MarinTrust RS V2.0

BYPRODUCT FISHERY ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE REPORT

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TABLE 1 APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Fishery Under Assessment	**Species:**	Pacific ocean perch (Rockfish) (*Sebastes alutus*)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 67 Pacific Northeast
	Country of origin of the product:	USA
	Stock:	Central Gulf of Alaska
Date	February 2021	
Report Code	25-2020	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	USA	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name: Kodiak Fishmeal			
Address:			
Country: Alaska		**Zip:**	
Tel. No.:		**Fax. No.:**	
Email address:		**Applicant Code:**	
Key Contact:		**Title:**	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	**Peer Reviewer**	**Assessment Days**	**Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval**
Virginia Polonio	Geraldine Criquet	0.5	SURV2
Assessment Period	February 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Pacific Ocean perch (Rockfish) (*Sebastes alutus*)
Stock	Central Gulf of Alaska
Fishery Location	FAO Area 67 Pacific Northeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska office
Gear Type(s)	Demersal trawls, seines, beam and otter trawls, longlines, hook and lines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	**APPROVED**

TABLE 2. ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Assessment Determination
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 MARINTRUST raw material. Pacific ocean perch does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, Pacific ocean perch is eligible for approval for use as MARINTRUST byproduct raw material. One stock forms part of this assessment: 1) Central Gulf of Alaska FAO 67 Pacific Ocean Perch (POP) in the Gulf Alaska (GoA) is subject to rigorous stock assessment by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska office. The species is assessed on a biennial stock assessment schedule to coincide with the availability of new survey data and a year summary of the stock status. Therefore, there is a specific management plan and reference points are defined, therefore the species was assessed as category C. Fishery removals of the stock is considered in the various stock assessment processes so the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.1. The recent estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB) is above Blim therefore, the stock **PASSES** Clause C1.2. In order to be approved, the stock assessed must pass both Clause C1.1 and C1.2; therefore, Pacific ocean perch is **APPROVED** by the assessor in the assessment area FAO 67 for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MARINTRUST v 2.0 by-products standard.
Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified Central Gulf of Alaska Pacific Ocean perch stock as 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 above the limit reference point. Central Gulf of Alaska Pacific Ocean perch stock passes both C1.1 and C1.2 and is therefore approved.
Notes for On-site Auditor

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 an MARINTRUST raw material.

IUCN Redlist Category

Byproduct 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.

Byproduct 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[1]	CITES Appendix 1[2]
Pacific Ocean perch (Rockfish)	*Sebastes alutus*	Central Gulf of Alaska FAO 67 Pacific Northeast	the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska office	C	LC	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] 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 may be assessed as a Category D species instead, EXCEPT if there is evidence that it is currently below the limit reference point.

Species Name	**Pacific Ocean perch (Rockfish) *Sebastes alutus***	
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.	PASS
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.	PASS
	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.

The assessment methodology is the same as the 2019 assessment with updated input data. However, priors were changed in the current year's assessment for the bottom trawl survey catchability parameter (from 1 to 1.15) and natural mortality parameter (from 0.05 to 0.0614).

The input data have been updated in the last stock assessment to include survey age compositions for 2019, final catch for 2019 and preliminary catch for 2020-2022. Further changes to input data included updating the data used to construct the ageing error matrix and the fishery age composition data was constructed by using an age-length key.

Therefore, the fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and it **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.

Fully-selected fishing mortality shows that fishing mortality has decreased dramatically from historic rates and has levelled out in the last decade In the last stock assessment fishing mortality to FOFL (F35%) and the estimated spawning biomass relative to unfished spawning biomass (B100%). Harvest control rules based on F35% and F40% and the tier 3b adjustment are provided for reference. The management path for POP has been above the F35% adjusted limit for most of the historical time series. In addition, since 2004, POP SSB has been above B40% and fishing mortality has been below F40% since 1983.

Recruitment (as measured by age 2 fish) for POP is highly variable and large recruitments comprise much of the biomass for future years. Recruitment has increased since the early 1970s, starting with the 1986-year class. Since the 1990s there have been several larger than average year classes, with the largest resulting in 2006. The largest differences in estimated recruitment between the current assessment and the 2019 assessment resulted at the end of the time series.

Therefore, the official catch estimate for the most recent complete year (2019) is 25,470 t. This is less than the 2019 OFL of 33,951 t. Therefore, the stock is not being subjected to overfishing and it is not overfished (Figure1).

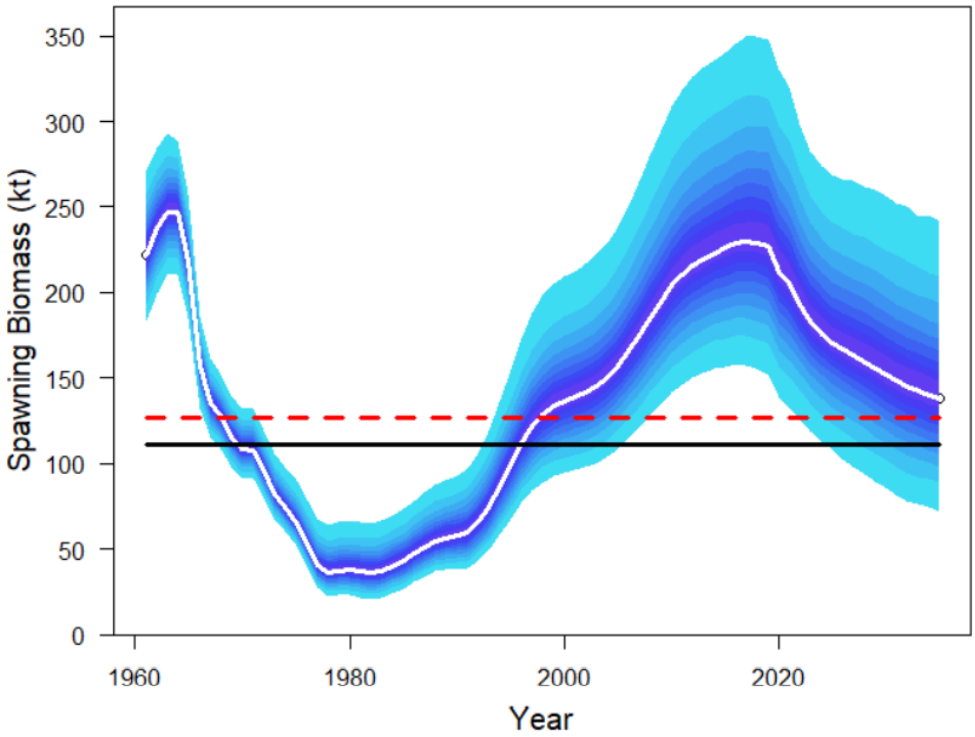

Figure 1. Bayesian credible intervals for entire spawning stock biomass series including projections through 2030. Red dashed line is B40% and black solid line is B35% based on recruitments from 1979-2015. The white line is the median of MCMC simulations. Each shade is 5% of the posterior distribution. Source: NPFMC Gulf of Alaska SAFE, 2021

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

Peter-John F. Hulson, Chris R. Lunsford, Ben Fissel, and Darin Jones. 2020 Assessment of the Pacific ocean perch stock in the Gulf of Alaska, January 2021. NOAA Fisheries.
https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/1947

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

SOCIAL CRITERION

In addition to the scored criteria listed above, applicants must commit to ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery adhere to internationally recognised guidance on human rights. They must also commit to ensuring there is no use of enforced or unpaid labour in the fleet(s) operating upon the resource.

Appendix B: From MARINTRUST Standard V2.0 Annex 2: Fish By-product Assessment Methodology

Definition of a Fish By-product

A by-product is a useful and marketable product that is not the primary product being produced. A marketable by-product is from a process that can technically not be avoided. This includes materials that may be traditionally defined as waste such as industrial scrap that is subsequently used as a raw material in a different manufacturing process.

"Fish By-products" refers to commodities that are manufactured from fish, including shellfish, and crustaceans in a form that is different than conventional foods and which are intended for human consumption (either directly or as a food ingredient). Fish By-products include, but are not limited to:

- By-products derived from fish, including fish cartilage, fish oils, and fish proteins; and
- By-products derived from the carapaces of crustaceans; but do not include marine plants or marine plant products.

(Canadian Food Inspection Agency Definition)

In addition, a whole fish which is rejected on an intrinsic quality ground e.g. does not meet the specification for human consumption due to physical damage or the quality is substandard. These whole fish shall in these cases be classified as a by-product from the human consumption fishery, and can be used for marine ingredients production.

A whole catch of fish that is rejected by a fish processing factory on economic grounds is not considered to be a fish by-product. This fish can only be used for marine ingredients production if the fishery has been assessed and approved under the requirements of the IFFO Responsible Sourcing Standard.

Why utilise Fish By-products?

FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

General Principles Article 6

6.7 The harvesting, handling, processing and distribution of fish and fishery products should be carried out in a manner which will maintain the nutritional value, quality and safety of the products, reduce waste and minimize negative impacts on the environment.

Responsible fish utilisation Article 11.1

11.1.8 States should encourage those involved in fish processing, distribution and marketing to reduce post-harvest losses and waste.

Benefits of Including Fish By-Products in the MARINTRUST Standard:

1. Improved fish resource utilisation

2. Reduction in waste for nutritional value

3. 35% of fish by-products are currently used to make quality fishmeal and oil

4. Excellent Economic return

5. Better compliance with FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

What Fish By-products cannot be used?

1. IUCN

Fishery By-products shall Not be taken from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for certain categories;

- 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.

Fish By-product material may be used from the vulnerable category, but it shall incur a fishery surveillance conducted by the certification body prior to it being included in the scope of this standard.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

The Fish By-product material from these species will be acceptable for use in the scope of this standard;

- 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.

Fish By-product material may be used from the following category, but it shall incur a fishery surveillance prior to it being included in the scope of this standard;

- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

The fishery surveillance conducted by the certification body will review the following areas:

Stock Assessment

- From a recognised Institution
- Fisheries are recognised as legal
- Fisheries do not contradict scientific opinion

2. FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

In addition the Fish By-products shall not come from fisheries that do not comply with the following criteria;

1. Fisheries should prohibit dynamiting, poisoning and other comparable destructive fishing practices.

2. Fishery material shall not be from IUU fishing activity nor sourced from vessels officially listed as engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity.

Sources of Information

1. Food Standards Agency
2. Canadian Food Inspection Agency
3. DEFRA
4. GAA Feed mill BAP standard
5. EU Commission
6. IUCN