



By-Product assessment report

BP060

St Helena Bay (Pioneer Fishing Pty Ltd)

Report code	BP060	Date of issue	August 2025
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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 <i>Common and Latin names</i>	Flag country(ies)	Fishing Areas <i>Only applicable to Step 3 assessed species</i>	MarinTrust approval status
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> - European pilchard	Morocco	N/A	Approved source with caution
<i>Sardinops sagax</i> - Pilchard/Sardine	South Africa, Namibia	N/A	Approved source with caution
<i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i> - California Pilchard	Mexico	Not Provided	Not approved
<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i> - Japanese pilchard	Russia, Japan, South Korea	FAO 61	Approved source with caution
<i>Scomber japonicus/colias</i> - Chub mackerel	South Africa, Namibia	N/A	Approved source with caution
<i>Trachurus capensis</i> - Cape horse Mackerel	South Africa	N/A	Approved source with caution
<i>Trachurus trachurus</i> - Horse mackerel	Namibia	N/A	Approved source with caution
<i>Maurolicus muelleri/walvisensis</i> - Lightfish	South Africa	N/A	Approved source with caution
<i>Lampanyctodes hectoris</i> - 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
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> - European pilchard	Morocco	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
<i>Sardinops sagax</i> - Pilchard/Sardine	South Africa, Namibia	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
<i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i> - California Pilchard	Mexico	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i> - Japanese pilchard	Russia, Japan, South Korea	Not Evaluated	Not listed	High risk	Yes
<i>Scomber japonicus/colias</i> - 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
<i>Trachurus capensis</i> - Cape horse Mackerel	South Africa	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
<i>Trachurus trachurus</i> - Horse mackerel	Namibia	Vulnerable	Not listed	Medium risk	No
<i>Maurolicus muelleri/walvisensis</i> - Lightfish	South Africa	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
<i>Lampanyctodes hectoris</i> - 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
<i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i> - California Pilchard	Mexico	Not supplied	n/a	Fail	Not supplied	Remains High Risk
<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i> - 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

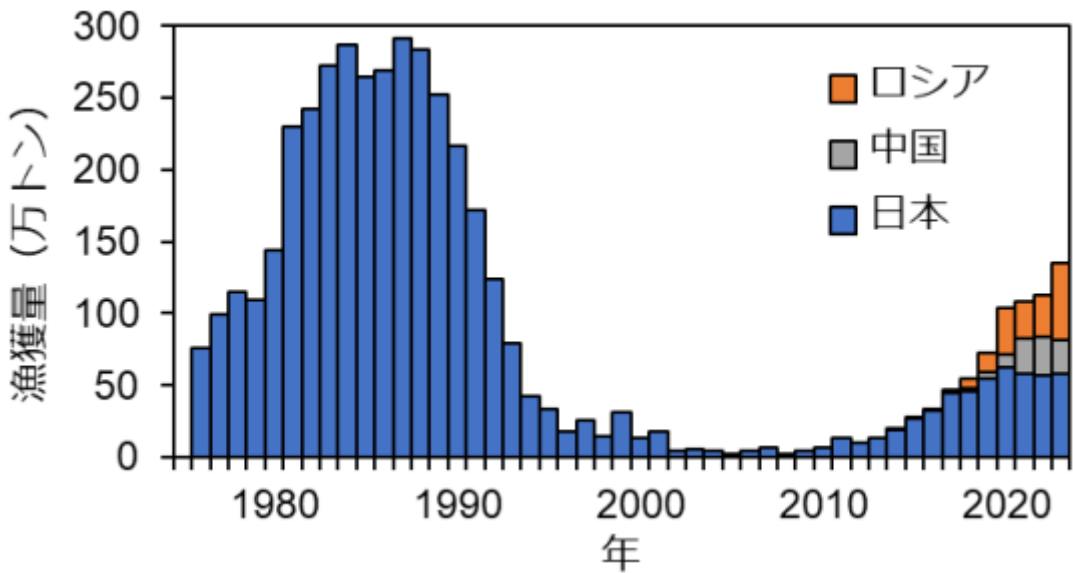
(step 2 and step 3 if applicable)

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		<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i> - 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 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
<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Fishery removals of the species under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, and C1.1 is met.</p>		
 <p>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).</p>		

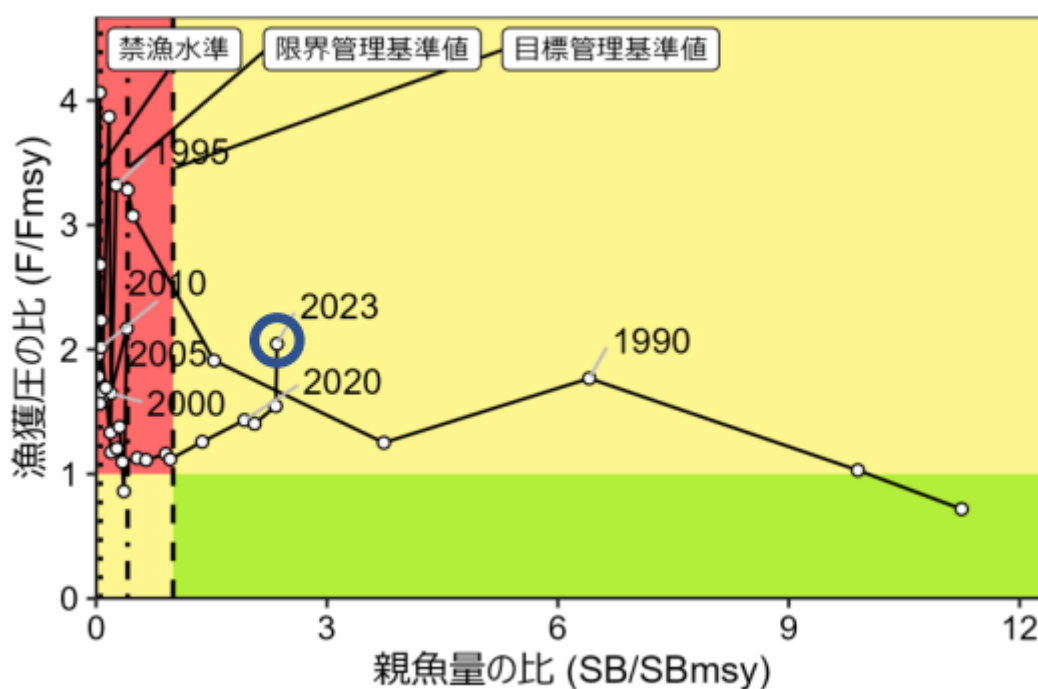
C1.2 The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.

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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Path 2	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
Path 2 outcome <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	Flag country Russia	Coastal score Russia & High Seas (Medium Risk)	Port score Russia (Medium Risk)	Risk outcome 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.