

Yellowfin tuna Eastern Pacific Ocean

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} and 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%).

SCORES

Management Quality:

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

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
7	7.5

FIPS

- Costa Rica large pelagics - longline and green stick:
Stage 2 , Type: Fip , Evaluation Start Date: 15 Apr 2019
- Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (OPAGAC):
Stage 4 , Progress Rating A , Type: Fip , Evaluation Start Date: 30 Sep 2016
- Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (TUNACONS):
Stage 4 , Progress Rating A , Type: Fip , Evaluation Start Date: 2 Jan 2017
- Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna - longline (Transmarina):
Stage 3 , Progress Rating C , Type: Fip , Evaluation Start Date: 28 Nov 2017

MSC

- Mexico Baja California pole and line yellowfin and skipjack tuna:
Withdrawn
- Northeastern Tropical Pacific purse seine yellowfin & skipjack tuna:
MSC Certified

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.


Fisheries

Within FishSource, the term "fishery" is used to indicate each unique combination of a flag country with a fishing gear, operating within a particular management unit, upon a resource. That resource may have a known biological stock structure and/or may be assessed at another level for practical or jurisdictional reasons.

A fishery is the finest scale of resolution captured in FishSource profiles, as it is generally the scale at which sustainability can most fairly and practically be evaluated.

 ASSESSMENT UNIT	 MANAGEMENT UNIT	 FLAG COUNTRY	 FISHING GEAR
Eastern Pacific Oceanmng	IATTC	Colombia	Associated purse seining
			FAD-free
		Costa Rica	Drifting longlines
			Greenstick gear
		Ecuador	Associated purse seining
			Drifting longlines
			FAD-free
		Mexico	Dolphin set purse seining
			FAD-free
			Pole-lines hand operated
			Purse seines
		Nicaragua	Associated purse seining
			Drifting longlines
			FAD-free
		Panama	Drifting longlines
			Pole-lines hand operated
			Purse seines
		Spain	FAD-free
			Purse seines
		United States	FAD-free
Purse seines			

Management Unit

 MANAGEMENT UNIT	ORGANIZATION	FISHING AREA
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	FAO 77, FAO 87