MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment
THA33 – Yellowfin tuna
(*Thunnus albacares*)
in FAO Areas 61 & 71

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares)*
	Geographical area:	FAO Areas 61, 71
	Country of origin of the product:	Thailand
	Stock:	Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) Yellowfin
Date	April 2024	
Report Code	THA33	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Thailand	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Golden Prize Canning , TCF Co. Ltd, SPA International Food Group Co. Ltd, Chotiwat Manufacturing Public Co. Ltd, Piyo Bhokabhan Co. Ltd, Asian Alliance International Public Company Limited, TC Union Agrotech Co. Ltd, Sirisaengarumpee Co. Ltd, Thai Union			
Country: Thailand			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Re-approval
Assessment Period	April 2024 – April 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares)*
Stock	WCPO Yellowfin
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 61, 71
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine, longline, pole & line, handline
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	APPROVED

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. Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, *Thunnus albacares* is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material. Yellowfin in the central and western Pacific is managed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2023 using all available catch data, meeting C1.1. The stock assessment concluded that stock biomass was above the target reference point level with a high degree of certainty, thus meeting C1.2. Therefore, yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean should be **RE-APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly assessed yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) in FAO 61, 71 (Western central Pacific Ocean) under Category C, the stock being subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined. Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above limit reference point. Therefore, the stock is considered to satisfy C1.1. and C1.2. In conclusion, Western and Central Pacific Ocean yellowfin tuna passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v2.3.
Notes for On-site Auditor

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]
Yellowfin tuna	*Thunnus albacares*	WCPO Yellowfin	Yes	C	Least Concern[3]	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21857/46624561

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		**Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)**	
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, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.

Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) yellowfin tuna is subject to regular stock assessments by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2023 and utilised all available catch data, as summarised in the graph below. 54 models were used to provide a range of potential outcomes based on different key variables, a process which reduces the inherent level of uncertainty.

Catches are presented in the figure below:

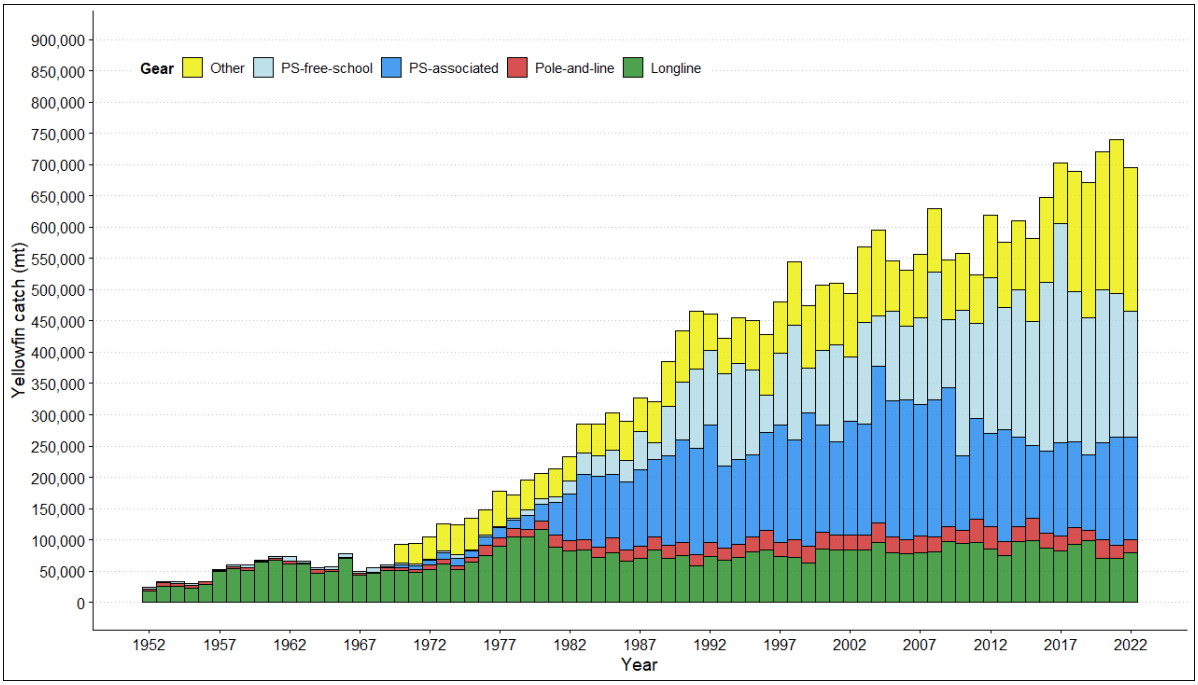

Figure 1. WCPO yellowfin catches, 1952-2022 (WCPFC 2023)

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 2023 stock assessment produced a series of estimates of the current status of the stock relative to the target reference point BMSY. Biomass in 2021 was estimated to be between 1.91 and 3.11 times larger than BMSY with an 80% certainty; none of the model results indicated that biomass was below BMSY. Biomass is estimated by the most recent stock assessment to be above the target reference point with a high degree of certainty, and therefore also above any potential limit reference point (WCPFC 2023).

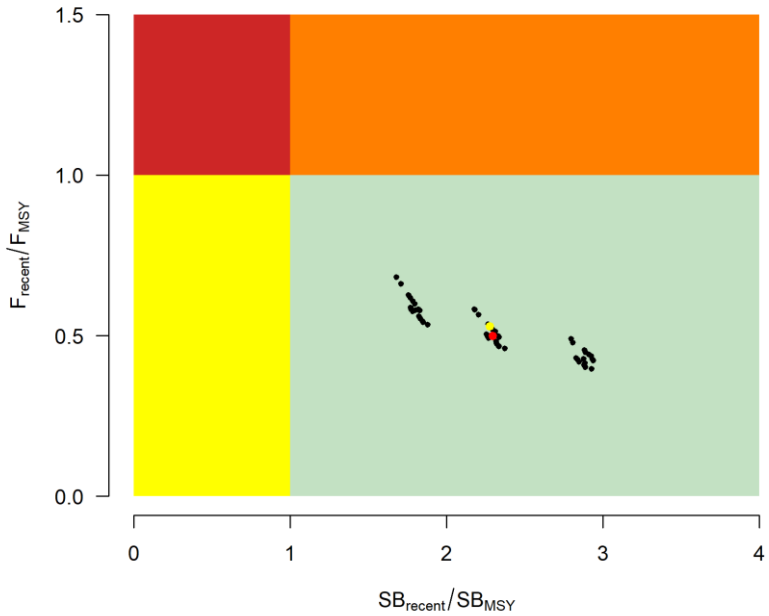

Figure 2. WCPO yellowfin tuna, Kobe plot summarising the results of each of the stock assessment models. The yellow dot is the 2023 diagnostic model and the red dot is the median (WCPFC 2023).

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

References

WCPFC (2023). WCPO Yellowfin Tuna, Stock Status and Management Advice. https://www.wcpfc.int/file/1008665/download?token=wFUhc7q7

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