



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment *Yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacares) in FAO 34, 41, 47*

**MarinTrust Programme**

Unit C, Printworks

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**Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO areas 34, 41 and 47
	Country of origin of the product:	Ecuador (flag state(s): Spain)
	Stock:	Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean
Date	8 June 2023. Updated 10 August 2023	
Report Code	ECU15	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Ecuador (flag state(s): Spain)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Negocios Industriales Real Nirsa SA			
Country: Ecuador			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Matthew Jew	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Initial
Assessment Period	Up to June 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )
Stock	Yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean
Fishery Location	FAO areas 34, 41 and 47
Management Authority (Country/ State)	ICCAT
Gear Type(s)	Longline, baitboat, purse seine
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	APPROVED

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>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. Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Thunnus albacares</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Tunas and other highly migratory species are managed by ICCAT in the Atlantic Ocean. There is a single stock of yellowfin tuna and it is assessed relative to a target reference point (<math>B_{MSY}</math>). As the Atlantic Ocean stock of yellowfin tuna is subject to a management regime, it is assessed under category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and it PASSES Clause C1.1. The stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point, it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, yellowfin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean (FAO 34, 41, 47) is <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.0 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified the Atlantic Ocean yellowfin tuna as category C, as the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.</p> <p>Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process, and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass well above the limit reference point: the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore the Atlantic Ocean yellowfin tuna is <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.0 by-products standards.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
N/A

## 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 a 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Atlantic Ocean yellowfin tuna	ICCAT	C	LC	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <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.

<b>Species Name</b>		<b>Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)</b>	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	<b>C1.1</b>	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.	Yes
	<b>C1.2</b>	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.	Yes
<b>Clause outcome:</b>			<b>PASS</b>

**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.**

The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2019 with plans to reassess the stock in 2023. The stock assessment process uses catches in the model and at the time of the assessment, 2018 catches were incomplete and complete data were estimated using the average of the previous three years (ICCAT 2019). In 2013, Atlantic yellowfin tuna catches have declined by nearly half of what was observed in 1990 at its peak (193,584 tonnes). In recent years (2016-2018), catches have increased to an average of 140,143 tonnes.

The stock is assessed using two production models (JABBA and MPB) and one age-structured model (Stock synthesis) using the available catch data through 2018.

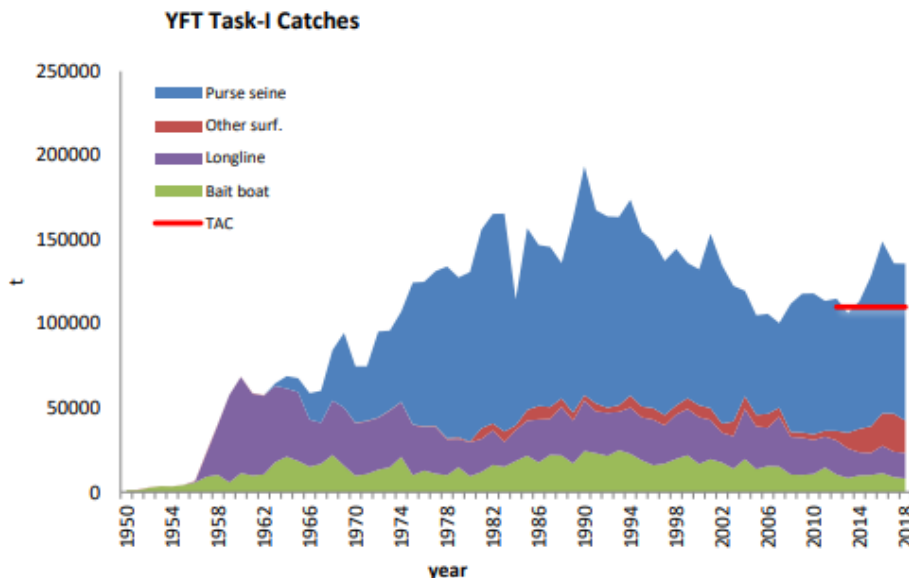


Figure 1. Long-term catches for Atlantic yellowfin tuna catches from 1950 to 2018 (2018 data are incomplete).  
Source: ICCAT 2019

**Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore the stock PASSES clause C1.1.**

**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.**

The 2019 stock assessment states that the Atlantic yellowfin tuna stock does not operate under the establishment of traditional limit reference points. The stock is managed by target reference points ( $B_{MSY}$  and  $F_{MSY}$ ). Current stock status is expressed with relativity to the target reference points ( $B/B_{MSY}$  and  $F/F_{MSY}$ ). The current stock status results from the models can be found in Figure 2.

The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is not overfished nor is it currently subject to overfishing (ICCAT 2019).

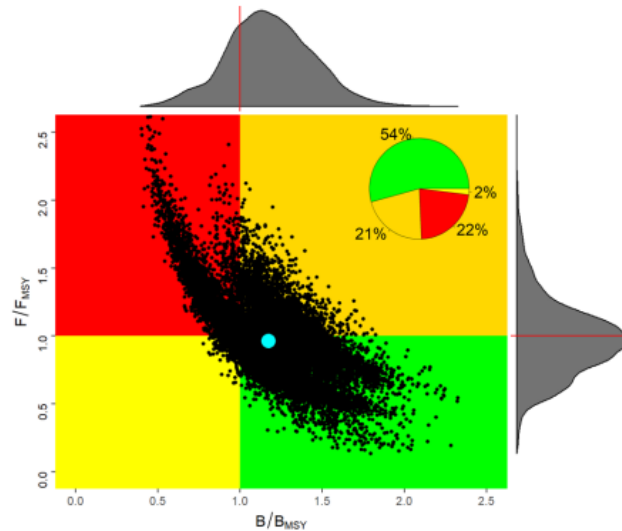


Figure 2. Kobe plot estimated from the combination of Stock Synthesis, JABBA and MPB model runs chosen to develop the management advice.  
Source: ICCAT 2019.

**Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point and it PASSES clause C1.2.**

**References**

ICCAT (2019). Yellowfin tuna Summary report 2019. [https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/YFT\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/YFT_ENG.pdf)

**Links**

<b>MarinTrust Standard clause</b>	1.3.2.2
<b>FAO CCRF</b>	7.5.3
<b>GSSI</b>	D.3.04, D5.01