



By-Product assessment report

BP070

St Helena Bay (Lucky Star Ltd)

Document TEM-003 (prev. FISH-1) - Version 3.1

Issued April 2025 – Effective April 2025

Report code	BP070	Date of issue	April 2026
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1. Application details	
Applicant	St Helena Bay (Lucky Star Ltd)
Applicant country	South Africa
2. Certification Body details	
Name of Certification Body (CB)	LRQA
Contact information for CB	mt-ca@lrqa.com
Assessor name	Jim Missen
CB internal peer reviewer name	Sam Peacock
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation
Number of Assessment days	0.2

<p>Comments on the assessment</p>	<p>The European, Californian, and Japanese pilchard species considered within this re-approval assessment are listed as Least Concern by the IUCN and are not included in any CITES appendix. Thus, they are eligible for approval as MarinTrust by-products.</p> <p>European and Japanese pilchard are sourced from medium-risk flag states and therefore do not require a Step 3 assessment. These sources were approved with caution. This also applies to the inclusion of South Korea as a flag state for Japanese pilchard in this assessment.</p> <p>In line with the previous re-approval assessment and subsequent scope extension, all three species were also subject to a Step 3 assessment due to high-risk flag states.</p> <p>Californian pilchard, with Mexico as the flag state, passed the Category C assessment. Traceability information allowed this fishery to be downgraded to medium risk; therefore, this by-product is approved but should be sourced with caution.</p> <p>Japanese pilchard, with Russia as the flag state, passed the Category C assessment. Previously provided traceability information indicates that one of the offloading countries is China, which has a high-risk port score; however, the client provided all relevant Key Data Elements (KDEs). Based on this information, the fishery was downgraded to medium risk and is approved as a by-product, but it should be sourced with caution.</p>	
<p>3. Approval validity</p>	<p>Valid from 04/2026</p>	<p>Valid until 04/2027</p>
<p>4. Assessment cycle</p>	<p>Re-Approval</p>	

1. 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
European pilchard (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)	Morocco, Spain, Portugal	NA	Approved source with caution
Californian pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>)	Mexico	FAO 77 – Eastern Central Pacific	Approved source with caution
Japanese pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>)	Thailand, Japan	NA	Approved source with caution
Japanese pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>)	Russia	FAO 61 – Northwest Pacific	Approved source with caution
Pilchard / Sardine (<i>Sardinops sagax</i>)	Namibia	NA	Approved source with caution
European pilchard (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)	Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Portugal	NA	Approved source with caution
European pilchard (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)	Netherlands, Germany	NA	Approved source with caution
Japanese pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>)	South Korea	FAO 61 – Northwest Pacific	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 <i>Common and Latin names</i>	Flag country(ies)	IUCN Red List <i>Select IUCN red list category from dropdown</i>	CITES Appendices <i>Select CITES appendix status from dropdown</i>	Step 2 risk status <i>Low risk/ Medium risk/ High risk</i>	Step 3 required <i>Yes / No</i>
European pilchard (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)	Morocco, Spain, Portugal	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
Californian pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>)	Mexico	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Japanese pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>)	Thailand, Japan	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
Japanese pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>)	Russia	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Pilchard / Sardine (<i>Sardinops sagax</i>)	Namibia	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No

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European pilchard (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)	Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Portugal	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
Japanese pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>)	South Korea	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No

Step 3 Assessment Outcomes

By-product species name <i>Common and Latin names</i>	Flag country(ies)	Fishing Area	Stock name <i>(If applicable e.g. Eastern Pacific stock)</i>	Category C Assessment Outcome <i>Pass/Fail</i>	Traceability information <i>Path 1 – Yes OR Path 2 – Yes/No OR MT Approved Whole Fish</i>	Step 3 Risk Outcome <i>Risk downgraded to Medium Risk/ Remains High Risk</i>
Californian pilchard <i>(Sardinops sagax caeruleus)</i>	Mexico	FAO 77 – Eastern Central Pacific	Eastern Central Pacific	Pass	Path 2 – No	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk
Japanese pilchard <i>(Sardinops sagax melanostictus)</i>	Russia	FAO 61 – Northwest Pacific	Northwest Pacific	Pass	Path 1 - Yes Path 2 – No	Risk downgraded to Medium Risk
Comments on Step 3 Assessment: <i>N/A</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
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%
Portugal	Medium	3	2.44	1.53	1	1	1	1	75.00%
Mexico	High	2.25	3.06	2.78	2	1	5	1	46.70%
Thailand	Medium	1.96	2.22	2.23	1	1	1	1	58.49%
Japan	Medium	2.92	2.06	1.93	1	1	1	1	91.51%
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%

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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%
Korea (Rep. South)	Medium	3.67	3.11	1.97	1	1	1	1	83.96%

Step 3 outcomes

Category C assessment

Species name		Californian pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>)	
Fishing area and stock		FAO 77 – Eastern Central Pacific	
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>No fundamental changes have occurred since the last re-approval assessment.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment for the fishery was conducted by the National Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INAPESCA) in 2023 in preparation for the update to the Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for the small pelagics fishery.</p> <p>The 2023 assessment considers removals of California pilchard from two areas: the west coast of Baja California (Baja California, Ensenada, and Baja California Sur, Bahía Magdalena) and the Gulf of California (Sonora, Guaymas, and Yavaros). The periods considered for the west coast of Baja California and the Gulf of California are from 1989 to 2020 (Figure 1) and from 1971 to 2020 (Figure 2), respectively¹. These two areas are subject to separate stock assessments.</p>			
<p>Figure 1. Total biomass (Btotal) and broodstock biomass (Brep) of Californian pilchard in the western coast of the Baja California peninsula during the period from 1989 to 2020¹.</p>			

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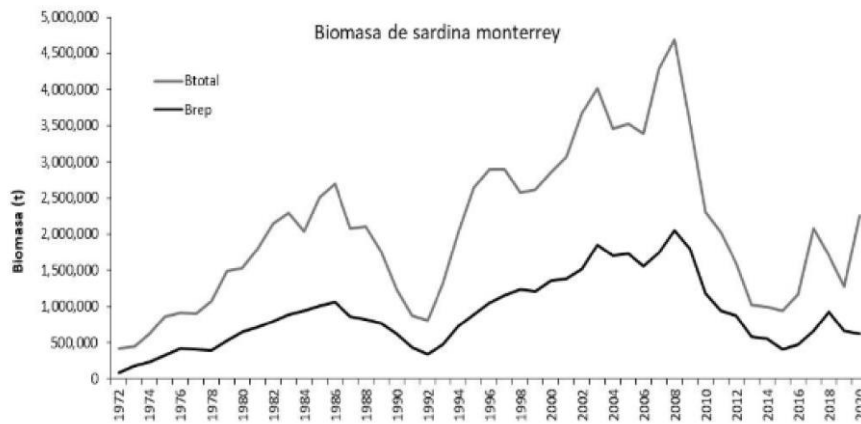


Figure 2. Total biomass (Btotal) and broodstock biomass (Brep) of the Californian pilchard in the Gulf of California during the period from 1971 to 2020¹.

Based on the above, the fishery passes Clause C1.1.

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.

No fundamental changes have occurred since the last re-approval assessment.

For the purpose of the 2023 assessment, the west coast of Baja California and the Gulf of California are subject to separate stock assessments, discussed below.

West coast of Baja California

The average total biomass in Baja California (Ensenada) and Baja California Sur (Bahía Magdalena) over the assessment period is 957,875 tons, ranging from 673,143 to 1,527,488 tons¹. The 2020 estimate places total biomass at 950,000 tons. All exploitable biomass values have remained above the biomass at maximum sustainable yield (BMSY), estimated at 385,000 tons¹.

The Kobe plot in Figure 3 indicates that the stock has remained within sustainable exploitation levels throughout the evaluation period. However, fishing mortality in the last four years has exceeded the target reference point, indicating that management measures are necessary.

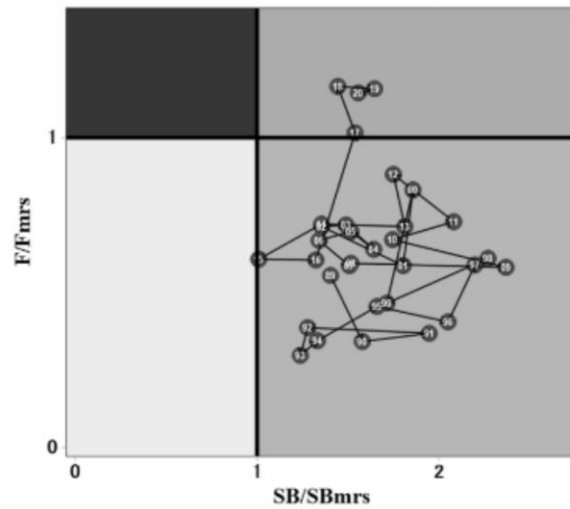


Figure 3. Kobe diagrams showing the evolution and current status of the Californian pilchard population off the western coast of the Baja California Peninsula¹.

Gulf of California

The total biomass in Sonora (Guaymas and Yavaros) over the assessment period peaked in 2008 followed by a subsequent decline with biomass most recently sitting between 1.28 and 2.25 million tons between 2017 and 2020¹. In general, spawning biomass has remained above the biomass at maximum sustainable yield, estimated at approximately 500,700 tons¹.

While there have been significant variations in healthy of the stock seen in the Kobe plot (Figure 4), the Californian pilchard population is in a healthy condition, and fishing mortality has remained below the recommended maximum, indicating that overfishing is not occurring.

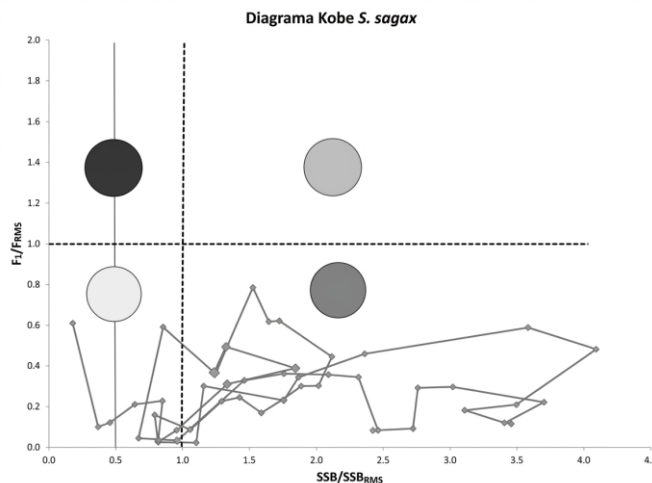


Figure 4. Kobe diagrams showing the evolution and current status of the Californian pilchard population in the Gulf of California¹.

Based on the above, the fishery passes Clause C1.2.

References

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- Diario Oficial de la Federación. 2023. Agreement announcing the update of the Fisheries Management Plan for the small pelagic fishery (sardines, anchovies, mackerel and related species) in northwestern Mexico.
https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/848506/DOF_-_Diario_Oficial_de_la_Federaci_n.pdf

Species name	Japanese pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>)	
Fishing area and stock	FAO 61 – Northwest Pacific	
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 North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) is an intergovernmental organisation responsible for managing high seas fishery resources in the North Pacific Ocean¹. However, there is currently no NPFC stock assessment available for Japanese pilchard within the NPFC Convention Area. The primary distribution of the Japanese sardine stock lies within Japan’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and is therefore subject to an annual domestic stock assessment². This assessment uses a form of Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) that incorporates catches from within the NPFC Convention Area³.

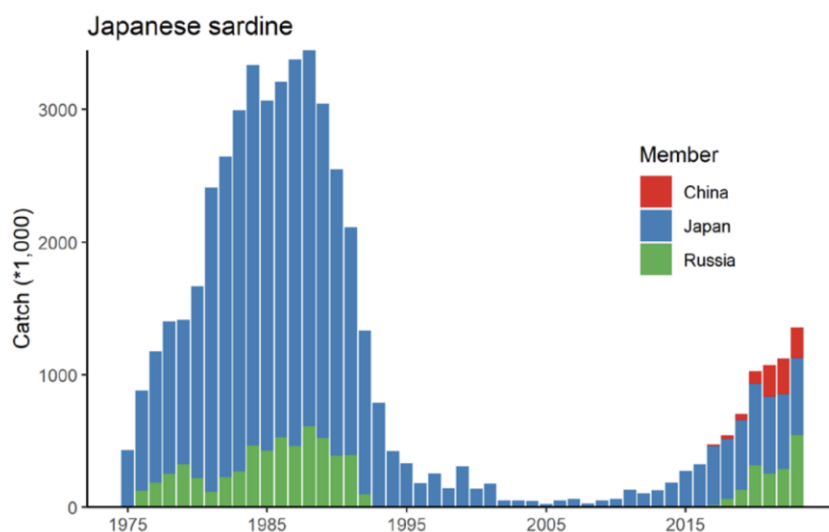


Figure 5. Historical catch of Japanese Sardine by NPFC Members in both the convention area and inside Members EEZs².

Based on the above, the fishery passes Clause C1.1.

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 of the Japanese sardine was completed in 2025 by the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency for the stock within Japan’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In recent years, Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) and fishing mortality (F) have shown increasing trends. In 2024, SSB was estimated at 1.89 times SSBmsy, while F reached 2.14 times Fmsy⁴. As shown in the Kobe plot in Figure 6, SSB is above the target reference point.

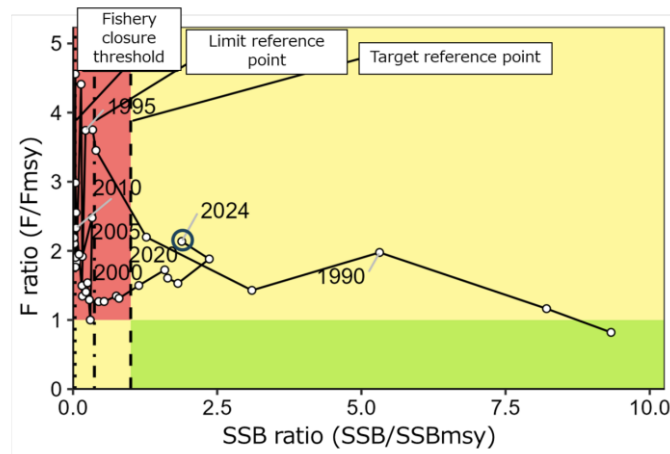


Figure 6. Relationship between historical spawning stock mass (SSBmsy) and fishing pressure (Fmsy) that achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY)⁴.

Based on the above, the fishery passes Clause C1.2.

References

1. North Pacific Fisheries Commission. (n.d.). About NPFC. https://www.npfc.int/about_npfc
2. North Pacific Fisheries Commission. (2024). 9th Meeting Report, NPFC-2024-SC09-Final Report. 405 pp. <https://www.npfc.int/sites/default/files/2025-01/SC09%20Report.pdf>
3. Higashiguchi, K. (2025). 6.3.2 Observation of Domestic Stock Assessment of Japanese Sardine in Japan in 2024 FY (January-December) [PowerPoint slides] https://www.npfc.int/system/files/2025-12/NPFC-2025-SC10-IP07%20JS_DomesticStockAssessment_Jpn.pdf
4. North Pacific Fisheries Commission. (2026). Japanese Sardine Stock Assessment, NPFC-2026-COM10-IP06. <https://www.npfc.int/system/files/2026-03/NPFC-2026-COM10-IP06%20JS%20assessment%20by%20Japan.pdf>

Traceability information

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

Species name		Californian pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>)		
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	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	Mexico	2.86	3.06	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name		Japanese pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>)		
Path 1		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Confirm all KDEs are provided		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	China	3.13	4.33 *	Downgraded to medium risk *KDEs were previously provided for the vessel landing in China.
	Russia	2.5	3.11	
	South Korea	2.57	2.78	