



MarinTrust

By-Product assessment criteria

Version 3.0

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Version control and available language(s)

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Version control

Date	Issue	Amendment	Authorised by
October 2023	V3.0	<i>By-Product assessment criteria. Major revision to assessment methodology.</i>	<i>Governing Body Committee</i>

Available language(s)

The official version of this document is English. MarinTrust may translate this document into additional languages as necessary. Translations will be available on the MarinTrust website. In case of any inconsistencies or discrepancies between the available translation(s) and the English version, the online English version (in PDF format) will prevail.

Foreword

MarinTrust¹ is the leading independent business to business certification programme for the marine ingredients value chain. Responsible sourcing and manufacturing is vital if marine ingredients are to remain a relevant ingredient in feed for culture, agriculture, pet care and directly in the production of consumer products, including cosmetics and nutraceuticals. Fishmeal and fish oil make up the largest share of marine ingredients today, however all marine ingredients are included in MarinTrust's scope.

To enable stakeholders to credibly demonstrate the commitment to responsible practice in areas of feed safety, raw material procurement, delivery, and throughout the production process, MarinTrust developed a robust Certification Programme, consisting of three main components:

- The MarinTrust Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients: The verification and certification of marine ingredients factories that source their raw material from approved fisheries and by-product species.
- The MarinTrust Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard: The verification and certification of the chain of custody for marine ingredients (products) that come from MarinTrust certified factories along the value chain to the customer.
- The Improver Programme: The verification and approval of marine ingredients factories that source their raw material from accepted MarinTrust Improver fisheries.

The initial MarinTrust Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients (the 'Standard') was finalised and the programme opened for applications in October 2009, with the first factory receiving IFFO RS (now known as MarinTrust) certification in February 2010. Version 2.0 was launched in July 2017.

The Standard and raw material (whole fish and by-product) assessment requirements have since been regularly revised in line with relevant international norms, such as those set by the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO/IEC 17065², ISO/IEC 17067³) and the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling (ISEAL)⁴. This ongoing process ensures that the Standard remains accessible, credible, and relevant to industry needs, and in particular that the assessment process continues to be robust.

Revisions are undertaken by a series of expert committees within the MarinTrust governance structure⁵. These committees represent the full marine ingredient value chain, including marine ingredient producers, feed processors, fisheries and aquaculture standard holders and retailers as well as fisheries experts, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

1 The MarinTrust programme is an initiative of Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd. which operates as MarinTrust.

2 www.iso.org/standard/46568.html

3 www.iso.org/standard/55087.html

4 www.isealalliance.org

5 www.marin-trust.com/about-us/governance-structure

Introduction

Governance

The MarinTrust programme is overseen by the MarinTrust Governing Body Committee (GBC), which is responsible for the continued advancement of the MarinTrust standards to ensure they remain both credible and relevant with respect to the stated objectives. The MarinTrust Fisheries Development Oversight Committee is responsible for the continued advancement of the MarinTrust raw material assessment (whole fish and by-product) requirements.

The MarinTrust Governing Body Committee has endorsed Version 3.0 of the MarinTrust By-product assessment criteria. Throughout the development of Version 3.0, the needs of the marine ingredients value chain and interested parties have been at the centre to ensure effective representation throughout.

About this document

This document defines what shall be achieved for the approval of by-product raw material against the 'MarinTrust Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients Version 3.0' (the 'Standard').

Responsible raw material sourcing

As an essential prerequisite to the audit against the MarinTrust Standard, facilities must demonstrate that they source approved raw materials (whole fish or by-products) that are:

- not sourced from Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity
- do not stem from an endangered species
- for whole fish, are from responsibly managed fisheries aligned with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries⁶.

Scope and applicability

This document outlines the assessment criteria for responsibly sourcing by-product raw materials used to produce MarinTrust certified marine ingredients.

These criteria apply to by-products from human and pet food sources as defined in the MarinTrust Standard.

Source fisheries cannot make a claim against the MarinTrust Standard.

The by-product under assessment is defined at a minimum by the species and fishing vessel flag state, and other relevant data to support the evidence base required to adequately assess the risks identified in the assessment methodology.

⁶ FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. 1995. www.fao.org/3/v9878e/v9878e.pdf

Definitions

Definitions and terms are published on the MarinTrust website.

Third-party assessments

Applicant facilities shall demonstrate compliance with the MarinTrust Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients to become a 'certificate holder' under the MarinTrust programme. Fishery assessments are a pre-requisite to an audit. Fishery assessments are conducted by a third-party, qualified Certification Body accredited to ISO/IEC 17065⁷.

The specified frequency of assessments is defined in the Quality Management System, available on the MarinTrust website.

Registered Certification Bodies

A list of third-party accredited Certification Bodies to undertake the process of auditing against the MarinTrust Standard and issuing certificates can be found on the MarinTrust website.

Further information

Further information regarding application, rules and regulations of the programme can be obtained from MarinTrust and/or the approved certification bodies listed on the MarinTrust website.

Standard Holder

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⁷ www.iso.org/standard/46568.html

MarinTrust by-product assessment criteria

1. MarinTrust V3.0 By-product assessment requirements

- 1.1. A species cannot be approved for use as a MarinTrust raw material if it is:
 - 1.1.1. A marine mammal, reptile, amphibian or bird, or
 - 1.1.2. Stems from fisheries that use dynamiting, poisoning and other comparable destructive fishing practices, or
 - 1.1.3. Appears in CITES⁸ Appendix 1 or 2, or
 - 1.1.4. Is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List⁹.
- 1.2. No materials from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity shall be used as MarinTrust raw material.
- 1.3. To demonstrate the by-product under assessment is compliant with clauses 1.1 and 1.2, the fishery assessor shall apply the MarinTrust by-product assessment methodology.

2. MarinTrust by-product assessment methodology

The by-product assessment methodology follows a stepwise approach to assess and score the by-product under assessment against a set of criteria:

- 2.1. Step 1: IUCN Red list / CITES Check
 - 2.1.1. Determine the eligibility of the by-product under assessment for MarinTrust approval by establishing whether the by-product species falls under the MarinTrust definition of ETP.
- 2.2. Step 2: IUU Risk Assessment
 - 2.2.1. Establish the IUU risk level of the flag state(s) responsible for catching the source material for the by-product under assessment.
- 2.3. Step 3: Management Framework Assessment
 - 2.3.1. Where Step 2 has established that the flag state(s) exceed a risk threshold, determine what measures are in place to mitigate this risk in the case of the by-product under assessment.

⁸ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. CITES database: Species+ (speciesplus.net)

⁹ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

Annex 1: Summary of changes

Summary of changes between Version 2 and Version 3

Version 3.0 of the MarinTrust By-Product Assessment Criteria aims to improve the assessment process, focusing on the legality of by-products sourced in the supply chain. It utilises an IUU risk-based assessment of the source country and includes additional checks on supplier agreements to prevent IUU fishing. The criteria and methodology have been significantly changed but CITES appendices and the IUCN Red List still check for endangered species. A summary of changes between Version 2 and Version 3.0 of the assessment criteria is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Comparison of V2 and V3.0 of the MarinTrust by-product assessment criteria

Version 2 assessment criteria	Version 3 assessment criteria
Review the stock assessments, the legality of the fishery and that the fishery does not contradict scientific advice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category C species stock status review • Category D species Productivity Susceptibility Assessment (PSA) 	Step 1. CITES and IUCN Red List check
	Step 2. IUU Risk Assessment – IUU Fishing Index
	Step 3. IUU Risk Assessment -Management Framework Assessment