



By-Product assessment report

BP088

West Point Processors

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

Issued April 2025 – Effective April 2025

Report code	BP088	Date of issue	June 2026
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1. Application details	
Applicant	West Point Processors
Applicant country	South Africa
2. Certification Body details	
Name of Certification Body (CB)	LRQA
Contact information for CB	fisheries-ca@lrqa.com
Assessor name	Blanca Gonzalez
CB internal peer reviewer name	Ayana Sabu
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation
Number of Assessment days	0.5

Comments on the assessment	All the byproduct species listed in this report are not considered ETP species according to the Marin Trust definition, fulfilling this requirement for the assessment. Pilchard, Hake, <i>and</i> Japanese pilchard with flag states from South Africa, Namibia and South Korea, are medium risk. These stocks do not require a step 3 and approve the assessment but should be source with caution. According to the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), <i>Sardinops ocellatus</i> is currently considered a synonym of <i>Sardinops sagax</i>, although <i>S. ocellatus</i> is considered obsolete. FishBase, the European Commission's Fish Names database, and FAO also recognize this synonym. <i>S. ocellatus</i> has persisted in scientific and fisheries literature from the Benguela Current region, including Namibia and South Africa (Boyer et al., 2001). Taxonomic treatment remains inconsistent, as Eschmeyer's <i>Catalog of Fishes</i> currently recognizes <i>S. ocellatus</i> as a valid species while noting its previous treatment as a synonym of <i>S. sagax</i>. Therefore, both names should be considered when reviewing South African and Namibian sardine fisheries literature to ensure relevant historical and fisheries information is not overlooked. Japanese and Californian pilchard did require a step 3 assessment evaluation due to a high-risk flag state. Additional information was requested to the applicant and provided information about the fishing areas and traceability data. This allowed Japanese and Californian pilchard to be downgraded to medium risk, approving this byproduct, but should be sourced 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 <i>Common and Latin names</i>	Flag country(ies)	Fishing Areas <i>Only applicable to Step 3 assessed species</i>	MarinTrust approval status
Pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax</i> / <i>Sardinops ocellatus</i>	South Africa, Namibia	NA	Approved source with caution
Japanese pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>	Russia	FAO 61 – Pacific, Northwest	Approved source with caution
Californian pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>	Mexico	FAO 77 – Pacific, Eastern Central	Approved source with caution
Hake - <i>Merluccius capensis</i>	South Africa	NA	Approved source with caution
Hake - <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>	South Africa	NA	Approved source with caution
Japanese pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>	South Korea	FAO 61 – Pacific, Northwest	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>
Pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax</i>	South Africa, Namibia	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
Japanese pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>	Russia	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Californian pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>	Mexico	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Hake - <i>Merluccius capensis</i>	South Africa	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
Hake - <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>	South Africa	Not Evaluated	Not listed	Medium risk	No

Japanese pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>	South Korea	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
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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>
Japanese pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>	Russia	FAO 61 – Pacific, Northwest	Pacific stock	Pass	<i>Path 2 -Yes</i>	<i>Risk downgraded to Medium Risk</i>
Californian pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>	Mexico	FAO 77 – Eastern Central Pacific	Western coast of the Baja California Peninsula	Pass	<i>Path 2 – Yes</i>	<i>Risk downgraded to Medium Risk</i>
Comments on Step 3 Assessment: NA						

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

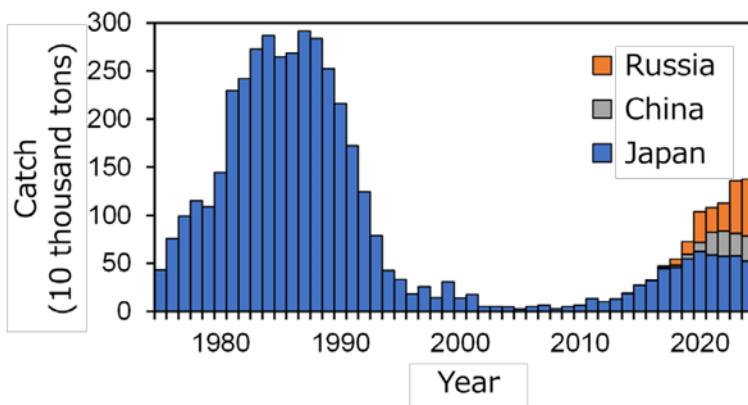
Step 2 outcomes

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
Mauritania	High	1.75	3	2.43	1	1	1	1	14.62%
South Africa	Medium	2.58	2.67	2.3	1	1	1	1	44.34%
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%
Mexico	High	2.25	3.06	2.78	2	1	5	1	46.70%

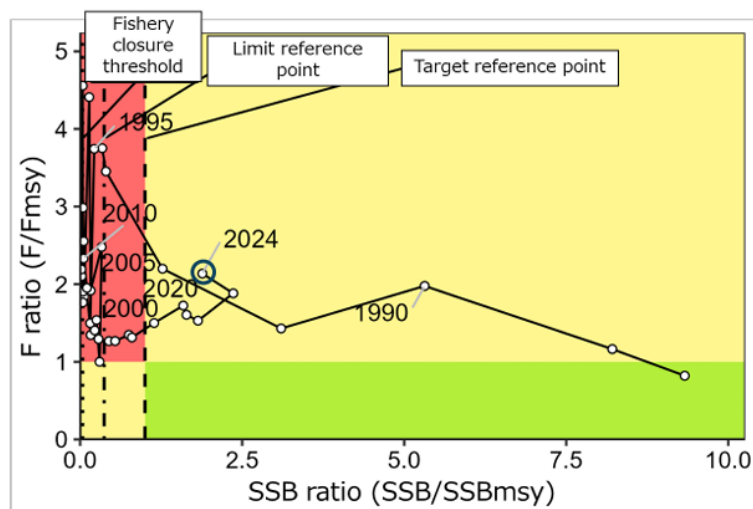
Korea (Rep. South)	Medium	3.67	3.11	1.97	1	1	1	1	83.96%
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Step 3 outcomes

Category C assessment

Species name		Japanese pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>	
Fishing area and stock		FAO 61 – Pacific, Northwest Pacific 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.	Passs
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 clause is met considering that:			
The Pacific stock assessment for Japanese pilchard is conducted by Japan and it is used for management of the domestic fishery. The last stock assessment update was submitted in early 2026 to the North Pacific Fisheries Commission as part of the 10th Commission meeting Conservation and Management Measures and Resolutions, where catch data from China, Japan and Russia to run a tuned VPA model (NPFC 2026).			
			
Historical catch of Japanese sardine from 1975 to 2024 (NPFC 2026).			
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 clause is met considering that:			

The biomass estimated by Japan's stock assessment have been increasing since 2010, In 2024, SSB was estimated in 2,699,000 t, which is 88% above the target reference point (1,432,000 t); therefore, spawning stock biomass is currently estimated to be also above the limit reference point (530,000 t) (NPFC 2026).



Kobe plot indicating historical and current status of Japanese sardine in relation to MSY-based reference points (NPFC 2026)

References

NPFC. 2026. Japanese sardine stock assessment, submitted by Japan.

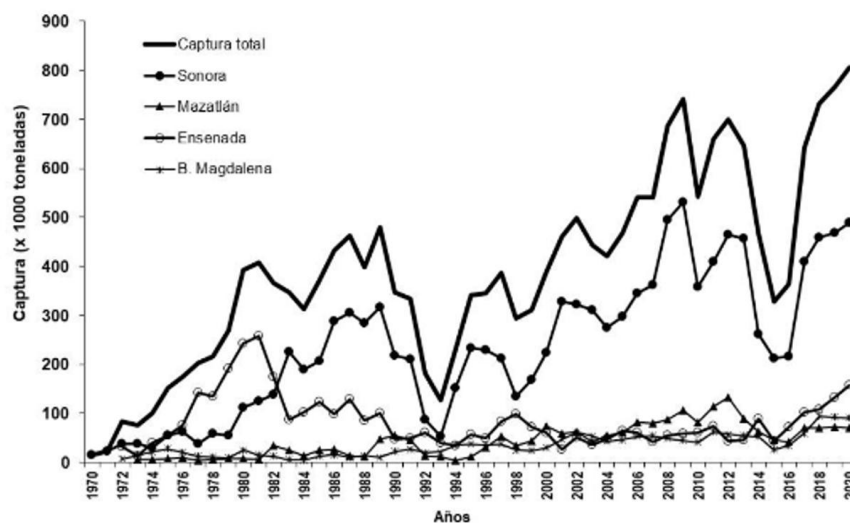
<https://www.npfc.int/system/files/2026-03/NPFC-2026-COM10-IP06%20JS%20assessment%20by%20Japan.pdf>

Species name		Californian pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>
Fishing area and stock		FAO 77 – Eastern Central Pacific Western coast of the Baja California Peninsula
C1 Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements		
C1	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. Passs
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 Clause is met considering that:

The last official stock assessment was published in 2023 as part of the update of the fisheries management plan for the small pelagic fishery of northwest Mexico. This assessment includes catch data from 1989- 2020 from the landing ports in Ensenada and Bahía Magdalena, where this stock is fished. (DOF 2023).



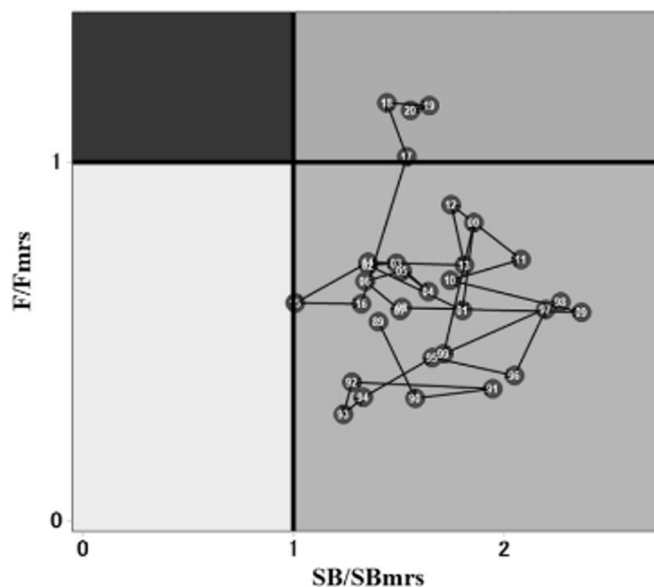
Total annual catch of small pelagic fish from 1970 to 2020 (Captura total), as well as the breakdown for the Western coast of the Baja California Peninsula stock which includes Ensenada and Bahía Magdalena (stock assessed in this report); and the Gulf of California stock (not part of this assessment), Sonora and Mazatlán. (DOF 2023).

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 Clause is met considering that:

The total biomass of the Californian pilchard (*sardina monterrey* in spanish) has ranged between 673,143 and 1,527,488 t, with an average of 957,875 t; all exploitable biomass values have been above the maximum sustainable yield biomass, which was estimated at 385,000 t. The Kobe plot shows that the stock biomass level has been maintained at sustainable exploitation levels throughout the entire period evaluated (DOF 2023).

In 2024, research surveys were conducted to obtain abundance estimates for commercially important species. The results indicated that Californian pilchard biomass was estimated at 776,414 t, suggesting that biomass remains above the limit reference point (Martinez-Magaña et al. 2024)



Kobe plot showing the evolution and current status of the west coast of the Baja California Peninsula Californian pilchard stock (DOF 2023)

References

DOF. 2023. Diario Oficial de la Federación. 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/imipas/documentos/plan-de-manejo-pesquero-para-la-pesqueria-de-pelagicos-menores-del-noroeste-de-mexico>

Martínez-Magaña, V.H., J.R.F. Vallarta-Zárate, J.E. Osuna-Soto, M. Vásquez-Ortiz, L. Altamirano-López, E.V. Pérez-Flores, S.C. Morales-Gutiérrez, Y.I. La Rosa-Izquierdo, D. Hernández-Cruz, M.L. Jacob-Cervantes y R.I. Rojas-González. 2025. Investigaciones en la Corriente de California 2024. Evaluación de recursos pesqueros en el Noroeste Mexicano: Golfo de California y Costa Occidental de la Península de Baja California durante la primavera y verano del 2024. Campaña Océano Pacífico 2024, B/I Dr. Jorge Carranza Fraser. Instituto Mexicano de Investigación en Pesca y Acuicultura Sustentables, Dirección de Investigación Pesquera en el Atlántico. Marzo, 2025. Informe Técnico Núm. 27. 156 p.

https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/989633/InfTec27_JCFIMIPASweb.pdf

Traceability information

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

Species name	Japanese pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>			
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 <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	Flag country	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	Russia	Medium risk 2.57	Medium risk 2.78	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Californian pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>			
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 <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	Flag country	Coastal score	Port score	Risk outcome
	Mexico	Medium risk 2.86	Medium risk 3.06	Downgraded to medium risk