# By-Product assessment report

*BP060*

*Pioneer Fishing (Pty) Ltd*

| Report code | BP060 | Date of issue | August 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|

| 1. Application details | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Applicant** | St Helena Bay (Pioneer Fishing Pty Ltd) | |
| **Applicant country** | South Africa | |
| **2. Certification Body details** | | |
| **Name of Certification Body (CB)** | NSF/ Global Trust Certification Ltd | |
| **Contact information for CB** | Fisheries@nsf.org | |
| **Assessor name** | Sam Peacock | |
| **CB internal peer reviewer name** | Matthew Jew | |
| **Internal peer review evaluation** | Agree with evaluation | |
| **Number of Assessment days** | 0.2 | |
| **Comments on the assessment** | This byproduct assessment covers nine species sourced under five flag states. Seven of the byproducts originate exclusively from Medium Risk flag states, and were Approved source with caution without the need for a Step 3 assessment. Of the two remaining byproducts, traceability information was provided for one, which passed the Step 3 assessment and was similarly downgraded to Approve source with caution. The final byproduct was Not Approved. | |
| **3. Approval validity** | Valid from 08/25 | Valid until 08/26 |
| **4. Assessment cycle** | Initial | |

| 5. By-product assessment outcomes | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **By-product species name**<br>*Common and Latin names* | **Flag country(ies)** | **Fishing Areas**<br>*Only applicable to Step 3 assessed species* | **MarinTrust approval status** |
| *Sardina pilchardus* - European pilchard | Morocco | N/A | Approved source with caution |
| *Sardinops sagax* - Pilchard/Sardine | South Africa, Namibia | N/A | Approved source with caution |
| *Sardinops sagax* caeruleus - California Pilchard | Mexico | Not Provided | Not approved |
| *Sardinops sagax melanostictus* - Japanese pilchard | Russia, Japan, South Korea | FAO 61 | Approved source with caution |
| *Scomber japonicus/colias* - Chub mackerel | South Africa, Namibia | N/A | Approved source with caution |
| *Trachurus capensis* - Cape horse Mackerel | South Africa | N/A | Approved source with caution |
| *Trachurus trachurus* - Horse mackerel | Namibia | N/A | Approved source with caution |
| *Maurolicus muelleri/walvisensis* - Lightfish | South Africa | N/A | Approved source with caution |
| *Lampanyctodes hectoris* - Hector's lanternfish | South Africa | N/A | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Sardina pilchardus* - European pilchard | Morocco | Least concern | Not listed | Medium risk | No |
| *Sardinops sagax* - Pilchard/Sardine | South Africa, Namibia | Least concern | Not listed | Medium risk | No |
| *Sardinops sagax caeruleus* - California Pilchard | Mexico | Least concern | Not listed | High risk | Yes |
| *Sardinops sagax melanostictus* - Japanese pilchard | Russia, Japan, South Korea | Not Evaluated | Not listed | High risk | Yes |
| *Scomber japonicus/colias* - Chub mackerel | South Africa, Namibia | Least concern | Not listed | Medium risk | No |

| By-product species name | Flag country(ies) | IUCN Red List | CITES Appendices | Step 2 risk status | Step 3 required |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Trachurus capensis* - Cape horse Mackerel | South Africa | Least concern | Not listed | Medium risk | No |
| *Trachurus trachurus* - Horse mackerel | Namibia | Vulnerable | Not listed | Medium risk | No |
| *Maurolicus muelleri/walvisensis* - Lightfish | South Africa | Least concern | Not listed | Medium risk | No |
| *Lampanyctodes hectoris* - Hector's lanternfish | South Africa | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Sardinops sagax caeruleus* - California Pilchard | Mexico | Not supplied | n/a | Fail | Not supplied | Remains High Risk |
| *Sardinops sagax melanostictus* - Japanese pilchard | Russia | FAO 61 | Japanese Pacific Ocean pilchard | Pass | Path 2 - Yes | Downgraded to Medium Risk |
| **Comments on Step 3 Assessment:** The applicant did not provide any traceability information for California pilchard. | | | | | | |

# 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Japan | Medium | 2.92 | 2.06 | 1.93 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 91.51% |
| Mexico | High | 2.25 | 3.06 | 2.78 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 46.70% |
| Morocco | Medium | 2.29 | 1.78 | 2.17 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 49.06% |
| Namibia | Medium | 1.96 | 2.33 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 52.36% |
| Russia | High | 4.33 | 2.78 | 2.81 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13.21% |
| South Africa | Medium | 2.58 | 2.67 | 2.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 44.34% |
| South Korea | Medium | 3.67 | 3.11 | 1.97 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 83.96% |

# Step 3 outcomes

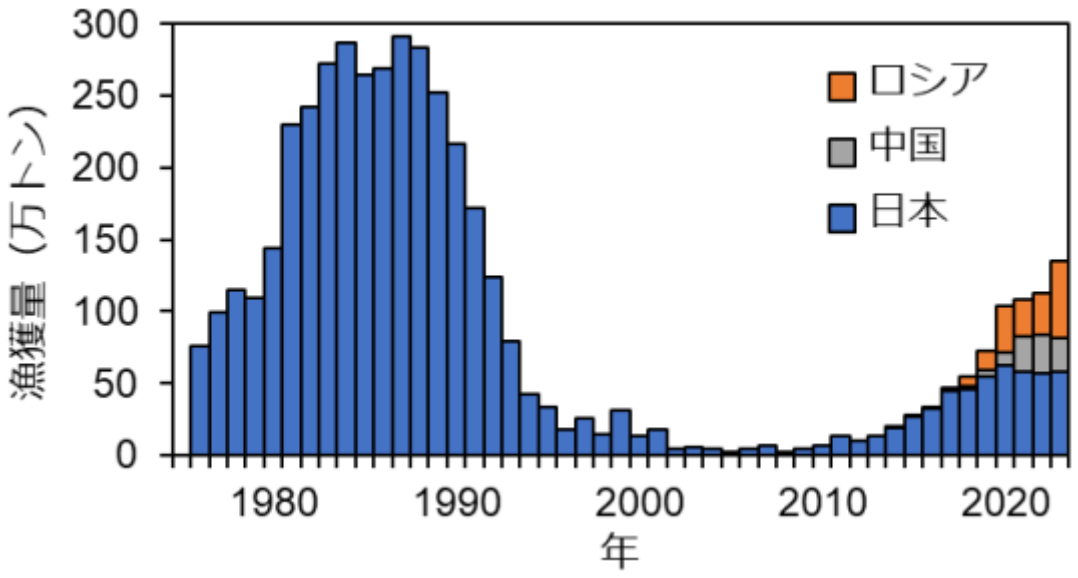
**Category C assessment**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Species name** | | *Sardinops sagax melanostictus* - Japanese pilchard | |
| **Fishing area and stock** | | **Japanese Pacific Ocean Pilchard** | |
| **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<br>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<br>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**.

Catches of Japanese sardine from the Pacific stock are monitored by Japanese authorities and by the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC). Landings by Japanese vessels into Japanese ports are recorded at the prefecture level, with international landings data collected by the NPFC. Total international landings are used to inform an annual stock assessment conducted by the Japanese Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA).

Fishery removals of the species under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, and C1.1 is met.




Landings of Pacific Japanese sardine by country. Orange represents Russian catches, grey Chinese, and blue Japanese. The y-axis shows catches in ‘0,000t (i.e. 50 on the y-axis is 500,000t) (FRA 2024).

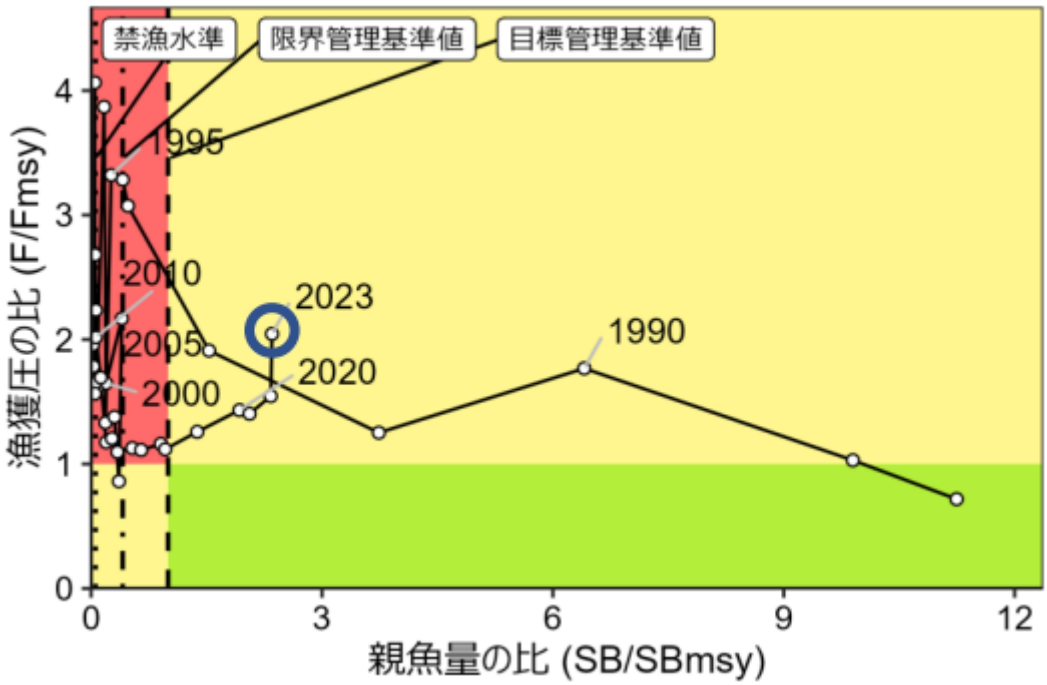
**C1.2 The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.**

The regular FRA stock assessment provides an indication of the current status of the spawning stock relative to three reference points: a recommended target reference point, limit reference point, and no fishing reference point. The 2024 stock assessment recommended these be set as follows (FRA 2024):

- Target reference point $SB_{msy}$: 1,187,000t
- Limit reference point $0.6SB_{msy}$: 487,000t
- No fishing reference point $0.1SB_{msy}$: 69,000t

The assessment also estimated that spawning biomass in 2023 was 2,791,000t, more than double the target reference point level.

The most recent stock assessment concluded that stock biomass was above the limit reference point level, and C1.2 is met.




Kobe chart for Pacific Japanese sardine, showing the most recent estimate of fishery status for 2023 along with historical estimates for years since 1988 (FRA 2024)

**References**

FRA (2024). Japanese sardine, Pacific stock. Stock assessment summary August 2024. https://abchan.fra.go.jp/wpt/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/simple_2024_01.pdf

**Traceability information**

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Species name** | *Sardinops sagax melanostictus* - Japanese pilchard | | | |
| **Path 1** | Yes ☐ No ☒ | | | |
| Confirm all KDEs are provided | Yes ☐ No ☐ | | | |
| **Path 2** | Yes ☒ No ☐<br>*If yes for Path 2, complete the next section* | | | |
| **Path 2 outcome**<br>*Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.* | **Flag country** | **Coastal score** | **Port score** | **Risk outcome** |
| | **Russia** | Russia & High Seas (Medium Risk) | Russia (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.