



By-Product assessment report

BP062

Aquaculture Resources Ltd

Report code	BP062	Date of issue	July 2025
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1. Application details		
Applicant	Aquaculture Resources Ltd	
Applicant country	Malta	
2. Certification Body details		
Name of Certification Body (CB)	NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd	
Contact information for CB	fisheries@nsf.org / nsf-marintrust@nsf.org	
Assessor name	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
CB internal peer reviewer name	Léa Lebechnech	
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation	
Number of Assessment days	0.5	
Comments on the assessment	This assessment encompasses <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> - Bluefin tuna byproduct that is farmed in Malta. The following countries were listed as flag countries: France, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Turkey, Malta, Spain. France, Italy, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, Malta, Spain are Medium Risk flag countries and therefore can be Approved with Caution. Tunisia, Algeria, Libya are high risk flag countries, thus Step 3 was required, and more information was required from the MarinTrust applicant. He clarified by email on 14th July 2025 that: “we have listed the countries from where Maltese farms might purchase fish for fattening, which will ultimately end up at our plant (ABP). This does not mean that each year, Maltese farms purchase fish from all of these jurisdictions (for example, there have been limited purchases from Algeria recently). I am therefore completing the below, keeping in mind that I am addressing fish that will end up in Malta.” Eith the information provided, the byproduct was downgraded to Medium Risk in the Step 3 assessment, meaning it too can be Approved Source with Caution.	
3. Approval validity	Valid from 07/2025	Valid until 07/2026
4. Assessment cycle	Initial	
5. By-product assessment outcomes		

Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd (09357209) | TEM-003 (previously FISH1) - Issued April 2025 – Version 3.1

| Approved by MarinTrust Fisheries Manager

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By-product species name	Flag country(ies)	MarinTrust approval status
<i>Thunnus thynnus</i> - Bluefin tuna	France, Italy, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, Malta, Spain	Approved source with caution
<i>Thunnus thynnus</i> - Bluefin tuna	Tunisia, Algeria, Libya	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>Thunnus thynnus</i> - Bluefin tuna	France, Italy, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, Malta, Spain	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
<i>Thunnus thynnus</i> - Bluefin tuna	Tunisia, Algeria, Libya	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes

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>Thunnus thynnus</i> - Bluefin tuna	Algeria, Libya and Tunisia	FAO 37	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna	Pass	Path 2 – Yes	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk
Comments on Step 3 Assessment: When contacted for providing information to Step 3, the MarinTrust clarified by email on 14 th July 2025: <i>“In our application, we have listed the countries from where Maltese farms might purchase fish for fattening, which will ultimately end up at our plant (ABP). This does not mean that each year, Maltese farms purchase fish from all of these jurisdictions (for example, there have been limited purchases from Algeria recently).”</i>						

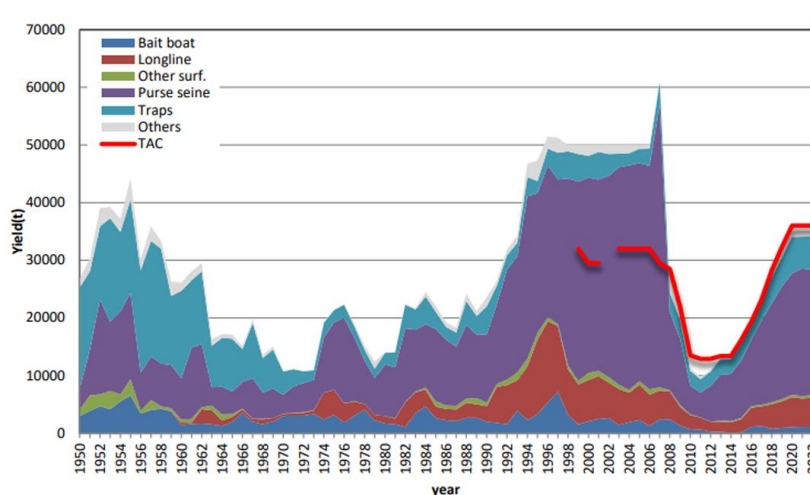
Appendix 2 – detailed assessment outcomes (step 2 and step 3 if applicable)

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 (0-100%)
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Algeria	High	2,17	3,06	2,58	1	1	5		14,15%
France	Medium	3,17	2,39	1,67	1	1	1	1	85,38%
Italy	Medium	2,54	2,17	1,73	1	1	1	1	68,87%
Libya	High	3	1,67	2,79	1	1	1	1	1,42%
Malta	Medium	1,83	2,61	2	1	1	1	1	73,11%
Morocco	Medium	2,29	1,78	2,17	1	1	1	1	49,06%
Spain	Medium	3,21	3,39	2,03	1	1	1	1	75,94%
Tunisia	High	2,54	2,89	2,23	1	1	5	1	37,26%
Turkey	Medium	2,21	1,89	2,77	1	1	1	1	43,40%

Step 3 outcomes

Category C assessment

Species name		<i>Thunnus thynnus</i> – Bluefin tuna
Fishing area and stock		Central Mediterranean (FAO 37)
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 stock assessment conducted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) takes all fishery removals into account. The most recent assessment remains the one identified in the previous MT assessment and was conducted in 2022. The stock assessment applied a Virtual Population Analysis and incorporated all international landings data. Catches are shown below in Figure 1.  Figure 1. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna catches by gear type, 1950 – 2022. Red line indicates the TAC since 1998. (ICCAT 2023).		
Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, C1.1 is met.		

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 carried out in 2022 using data up to 2022, as reported in a 2023 stock status executive summary published by the ICCAT (ICCAT 2023). This stock assessment does not refer to biomass-based reference points; however, the 2017 stock assessment established a value for BMSY of 270,000t. The 2022 stock assessment concludes that SSB is likely around 750,000t, therefore the stock is considered to have a biomass above the limit reference point in its most recent stock assessment (see Figure 2).

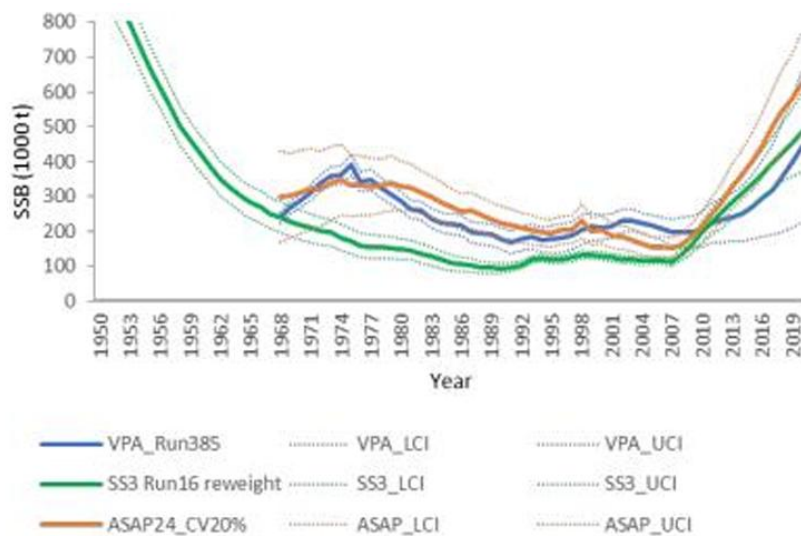


Figure 2. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna, trends in estimated SSB as estimated by the different stock assessment model platforms (ICCAT 2023).

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference points (or proxy), C1.2 is met.

References

ICCAT (2023). Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna stock assessment executive summary. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/BFT_E_ENG.pdf

Traceability information

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

Species name	<u>Thunnus thynnus</u> – Bluefin tuna			
Path 1	Yes ☐ No ☒			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes ☐ No ☐			
Path 2	Yes ☒ No ☐ <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
Path 2 outcome	Flag country	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	Tunisia	Medium risk (Tunisia)	Medium risk (Malta)	Downgraded to medium risk
	Algeria	Medium risk (Algeria)	Medium risk (Malta)	Downgraded to medium risk
	Libya	Medium risk (Libya)	Medium risk (Malta)	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.