

FISHERY BY-PRODUCT REPORT

IFFO GLOBAL STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY OF FISHMEAL AND FISH OIL



FISHERY By-Product:	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
LOCATION:	UK & Ireland-Ices Area IVa-c, VI a, VIIa,b,d-h,j2
DATE OF REPORT:	February 2016
ASSESSOR:	Deirdre Hoare

Global Trust Certification Ltd, 3rd Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland Tel: 042 932 0912 Fax 042 938 6864

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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		Surveillance	
1. Scope of Assessment			
		IFFO RS By-Product surveillance year 2015	
2. Fishery By-Product			
		Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	
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			
		Maintain byproduct approval	

2. GUIDANCE FOR ONSITE ASSESSMENT

3. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

As at the time of the 2015 surveillance, 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		
<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: 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.</i></p> <p>Fishery management framework:</p> <p>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.</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>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 of which was produced in 2011, and the next assessment is due in 2016. As Yellowfin doesn't occur in EU waters, it is not subject to an EU TAC.</p> <p>R1 – R8</p>		M
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.	

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Determination: Research continues to be conducted in support of yellowfin fishery management.

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.

No new stock assessment has been conducted since the 2014 re-assessment. The last full stock assessment conducted for yellowfin tuna was in 2011 by ICCAT, applying both an age-structured model and a non-equilibrium production model to the available catch data through 2010. In summary, 2010 catches were estimated to be well below MSY levels, stock biomass is estimated to most likely be about 15% below the Convention Objective and fishing mortality rates most likely about 13% below FMSY. The recent trends through 2010 were uncertain, with the age-structured models indicating increasing fishing mortality rates and decline in stock levels over the last several years, and the production models indicating the opposite trends.

The next stock assessment is now scheduled for 2016.

R7

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C. STOCK STATUS	
LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	
<i>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.</i>	
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 remains categorised by the IUCN ‘near threatened’, and therefore a high compliance rating is still appropriate.	
<i>Thunnus albacares</i> remains categorised as ‘near threatened’ on the IUCN red list, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices.	
R8, R9	

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5. REFERENCES

- R1 – About the Common Fisheries Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/index_en.htm
- R2 – CFP – Managing fish stocks: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/index_en.htm
- R3 – CFP – Discarding and the Landing Obligation: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/discards/index_en.htm
- R4 – Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Fisheries Department: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/>

R5 – Marine Management Organisation (About): <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation>

R6 - Marine Scotland (About): <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/About>

R7 – ICCAT yellowfin tuna stock assessment, 2011:
http://www.iccat.es/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2011_YFT_ASSESS_REP.pdf

R8 – IUCN redlist: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

R9 – CITES appendices: <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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