By-Product assessment report

BP061

Amawandle Pelagic (Pty) Ltd

Report code	BP061	Date of issue	May 2026

1. Application details		
Applicant	Amawandle Pelagic (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	1	
Comments on the assessment	This assessment covers four byproduct species, none of which meet the MT definition of an ETP species. Two species are exclusively caught by medium risk flag states, and can be Approved source with caution without the need for Step 3. The remaining two byproducts are caught by high risk flag states. Both passed the Category C assessment. One passed the traceability assessment via Path 1, and the other via Path 2, meaning both species can be downgraded to medium risk and Approved source with caution.	
3. Approval validity	Valid from 06/2026	Valid until 06/2027
4. Assessment cycle	Re-Approval	

5. By-product assessment outcomes			
By-product species name	**Flag country(ies)**	**Fishing Areas**	**MarinTrust approval status**
European pilchard (*Sardina pilchardus)*	Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, Germany	FAO 27, FAO 34	Approved source with caution
California pilchard (*Sardinops sagax caeruleus)*	Mexico	FAO 77	Approved source with caution
Japanese pilchard (*Sardinops sagax melanosticus)*	Japan, Thailand, Russia	FAO 61	Approved source with caution
Sardine (*Sardinops sagax)*	Namibia	FAO 47	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
European pilchard (*Sardina pilchardus)*	Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, Germany	Near threatened	Not listed	Medium risk	No
California pilchard (*Sardinops sagax caeruleus)*	Mexico	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Japanese pilchard (*Sardinops sagax melanosticus)*	Japan, Thailand, Russia	Not evaluated	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Sardine (*Sardinops sagax)*	Namibia	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
California pilchard (*Sardinops sagax caeruleus)*	Mexico	FAO 77	California pilchard in the Gulf of California	Pass	Path 2 – Yes	Downgraded to Medium Risk
Japanese pilchard (*Sardinops sagax melanosticus)*	Russia	FAO 61	Japanese pilchard: Japanese Pacific Ocean stock	Pass	Path 1 – Yes	Downgraded to Medium Risk
Comments on Step 3 Assessment: N/A						

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
Morocco	Medium	2.29	1.78	2.17	1	1	1	1	49.06%
Portugal	Medium	3	2.44	1.53	1	1	1	1	75.00%
Spain	Medium	3.21	3.39	2.03	1	1	1	1	75.94%
Netherlands	Medium	2.21	2.44	1.87	1	1	1	1	96.70%
Germany	Medium	2.17	2.22	1.83	1	1	1	1	92.45%
Mexico	High	2.25	3.06	2.78	2	1	5	1	46.70%
Russia	High	4.33	2.78	2.81	1	1	1	1	13.21%
Namibia	Medium	1.96	2.33	2	1	1	1	1	52.36%
Japan	Medium	2.92	2.06	1.93	1	1	1	1	91.51%
Thailand	Medium	1.96	2.22	2.23	1	1	1	1	58.49%

Step 3 outcomes

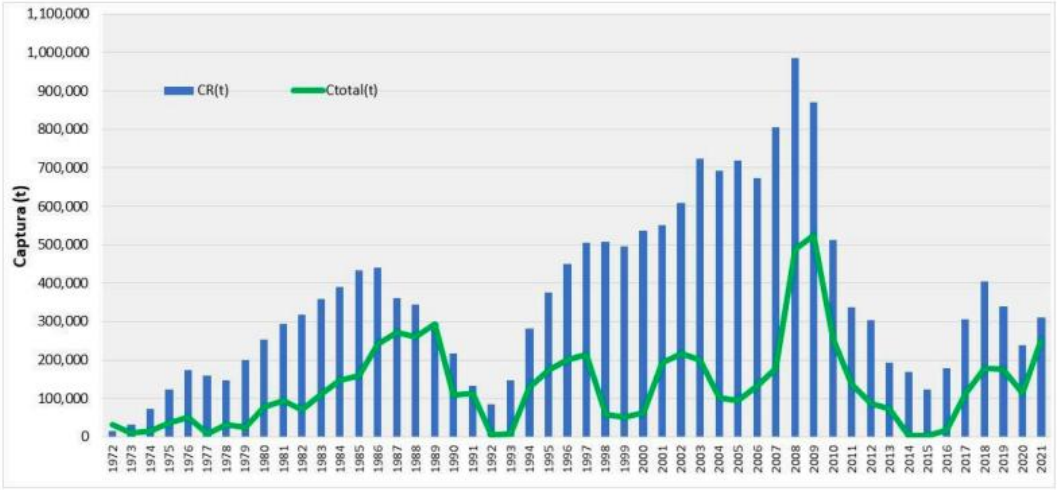
Category C assessment

Species name		**California pilchard, *Sardinops sagax caeruleus***	
Fishing area and stock		**FAO 77, California pilchard in the Gulf of California**	
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**

Note: There is an MSC-certified fishery operating on this stock, which passed its second surveillance audit in January 2026. The Public Certification Report for the fishery states that "The Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) is also known as…California pilchard…Since 2009 the World Registrar of Marine Species identifies *S. sagax* as the only accepted species in the genus. For consistency within [the assessment report], *S. sagax* is used throughout, although several reports and publications also refer to this species as *S. caeruleus* or *S. sagax caeruleus*".

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.

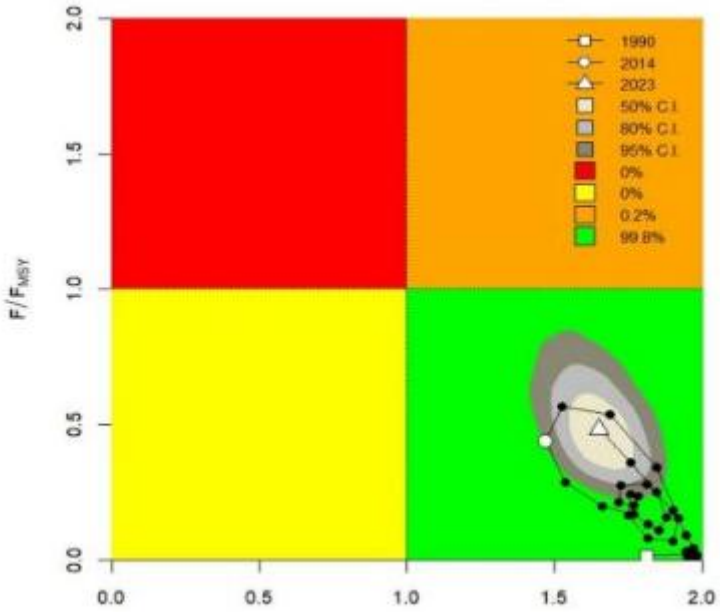
The Gulf of California Pacific sardine stock is subject to regular assessment by the National Fisheries Institute of Mexico (INAPESCA). The most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2025 using CMSY++, which estimates reference points, stock status and exploitation rates from catch (see figure below) and abundance data. C1.1 is met.



Reference catch (blue) and actual catch (green) for California anchovy in the Gulf of California, 1972-2021 (SCS 2025).

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 most recent stock assessment was conducted in 2025, and concluded that, as in previous MT assessments, the stock remains in the green quadrant of the Kobe chart (see below). Biomass is estimated to be between $1.3B_{MSY}$ and $1.7B_{MSY}$, substantially above the target reference point and therefore also above any possible limit reference point. C1.2 is met.



Kobe diagram showing the evolution and stock status of California anchovy in the Gulf of California (SCS 2026).

References

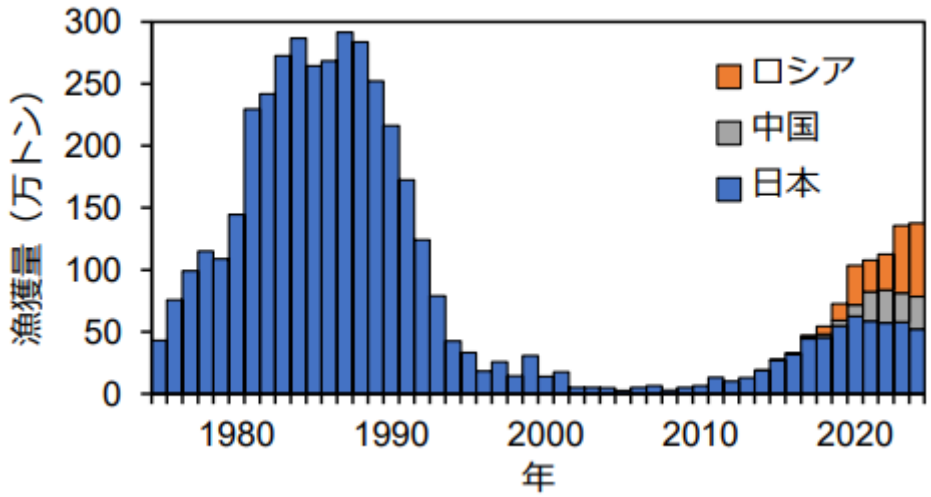
SCS, 2026. Small pelagic fishery in Sonora, Gulf of California, Second Surveillance Report. https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/small-pelagics-fishery-in-sonora-gulf-of-california/@@assessments

SCS, 2025. Small pelagic fishery in Sonora, Gulf of California, First Surveillance Report. https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/small-pelagics-fishery-in-sonora-gulf-of-california/@@assessments

Species name		**Japanese pilchard, *Sardinops sagax melanosticus***	
Fishing area and stock		**FAO61, Japanese pilchard, Japanese Pacific Ocean stock**	
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.

Catches of Japanese sardine from the Pacific stock are monitored by Japanese authorities and by the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC). Landings in Japanese ports are recorded at the prefecture level, and the FRA also collects catch data submitted to the NPFC to estimate international landings (FRA 2025). A stock assessment is conducted annually by the FRA, takes into account all fishery removals and other biological characteristics of the stock. The stock assessment report includes explicit consideration of stock distribution and migration; age and growth rates; maturation and fecundity; and predator and prey relationships (FRA 2025). Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process and C1.1 is met.



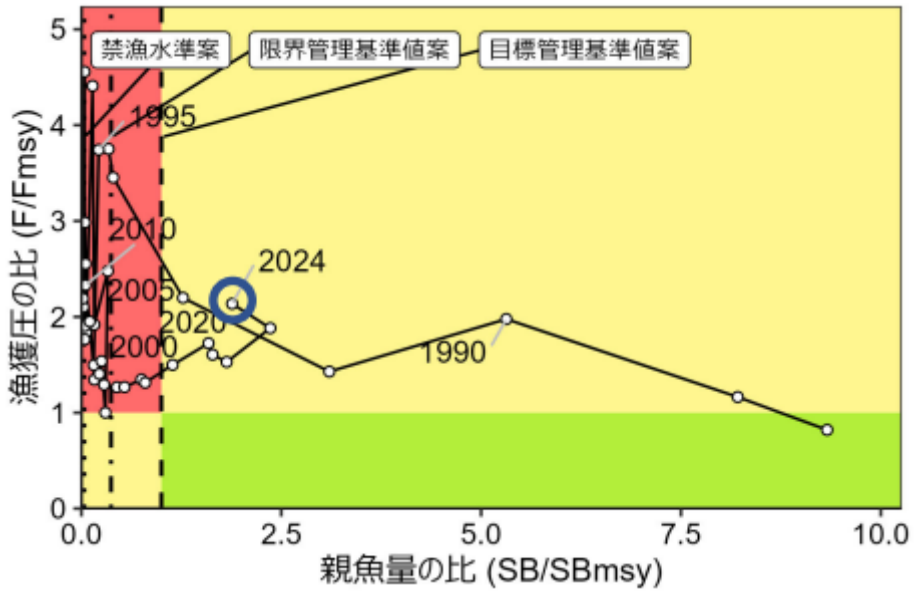
Landings of Pacific Japanese sardine by country. Orange represents Russian catches, grey Chinese, and blue Japanese. The x-axis shows year; the y-axis shows catches in '0,000t (i.e. 50 on the y-axis is 500,000t) (FRA 2025).

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 2025 stock assessment recommended these be set as follows (FRA 2025):

- Target reference point SB_{msy}: 1,432,000t
- Limit reference point $0.6SB_{msy}$: 530,000t
- No fishing reference point $0.1SB_{msy}$: 53,000t

The assessment also estimated that spawning biomass in 2023 was 2,699,000t, nearly double the target reference point level. C1.2 is met.



Kobe chart for Pacific Japanese sardine, showing the most recent estimate of fishery status for 2024 along with historical estimates for years since 1988 (FRA 2025).

References

FRA (2025). Japanese sardine, Pacific stock. Stock assessment summary, August 2025. https://abchan.fra.go.jp/wpt/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/simple_2025_01.pdf

Traceability information

The applicant confirmed that, as previously, California pilchard is exclusively caught and landed in Mexican waters and ports. The applicant also confirmed that Japanese pilchard may be landed in China or Japan, but that as previously they record all KDEs for this material.

Species name	California pilchard, *Sardinops sagax caeruleus*			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*			
Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
	Mexico	Medium (Mexico)	Medium (Mexico)	Downgraded to medium risk
				Choose an item.

Species name	Japanese pilchard, *Sardinops sagax melanosticus*			
Path 1	Yes ☒ No ☐			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☒ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☐ No ☒ *If yes for Path 2, complete the next section*			
Path 2 outcome *Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.*	**Flag country**	**Coastal score**	**Port score**	**Risk outcome**
				Choose an item.
				Choose an item.

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.