FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL


R1

FISHERY By-Product:	**Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)**
LOCATION:	**UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j**
DATE OF REPORT:	**February 2017**
ASSESSOR:	**Deirdre Hoare**

1. APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME			
Name:			
Address:			
Country: UK & Ireland		**Zip:**	
Tel. No.		**Fax. No.**	
Email address:		**Applicant Code**	
Key Contact:		**Title:**	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor Name	**Peer Reviewer**	**Initial/Surveillance/ Re-certification**	
Deirdre Hoare	Virginia Polonio	Re-certification	

1. Scope of Assessment	IFFO RS By-Product surveillance year 2016
2. Fishery By-Product	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
3. Fishery By-Product Location	UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
4. Fishery Method	Purse seine, longline
5. Outcome of Assessment	Approve byproduct

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

There is a robust fishery management framework at the EU and UK & Ireland levels, but it is unclear to what extent this is applied to specifically to the yellowfin tuna stock in the assessment area. Management is supported by species-specific data collection and stock assessment. The assessment team recommends maintaining the approval of this byproduct material against the IFFO RS standard.

4. RATIONALE OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

A. THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
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 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.

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Determination: There are effective fishery management frameworks in place at the EU and national levels, but it is unclear to what extent these frameworks are applied specifically to the byproduct stock under assessment.

Fishery management framework:

The UK & Ireland are members of the European Union and therefore in Community waters implement the 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.

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.

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.

Species-specific management:

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), to which the EU is a signatory, is responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species (including yellowfin tuna) in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. ICCAT has advised a 15 year recovery plan which the EU have taken steps to implement. ICCAT also provides periodical stock assessments and management advice, the most recent Stock Assessment meeting was held in Spain in July 2016. Management recommendations from this are yet to be published.

R2 – R9

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 continues to be conducted in support of yellowfin fishery management, however as the 2016 report has yet to be published a medium compliance rating is appropriate. Fisheries management in EU waters is supported by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). ICES utilises the best available scientific information collected by 20 member countries and others, and develops advice for the majority of commercially fished stocks in European waters. A new stock assessment was conducted in 2016. The full stock assessment conducted for yellowfin tuna was in 2016 by ICCAT, applying both an age-structured model and a non-equilibrium production model to the available catch data. According to this report, management recommendations were to be developed and presented to the species group meeting in September 2016. Adopted recommendations will be included in the Yellowfin Tuna Executive Summary. This report has yet to be published. The last stock assessment was carried out in 2011 and in 2015 the catch table was updated to include catches through 2014. The Atlantic yellowfin tuna stock was estimated to be overfished in 2010. Continuation of catch levels in the order of 110,000 t was expected to lead to a biomass somewhat above B_{MSY} by 2016 with a 60% probability. These projections were not updated in the 2015 report; however, the overall catches in 2012-2014 were lower than 110,000 t. R8 - R9	H

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: Yellowfin tuna is categorised by the IUCN as 'near threatened', and therefore a high compliance rating is still appropriate. *Thunnus albacares* is categorised as 'near threatened' on the IUCN red list, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. This species is fast-growing, widely distributed and highly productive. It is important in commercial fisheries around the world. All stocks are being fished below current maximum sustainable yield (MSY). Based on weighted declines of biomass or spawning stock biomass (SSB) across all stocks, there has been an estimated 33% decline globally over the past 10 years (1998–2008), or three generation lengths. This species is listed as Near Threatened, primarily as population declines would be much greater if it were not for the catch quotas that have been implemented. R10 - R11	H

5. REFERENCES

R1 – Image of *Thunnus albacares* by Randall, J.E, http://www.fishbase.se/photos/PicturesSummary.php?StartRow=2&ID=143&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 Management Organisation (About): https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation

R7 - Marine Scotland (About): http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About

R8 – ICCAT yellowfin tuna stock assessment, 2016: https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2016_YFT_ASSESSMENT_ENG.pdf

R9- ICCAT yellowfin tuna report 2014-2015 https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/YFT_ENG.pdf

R10 – IUCN redlist: http://www.iucnredlist.org/

R11 – CITES appendices: http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php