MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean waters bluefin tuna

MarinTrust Programme
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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*
	Geographical area:	FAO Major Fishing Area 27 Northeast Atlantic and 37 Mediterranean waters
	Country of origin of the product:	Spain (Flag country)
	Stock:	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean waters Bluefin Tuna
Date	May 2022	
Report Code	ESP04	
Assessor	Vito Romito	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Spain (Flag country)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): HIJOS DE EMILIO RAMIREZ, S.A.			
Country: Spain			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Vito Romito	Ivan Mateo	0.5	Initial
Assessment Period	To May 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*
Stock	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean waters Bluefin Tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Major Fishing Area 27 Northeast Atlantic and 37 Mediterranean waters
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and Contracting (State) Parties
Gear Type(s)	All gear types used
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with asessor's determination
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Bluefin tuna is neither listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor listed in CITES appendices; therefore, it is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material. Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (known as eastern bluefin tuna) is managed by ICCAT, an intergovernmental fishery organisation established in 1966. Following the scientific committee's warnings on a possible stock collapse and increasing public concern, ICCAT adopted in 2006 a bluefin tuna recovery plan for 2007-2022 (Recommendation 06-05). It introduced restrictive measures, such as shortening the fishing season and protecting juvenile fish by increasing the minimum fishing size. The recovery plan was gradually reinforced in the following years. In particular, ICCAT agreed on a significant decrease in the TACs, which after 2010 reached the level of the scientific advice. Subsequent stock assessments in 2012-2014 displayed positive trends, and perception of the state of the bluefin tuna stock greatly improved. In 2014, following scientific advice, ICCAT endorsed a 20 % annual TAC increase for the next three years. In 2017, the scientific committee recommended a progressive increase of the TAC up to 36 000 tonnes in 2020. It also showed that the state of the stock no longer appears to require the emergency measures of the recovery plan. Accordingly, in 2018 ICCAT moved from the recovery plan to a management plan (Recommendation 18-02), which entered into force in June 2019. Subsequently, ICCAT amended the management plan in November 2019 (Recommendation 19-04). The 2017 and 2020 Bluefin tuna assessment results have been derived from a Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) (ICCAT, 2020). The stock is assessed as Category C. The 2020 updated stock assessment has included the indices used for the 2017 stock assessment (seven CPUE series and three fisheries independent indices) which were updated up to 2018. The 2017 assessment estimated BMSY to be around 270,000 tonnes (refer to figure 53 of that report). Although the 2020 updated stock assessment made no reference to BMSY or other biomass based reference points, SSB is projected to be higher than 750,000 tonnes and hence the stock is highly likely to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). Furthermore given the large biomass increase and the low fishing mortality it is highly likely that the stock is not reproductively impaired (i.e. below limit reference point). The fishery passes Clause C1.1. and C1.2. Hence, this stock is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 Standard for by-products.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean waters Bluefin Tuna as category C, the stock is managed, and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against. Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass well above the limit reference point. Therefore, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean waters Bluefin Tuna fishery passes both C1.1 and C1.2 and therefore the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean waters Bluefin Tuna is approved
Notes for On-site Auditor
None.

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as an MarinTrust raw material.

IUCN Red list Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category[1]	CITES Appendix 1[2]
Bluefin tuna	*Thunnus thynnus*	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean waters Bluefin Tuna	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and Contracting (State) Parties	C	LC (Global)	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

Clause C1 should be completed for each Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name	**Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean waters Bluefin Tuna**	
C1	**Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements**	
C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	Pass
C1.2	The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	Pass
	Clause outcome:	Pass

C1.1 Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process.

The 2017 and 2020 Bluefin tuna assessment results have been derived from a Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) (ICCAT, 2020). The 2020 updated stock assessment has included the indices used for the 2017 stock assessment (seven CPUE series and three fisheries independent indices) which were updated up to 2018, with the exception of the larval index which was updated to 2017. The ICCAT Committee anticipates that additional indices could be used for tracking the abundance of the stock (e.g. GBYP aerial survey). CPUE indices have been affected appreciably by regulatory measures through changes to operational patterns, length of the fishing season and target sizes; thus it is difficult to distinguish the effect of these changes on CPUE index values from the effects of changes in abundance. **C1.1. is met.**

C1.2 The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy).

The current perception of the stock status depends on recruitment estimates which are highly unstable and is also closely related to the assumptions made about stock structure and migratory behaviour, which remain poorly known. Nonetheless, compared to 2017, the extra data now available confirm a recent stock biomass increase, although the magnitude of the increase remains difficult to quantify. FCUR appears to be clearly below F0.1 (FCUR[2015-2017]/F0.1= 0.426), indicating a stock status determination of not overfishing. The 2017 assessment estimated BMSY to be around 270,000 tonnes (refer to figure 53 of that report). Although the 2020 updated stock assessment made no reference to the BMSY or other biomass-based reference point, SSB is projected to be higher than 750,000 tonnes and hence the stock is highly likely to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). Furthermore given the large biomass increase and the low fishing mortality it is highly likely that the stock is not reproductively impaired (i.e. below limit reference point).

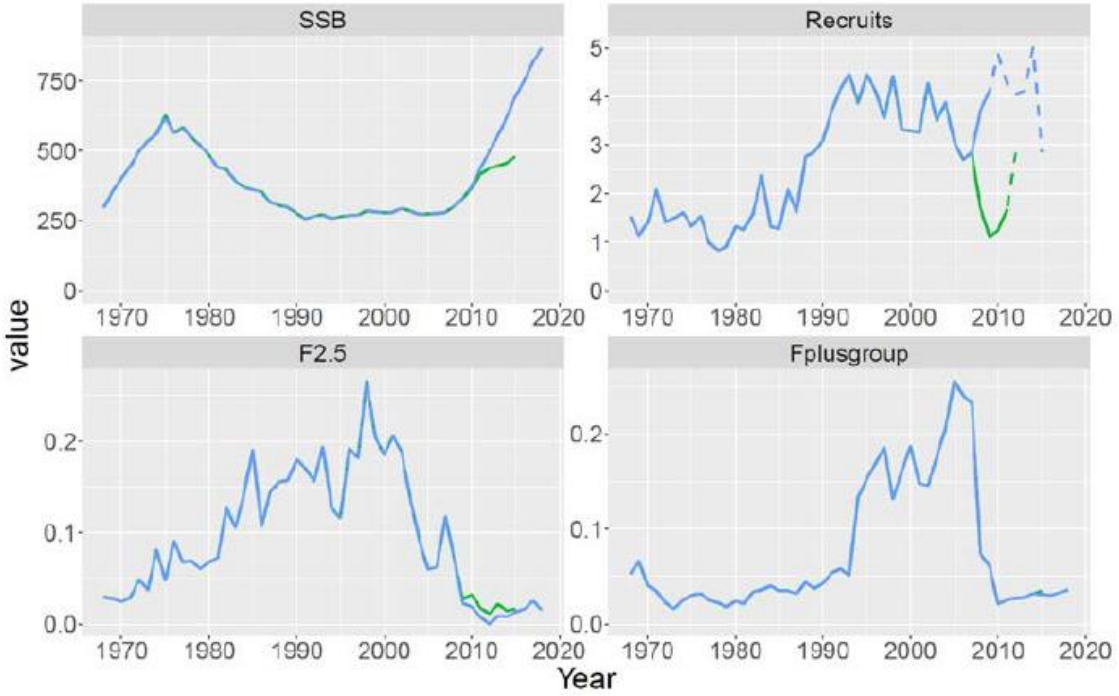

Figure 1. East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna spawning stock biomass (in thousand metric ton), recruitment (in million), and fishing mortality (average over ages 2 to 5, and 10+) estimates from VPA base run in the 2020 stock assessment (blue) compared to the 2017 stock assessment (green) for the period between 1968 and 2015. The last years recruitments (dashed line: 2012-2013 for the 2017 stock assessment, and 2010-2015 for the 2020 stock assessment) were poorly estimated.

C1.2. is met.

References

CITES. 2022. Cites Appendix 1. https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php

Collette, B.B., Boustany, A., Fox, W., Graves, J., Juan Jorda, M. & Restrepo, V. 2021. Thunnus thynnus. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2021: e.T21860A46913402. https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2021-2.RLTS.T21860A46913402.en. Accessed on 18 May 2022.

EU. 2022. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA. European Parliament https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-fisheries-pech/file-management-plan-for-atlantic-bluefin-tuna#:~:text=Like%20all%20tunas%20in%20the,tuna%20since%20the%20early%201990s.

ICCAT. 2020. 2020 Advice to the Commission East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea stock assessment summary. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html#

ICCAT. 2017. Report of the 2017 ICCAT bluefin stock assessment meeting (Madrid, Spain 20-28 July, 2017). International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html#

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01

CATEGORY D SPECIES

Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

D1	Species Name		
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)		
	Average maximum age (years)		
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		
	Average maximum size (cm)		
	Average size at maturity (cm)		
	Reproductive strategy		
	Mean trophic level		
		Average Productivity Score	
	Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Availability (area overlap)		
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)		
	Selectivity of gear type		
	Post-capture mortality		
		Average Susceptibility Score	
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	
		Compliance rating	
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant) *For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision*		
References			
Standard clauses 1.3.2.2			

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	Low productivity/ High risk	Medium productivity/ Medium risk	High productivity/ Low risk
	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Average age at maturity (years)	>4	2 to 4	<2
Average maximum age (years)	>30	10 to 30	<10
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	<1 000	1 000 to 10 000	>10 000
Average maximum size (cm)	>150	60 to 150	<60
Average size at maturity (cm)	>150	30 to 150	<30
Reproductive strategy	Live bearer, mouth brooder or significant parental investment	Demersal spawner "berried"	Broadcast spawner
Mean trophic level	>3.25	2.5–3.25	<2.5

Susceptibility attributes		High susceptibility/ High risk	Medium susceptibility/ Medium risk	Low susceptibility/ Low risk
		Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Availability	1) Overlap of adult species range with fishery	>50% of stock occurs in the area fished	Between 25% and 50% of the stock occurs in the area fished	<25% of stock occurs in the area fished
	2) Distribution	Only in the country/ fishery	Limited range in the region	Throughout region/ global distribution
Encounterability	1) Habitat	Habitat preference of species make it highly likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. demersal, muddy/sandy bottom)	Habitat preference of species make it moderately likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. rocky bottom/reefs)	Depth or distribution of species make it unlikely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. epi-pelagic or meso-pelagic)
	2) Depth range	High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20 to 60 m depth)	Medium overlap with trawl fishing gear (10 to 20 m depth)	Low overlap with trawl fishing gear (0 to 10 m, >70 m depth)
Selectivity		Species >2 times mesh size or up to 4 m length	Species 1 to 2 times mesh size or 4 to 5 m length	Species <mesh size or >5 m length
Post capture mortality		Most dead or retained Trawl tow >3 hours	Alive after net hauled Trawl tow 0.5 to 3 hours	Released alive Trawl tow <0.5 hours

Note: Availability 2 is only used when there is no information for Availability 1; the most conservative score between Encounterability 1 and 2 is used.

D3		Average Susceptibility Score		
		1 - 1.75	1.76 - 2.24	2.25 - 3
Average Productivity Score	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS
	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4

D4	Species Name		
	Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements		
	D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.	
	D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.	
		Outcome:	

Evidence

D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.

D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.

References

Links	
MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2, 4.1.4
FAO CCRF	7.5.1
GSSI	D.5.01