

Yellowfin tuna Eastern Pacific Ocean

 Fishery:  Eastern Pacific Ocean  IATTC  Panama  Drifting longlines

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Thunnus albacares

SPECIES NAME(S)

Yellowfin tuna

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Regional fidelity, genetic research suggest there may be multiple populations of yellowfin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean (Minte-Vera et al. 2015).



RELATED LINKS:

- [Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission \(IATTC\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- Interim limit reference points have been defined and F_{MSY} and B_{MSY} are used as an informal reference point and a harvest control rule has been adopted.
- Current tuna management measures were extended and modified at the 2017 IATTC Commission meeting.
- Several measures specific to the purse seine fishery, discarding of tunas is prohibited, and 100% observer coverage is required on large purse seine vessels (>363 t).

Weaknesses

- Fishing mortality rates are above sustainable levels and the biomass is below sustainable levels
- There are no management measures specific to yellowfin tuna caught by the longline fleet.
- There are time/area closures in place for the purse seine fleet but these measures are not sufficient to manage the fish aggregating device (FAD) fishery.
- Fisheries targeting yellowfin tuna can incidentally capture endangered, threatened and protected species such as sea turtles, sea birds and sharks.
- Observer coverage (required) in the longline fishery is low (5%).

Information on the quantities of target species retained and by-catch discarded by this fishery need improvement. Longline observer coverage rates are very low. Percentage of the total longline fleet using circle hooks in Panama's longline fishery within EPO needs to be evaluated for credible assessment of the impact of this fishery on non-target species. Impact of the longline fleet on PET species such as seabirds and sharks needs to be quantified for this fishery. There are no harvest control rules in place, no target reference points and no formally adopted limit reference points. There are no management measures specific to longline caught yellowfin tuna.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 8	≥ 6	≥ 6

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
7	7.5

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Work with IATTC Members and Cooperating Non-Members to:
 - Adopt purse seine set limits during the 2018 Commission meeting.
 - Develop and implement comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies with specific timelines for all tuna stocks, including the adoption and implementation of limit and target reference points, harvest control rules, monitoring strategies, operational objectives, performance indicators, and management strategy evaluation.
 - Strengthen compliance processes and make information on non-compliance public and continue to provide evidence of compliance with all IATTC Conservation and Management Measures in a timely manner.
 - Implement a 100% observer coverage requirement for at-sea transshipment activities, as well as other measures that ensure transshipment activity is transparent and well-managed, and that all required data are collected and transmitted to the appropriate bodies in a timely manner.
 - Increase compliance with the mandatory minimum 5% longline observer coverage rates by identifying and correcting non-compliance.
 - Implement a 100% observer coverage requirement – human and/or electronic – within five years for longline fisheries. Adopt a 100%

observer coverage requirement for purse seine vessels where it is not already required and require the use of the best-available observer safety equipment, communications and procedures.

- Adopt effective measures for the use of non-entangling FAD designs as a precautionary measure to minimize the entanglement of sharks and other non-target species, and support research on biodegradable materials and transition to their use to mitigate marine debris.
- More effectively implement, and ensure compliance with, existing RFMO bycatch requirements and take additional mitigation action, such as improving monitoring at sea, collecting and sharing operational-level, species-specific data, and adopting stronger compliance measures, including consequences for non-compliance for all gear types.