IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Thunnus albacares

SPECIES NAME(S)
Yellowfin tuna

STOCK IDENTIFICATION
An assessment unit is considered to exist in the Indian Ocean by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC, 2014).

RELATED LINKS:
• Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
The stock assessment has been carried out regularly using a range of assessment methods. The IOTC has recently adopted precautionary management, which includes the use of interim target and limit reference points and calls for the use of harvest controls and management strategy evaluation.

Weaknesses
Yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean are overfished and undergoing overfishing. Catches have been over recommended level since 2011. Recent advice calls for a 20% reduction but only a 5-15% reduction (depending on the fleet) has been adopted by the Commission (2016). IUU fishing and piracy has been a major issue in the Indian Ocean and there are compliance issues with regard to the quality of reported data (IOTC 2013b). The Commission has taken recent action to address these issues but the success of these measures is not yet known. A number of bycatch species, including sharks, sea turtles and sea birds are incidentally captured in fisheries targeting yellowfin tuna. Observer coverage rates are low in fisheries targeting yellowfin tuna.

SCORES

Management Quality:

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<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
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Stock Health:

<table>
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<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<td>76</td>
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FIPS
No related FIPs

MSC
No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

CATCHERS & REGULATORS
1. Ensure Indonesia complies with all Indian Ocean Tuna Commission’s (IOTC) conservation and management measures (E3848), including measures aimed at both target and incidental market and non-market species, and all other obligations. Through your delegation to IOTC, encourage the compliance committee to make information-on-compliance by Indonesia publicly available in order to increase the incentive for compliance by all IOTC members and cooperating non-members.
2. Promote the adoption by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) of precautionary and ecosystem-based management measures, including formal biological reference points (interim currently in place), harvest control rules, increased observer coverage for longline fleets, national management measures and monitoring efforts adequate to ensure harvest strategy objectives are being met. Adopt domestic laws and regulations to implement IOTC measures and provide monitoring and surveillance adequate for compliance.
3. Encourage IOTC to adopt management measures that will reduce catches of yellowfin tuna to be a minimum of 80% of current levels (2014). Improve data collection and reporting to ensure complete data sets (i.e. catches, effort, size) are available in order to ensure complete data sets (i.e. catches, effort, size) are available in order to assess tuna and longline interactions with protected, endangered and threatened (PET) and other bycatch species. Identify and mandate best practices bycatch mitigation techniques. Comply with recently implemented IOTC management measures prohibiting the retention of oceanic white-tip and thresher sharks.

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN
• Work with IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties to:
  • Ensure full compliance with Resolution 17/01, the interim rebuilding plan for yellowfin tuna.
  • Improve data collection (i.e. catches, effort, size) for all gear types, for both target and bycatch species, and reporting through measures such as electronic logbooks.
  • Develop and implement comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies with specific timetables for all tuna stocks, including the adoption and implementation of limit and target reference points, harvest control rules, monitoring strategies, operational objectives,
• Perform risk assessments of legally protected species and non-target species.
• Develop and implement species-specific management measures, including implementing best management practices for species and gear types; increase enforcement of existing measures.
• Ensure compliance with existing measures through regular monitoring and enforcement.
• Increase compliance withcatch limits by implementing and enforcing the use of effective monitoring and enforcement methods.

Fishery Profile:
https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/2821

This profile last updated on 5 July 2017