



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment *Yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacares) in FAO areas 71, 77, & 81*

**MarinTrust Programme**

Unit C, Printworks  
22 Amelia Street  
London  
SE17 3BZ

E: [standards@marin-trust.com](mailto:standards@marin-trust.com)

T: +44 2039 780 819

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Bigeye tuna ( <i>Thunnus obesus</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 71, western central Pacific Ocean FAO 77, eastern central Pacific Ocean FAO 81, western southern Pacific Ocean
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles (flag state(s): Seychelles, South Africa)
	Stock:	Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) bigeye tuna
Date	8 August 2023	
Report Code	USA14	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Seychelles (flag state(s): Seychelles, South Africa)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): The Scoular Company - Indian Ocean Tuna Ltd (ID preserved)			
Country: USA			
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	Ivan Mateo	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	Up to August 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )
Stock	WCPO yellowfin tuna
Fishery Location	FAO areas 71, 77, & 81
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Gear Type(s)	Not provided by client
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's assessment
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>For assessment and management purposes, two discrete stocks of yellowfin tuna are recognized in the Pacific Ocean differentiated by the 150°W:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) yellowfin (west of 150°W), managed via the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).</li> <li>2. Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) yellowfin (east of 150°W), managed by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).</li> </ol> <p>Although the western boundary of FAO area 77 is at 175°W, only one stock may be assessed for each by product report, per MarinTrust guidance. For the purposes of this report, the WCPO yellowfin tuna stock was assessed for fishing efforts occurring in FAO Areas 71, 77, &amp; 87. As the EPO stock is managed by IATTC and reference points are defined, this stock 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, WCPO yellowfin tuna is <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified WCPO yellowfin tuna in 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, WCPO yellowfin tuna passes both C1.1 and C1.2 and therefore WCPO yellowfin tuna is approved</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>Confirm that only yellowfin tuna originating from the WCPO stock are being sourced for the scope of the BP. Only fish harvested from the west of 150°W should be considered and if there are tuna being sourced from the east side of this boundary, a second BP report for the EPO stock is required.</p>

## 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>	WCPO yellowfin tuna	WCPFC	C	LC	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21857/46624561>

<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.

Species Name		Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )	
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.	Yes
	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.	Yes

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 Central Pacific Yellowfin Tuna Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process via Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) processes. The stock was last assessed in 2020 but only data up to 2018 were used. Catches can be seen in the figure below.

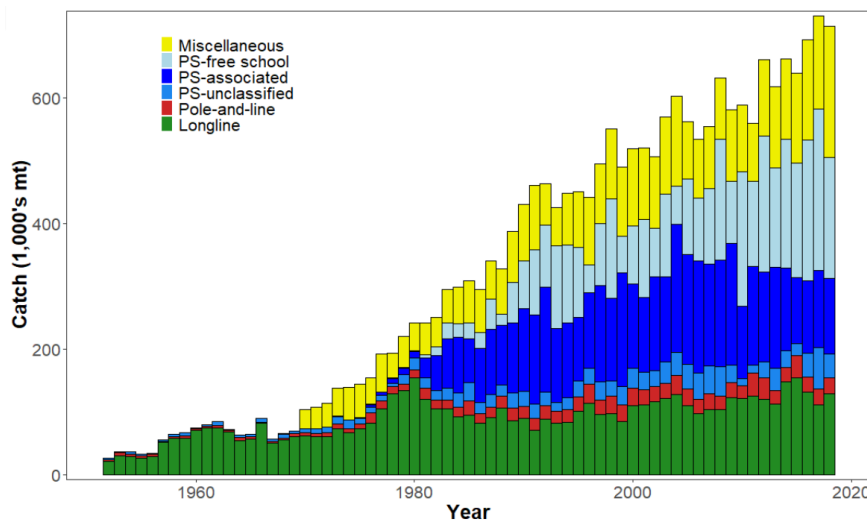


Figure 1. Time series of total annual catch (1000's mt) by fishing gear over the full assessment region and time period. The different colours denote longline (l) (green), pole-and-line (p) (red), purse seine (s) (blue), purse seine-associated (s) (dark blue), purse seine-unassociated (s) (light blue), miscellaneous (yellow).

Source: WCPFC 2020

**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 most recent stock assessment for WCPO yellowfin was carried out in 2020 (Vincent et al. 2020). Estimates of stock status, reference points, and trends in abundance were more optimistic compared to the previous assessment. The terminal depletion

estimated for all models was above the 20%SB<sub>F=0</sub> (which is the LRP adopted for this stock by the WCPFC), with the range of the grid of SB<sub>recent</sub>/SB<sub>F=0</sub> between 0.51 and 0.64.

Stock status was evaluated by estimating SB<sub>recent</sub>/SB<sub>F=0</sub> and SB<sub>latest</sub>/SB<sub>F=0</sub>, where SB<sub>latest</sub> and SB<sub>recent</sub> are the estimated spawning potential in 2018 and the mean over 2015-2018, respectively.

Kobe Plots presented below shows that the status of WCPO Yellowfin Tuna is not being overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

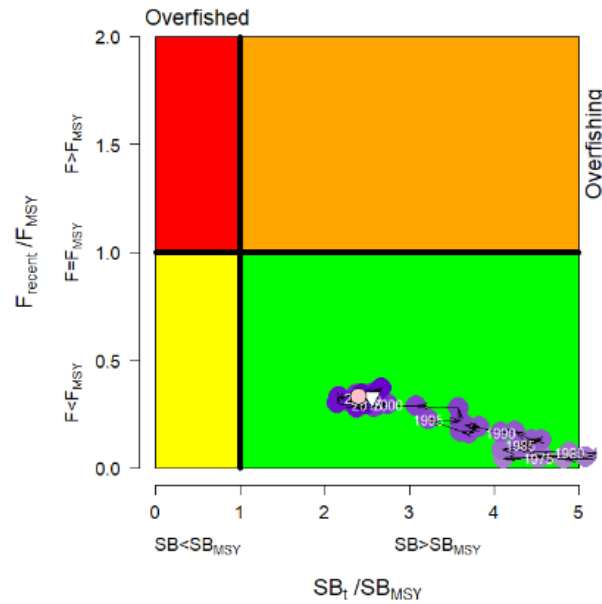


Figure 2. Dynamic Kobe plot for the diagnostic mode. The pink circle is SB<sub>latest</sub>/SB<sub>F=0</sub> and the white triangle is SB<sub>recent</sub>/SB<sub>F=0</sub>. Source: WCPFC 2020

The stock at the start of the assessment period was estimated to be close to an SB/SB<sub>F=0</sub> of one and an F/F<sub>MSY</sub> approaching zero, but it progressively tracked toward the overfishing and overfished definitions over the remaining period. The diagnostic case model never reaches a point close to 20%SB<sub>F=0</sub> or an F/F<sub>MSY</sub> of 1, and the status of the stock improves slightly in recent years.

**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**

Peer review of the 2020 Yellowfin tuna assessment, SPC Noumea, September 2022. WCPFC-SC17-2021-SA-WP-06: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/file/9331/download>

Vincent M, N, Ducharme-Barth, P. Hamer, J. Hampton, P. Williams, G. Pilling 2020 Stock assessment of Yellowfin Tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean WCPFC-SC16-2020/SA-WP-04 (Rev.3): <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/11694>

**Links**

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