilding-indian-ocean-yellowfin-tuna-stock

R8 – IUCN Red List: http://www.iucnredlist.org/search