



## By-Product assessment report

*BP020*

*Truong Phuc Seafood Co Ltd*

Report code	BP020	Date of issue	April 2025
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<b>1. Application details</b>		
Applicant	Truong Phuc Seafood Co Ltd	
Applicant country	Vietnam	
<b>2. Certification Body details</b>		
Name of Certification Body (CB)	NSF / GTC	
Contact information for CB	NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd	
Assessor name	Sam Peacock	
CB internal peer reviewer name	Matthew Jew	
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation	
Comments on the assessment	Both byproduct species are caught by Vietnam-flagged vessels. Vietnam is categorised as High Risk, therefore Step 3 was applied. There is no evidence of any regular stock assessment activity, stock structure is not well understood, and the very limited stock status evidence suggests that <i>S. undosquamis</i> in the region may be below the limit reference point. As neither species is able to pass the Category C assessment, they both remain High Risk and cannot be approved for use as a raw material.	
<b>3. Approval validity</b>	Valid from 03/2025	Valid until 03/2026

4. By-product assessment outcomes - Scope extension		Valid From: 03/2025
By-product species name	Flag country(ies)	MarinTrust approval status
Lizardfish [ <i>Saurida undosquamis</i> ]	Vietnam	Not approved
Golden threadfin bream [ <i>Nemipterus virgatus</i> ]	Vietnam	Not approved

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5. Scope Extension Assessment		
Name of Certification Body (CB)	NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd	
Contact information for CB	<a href="mailto:Fisheries@nsf.org">Fisheries@nsf.org</a>	
Assessor name	Sam Peacock	
CB internal peer reviewer name	Matthew Jew	
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation	
Number of Assessment days	0.25	
Comments on the assessment	This scope extension is to include an additional species – Mackerel [ <i>Scomber scombrus</i> ] with the flag state of Norway. This species results as “Approved source with caution” as this does not require Step 3 of this assessment.	
6. Approval validity	Valid from 01/2026	Valid until 03/2026

7. By-product assessment outcomes - Scope extension		Valid From: 01/2026
By-product species name	Flag country(ies)	MarinTrust approval status
Mackerel [ <i>Scomber scombrus</i> ]	Norway	Approved source with caution

#### **Guidance for on-site auditor**

For the audit, the auditor will check how the facility manages by-products deemed medium risk. Any by-products downrated from high to medium risk will require additional due diligence checks.

It is important that facilities check all raw materials from and verify their suppliers especially if there is a perceived risk of sourcing from known or suspected IUU fishing activity. This requires checking supplier records or procedures in place to understand how the supplier can ensure there is no IUU in the raw material they provide. For raw materials risk rated medium, additional or more frequent checks may be required until the facility is certain that the raw materials are not from IUU fishing activity.

The audit requirements are covered in clause 2.11.3 of the MarinTrust Global Standard for Responsible Supply of Marine Ingredients (the MarinTrust Standard) and associated interpretation guidance.

#### **Approved by-products**

- No further checks are required beyond those included in the MarinTrust Standard.

#### **Additional checks of Approved Source with Caution by-products**

- Review supplier records or procedures in place.

#### **Additional checks of by-products Approved Source with Caution via Step 3 assessment**

- In addition to checks for medium risk Approved Source with Caution by-products, by-products that have had risk downgraded from high to medium at Step 3 (use **Appendix 1** to identify these by-product species), confirm that the relevant traceability information continues to be collected for this by-product. During the audit, a traceability check on any by-products downgraded from high to medium risk shall be included as part of the required traceability checks (Section 4).

#### **Guidance for the applicant/certificate holder**

The applicant/certificate holder is responsible for ensuring the relevant actions are taken to comply with the MarinTrust Standard.

The certificate holder is responsible for communicating any changes to the by-products sourced by submitting a scope extension request through the MarinTrust online Application Portal.

## Appendix 1 – assessment outcomes

### Step 2 Assessment Outcomes

By-product species name	Flag country(ies)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendices	Step 2 risk status	Step 3 required
Lizardfish <i>[Saurida undosquamis]</i>	Vietnam	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Golden threadfin bream <i>[Nemipterus virgatus]</i>	Vietnam	Vulnerable	Not listed	High risk	Yes

### Step 2 Assessment Outcomes – Scope Extension

By-product species name	Flag country(ies)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendices	Step 2 risk status	Step 3 required
Mackerel <i>[Scomber scombrus]</i>	Norway	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No

### Step 3 Assessment Outcomes

By-product species name	Flag country(ies)	Fishing Area	Stock name	Category C Assessment Outcome	Traceability information	Step 3 Risk Outcome
Lizardfish [ <i>Saurida undosquamis</i> ]	Vietnam	FAO71	Stock structure unknown	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Path 2 – Yes</i>	Remains high risk
Golden threadfin bream [ <i>Nemipterus virgatus</i> ]	Vietnam	FAO71	Stock structure unknown	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Path 2 – Yes</i>	Remains high risk
<b>Comments on Step 3 Assessment:</b> Additional information was requested from the applicant. This information indicated that both byproduct species are caught in the Vietnamese EEZ, and landed in Vietnam.						

## Appendix 2 – detailed assessment outcomes

(step 2 and step 3 if applicable)

### Step 2 outcomes

Flag state	Risk rating	Flag score	Port score	General score	Flag State is contracting party or cooperating non-contracting party to all relevant RFMOs	'Carded' under EU Carding system	Flag state party to PSMA	Flag state mandatory vessel tracking for commercial seagoing fleet	WGI Governance rank
Vietnam	High	2.3	2.11	2.8	1	3	1	1	36.32%
Norway	Medium	2.42	2.39	2.1	1	1	1	1	92.00%

## Step 3 outcomes

### Category C assessment

Species name		Lizardfish, <i>Saurida undosquamis</i>	
Fishing area and stock		FAO71. Stock structure unknown.	
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.	FAIL
	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.	FAIL
Clause outcome:			FAIL
<b>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.</b>			
Stock structure in this region is not known. No evidence of regular stock assessment was found. It is not clear whether total fishery removals of <i>S. undosquamis</i> are recorded. The only recent stock assessment which could be found (see C1.2) did not incorporate catch data from any fishery. C1.1 is not met.			
<b>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.</b>			
Stock structure is not known. One recent stock assessment for <i>S. undosquamis</i> in the Northern South China Sea – which may or may not overlap with the area in which the byproduct under assessment is caught – concluded that the Spawning Potential Ratio value for the species was 10% compared to an estimated limit reference point of 20% (Lauden <i>et al</i> , 2024). This was the only recent stock assessment for the species with relevance to FAO Area 71 which could be found.			
There is no evidence that any <i>S. undosquamis</i> stock in the region has biomass above the limit reference point, and some evidence to suggest the stock in question may be below the LRP. C1.2 is not met.			
References			
Lauden, Hagai Nsobi, Xu, Xinwen, Lyu, Shaoliang, Lin, Kun, Chen, Ning, Wang, Xuefeng (2024). Assessment of the Fish Stock Status Using LBSPR with Its Implications on Fisheries Management: A Case Study of <i>Nemipterus virgatus</i> , <i>Priacanthus macracanthus</i> , and <i>Saurida undosquamis</i> in the Northern South China Sea, Journal of Applied Ichthyology, 2024, 6808795, 10 pages, 2024. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1155/2024/6808795">https://doi.org/10.1155/2024/6808795</a>			



Species name		Golden threadfin bream, <i>Nemipterus virgatus</i>	
Fishing area and stock		FAO71. Stock structure unknown.	
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.	FAIL
	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.	FAIL
Clause outcome:			FAIL
<b>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.</b>			
<p>Stock structure in this region is not known. No evidence of regular stock assessment was found. It is not clear whether total fishery removals of <i>N. virgatus</i> are recorded. The only recent stock assessment which could be found (see C1.2) did not incorporate catch data from any fishery. An undated WWF review of the species in China states that “the stock is not well-monitored with only limited information available on the species” (WWF 2025).</p> <p>No regular stock assessment appears to take place, and C1.1 is not met.</p>			
<b>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.</b>			
<p>Stock structure is not known. One recent stock assessment for <i>N. virgatus</i> in the Northern South China Sea – which may or may not overlap with the area in which the byproduct under assessment is caught – concluded that the Spawning Potential Ratio value for the species was 32%, compared to an estimated limit reference point of 20% (Lauden <i>et al</i>, 2024). This was the only recent stock assessment for the species with relevance to FAO Area 71 which could be found.</p> <p>There is some evidence that <i>N. virgatus</i> in the region may be above the limit reference point; however, this evidence is not sufficient to demonstrate with a high degree of confidence that the specific stock under assessment is in good shape. C1.2 is not met.</p>			
References			
<p>Lauden, Hagai Nsobi, Xu, Xinwen, Lyu, Shaoliang, Lin, Kun, Chen, Ning, Wang, Xuefeng (2024). Assessment of the Fish Stock Status Using LBSPR with Its Implications on Fisheries Management: A Case Study of <i>Nemipterus virgatus</i>, <i>Priacanthus macracanthus</i>, and <i>Saurida undosquamis</i> in the Northern South China Sea, Journal of Applied Ichthyology, 2024, 6808795, 10 pages, 2024. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1155/2024/6808795">https://doi.org/10.1155/2024/6808795</a></p> <p>WWF (2025). Seafood guide, Golden threadfin bream. <a href="https://seafood-guide.wwf.org.hk/en/node/986">https://seafood-guide.wwf.org.hk/en/node/986</a></p>			

## Traceability information

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

<b>Species name</b>	Lizardfish, <i>Saurida undosquamis</i>			
<b>Path 1</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Path 2</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
<b>Path 2 outcome</b> <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	<b>Flag country</b>	<b>Coastal score</b>	<b>Port score</b>	<b>Risk outcome</b>
	Vietnam	Vietnam – Medium Risk	Vietnam – Medium Risk	Downgraded to medium risk

<b>Species name</b>	Golden threadfin bream, <i>Nemipterus virgatus</i>			
<b>Path 1</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Path 2</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
<b>Path 2 outcome</b> <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	<b>Flag country</b>	<b>Coastal score</b>	<b>Port score</b>	<b>Risk outcome</b>
	Vietnam	Vietnam – Medium Risk	Vietnam – Medium Risk	Downgraded to medium risk

### Guidance for Applicants/Certificate holders on improved traceability

When by-product origin cannot be made more granular than major FAO Areas, or when the source fishery is taking place in the High Seas (i.e. outside of EEZs of all relevant nations), an assessor must evaluate the Coastal and Port scores for each nation that straddles that FAO Area. This may lead to higher risk outcomes for an applicant. To mitigate that risk, better practice involves securing KDEs from the source fishery of the by-products, thereby meeting Path 1 instead of Path 2.

#### What does better practices look like?

**Comprehensive data collection and sharing:** Collect detailed information using Key Data Elements (KDEs) including vessel identification and authorisation, species, catch areas, fishing method and dates. These are defined in the MarinTrust Standard clauses 2.11.2.2 and 3.2.5.

**Supply chain transparency:** Maintain detailed records at each step of the supply chain, from capture to final sale, to ensure traceability.

**Interoperable systems and technologies** to support the collection and transfer of this information.