



## By-Product assessment report

*BP088*

*West Point Processors*

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

*Issued April 2025 – Effective April 2025*

<b>Report code</b>	BP088	<b>Date of issue</b>	June 2025
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1. Application details	
<b>Applicant</b>	West Point Processors
<b>Applicant country</b>	South Africa
2. Certification Body details	
<b>Name of Certification Body (CB)</b>	LRQA
<b>Contact information for CB</b>	mt-ca@lrqa.com
<b>Assessor name</b>	Blanca Gonzalez
<b>CB internal peer reviewer name</b>	José Peiró Crespo
<b>Internal peer review evaluation</b>	Agree with evaluation
<b>Number of Assessment days</b>	0.5

<p><b>Comments on the assessment</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>One species, pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax</i>) has a medium risk flag states approving the assessment, but should be source with caution, and do not require a step 3 assessment.</p> <p>European, 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 data included the fishing areas which was necessary for the Category C assessment. This allowed the European pilchard from central zone stock (zones A and B), Japanese and Californian pilchard to be downgraded to medium risk, approving this byproduct, but should be sourced with caution.</p> <p>European pilchard stock from the south zone (zone C) fails the Category C assessment since in the last corresponding stock assessments, biomass was below the established reference point, maintaining a high-risk status, and therefore this species stock is not approved to be used as a byproduct.</p>	
<p><b>3. Approval validity</b></p>	<p>Valid from 06/2025</p>	<p>Valid until 06/2025</p>
<p><b>4. Assessment cycle</b></p>	<p>Initial</p>	

<p><b>1. Scope Extension Assessment</b></p>	
<p><b>Extension of the Scope</b></p>	<p>For the scope extension, two hake species were added: <i>Merluccius capensis</i> and <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i></p> <p>This species is caught by South African-flagged vessels, which are considered medium-risk; therefore, Category C assessments were not required.</p>

<b>Name of Certification Body (CB)</b>	LRQA
<b>Contact information for CB</b>	mt-ca@lrqa.com
<b>Assessor name</b>	Blanca Gonzalez
<b>CB internal peer reviewer name</b>	Ayana Sabu
<b>Internal peer review evaluation</b>	Agree with evaluation
<b>Comments on the assessment</b>	<p>All byproduct species listed in this report are not considered ETP species under the Marin Trust definition, thereby fulfilling this requirement for the assessment.</p> <p>Pilchard (<i>Sardinops sagax</i>) and hake (<i>Merluccius capensis</i> and <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>) have a medium risk flag state, approving the assessment, but they should be sourced with caution, and do not require a step 3 assessment.</p> <p>European, 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 data included the fishing areas which was necessary for the Category C assessment. This allowed the European pilchard from central zone stock (zones A and B), Japanese and Californian pilchard to be downgraded to medium risk, approving this byproduct, but should be sourced with caution.</p> <p>European pilchard stock from the south zone (zone C) fails the Category C assessment since in the last corresponding stock assessments, biomass was below the established reference point, maintaining a high-risk status, and therefore this species stock is not approved to be used as a byproduct.</p>
<b>Approval validity</b>	January 2026

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
European pilchard - <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Morocco, Spain, Portugal	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central	Approved
European pilchard - <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Mauritania	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central, Central Zone (zones A and B)	Approved
European pilchard - <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Mauritania	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central, South Zone (zone C)	Not approved
Pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax</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
<b>Hake - <i>Merluccius capensis</i></b>	<b>South Africa</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>Approved source with caution</b>
<b>Hake - <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i></b>	<b>South Africa</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>Approved source with caution</b>
<p><b>Guidance for on-site auditor</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>			

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 checks 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
European pilchard - <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Mauritania	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
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

### Step 3 Assessment Outcomes

Assessor note: All species identified as requiring Step 3 in Table above, will have additional assessment information presented here.

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>
European pilchard - <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Mauritania	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central	Central Zone (zones A and B)	Pass	<i>Path 2 -Yes</i>	<i>Risk downgraded to Medium Risk</i>
European pilchard - <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Mauritania	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central	South Zone (zone C)	Fail	<i>NA</i>	<i>Remains High Risk</i>
Japanese pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>	Russia	FAO 61 – Pacific, Northwest	Pacific and Tsushima warm current	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:** *Assessor note: n/a*

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

### Step 2 outcomes

*Assessor note: Copy and paste from Spreadsheet .*

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%
Mauritania	High	1.75	3	2.43	1	1	1	1	14.62%
South Africa	Medium	2.58	2.78	1.80	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%

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| Approved by MarinTrust Fisheries Manager

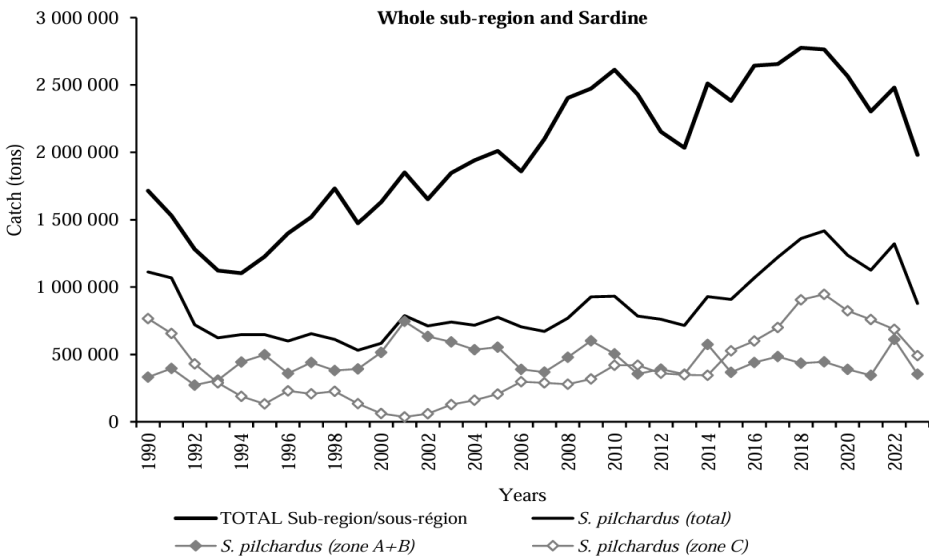
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Mexico	High	2.25	3.06	2.78	2	1	5	1	46.70%
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## Step 3 outcomes

### Category C assessment

<b>Species name</b>		European pilchard - <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	
<b>Fishing area and stock</b>		FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central Central Zone (zones A and B)	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	<b>C1.1</b>	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
	<b>C1.2</b>	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
<b>Clause outcome:</b>			Pass
<b>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</b>			
The Clause is met considering that:			
The preliminary results from the FAO working group on the assessment of small pelagic fish off northwest Africa in 2024 were obtained using the dynamic version of the Schaefer (1954) model as in previous years, which uses historical fishing mortality and/or catch data for simple medium-term projections of future yields and stock development. (FAO 2024) (Figure1).			
			
<b>Figure 1.</b> Total catch of small pelagic species and sardine catch in the whole subregion from 1990 to 2023 (FAO 2024).			

**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 stock is considered fully exploited, meaning that the fishery operates within sustainable limits, and current fishing pressure appears sustainable and can be maintained. This indicates that despite the current biomass being 86% the target reference point ( $B_{cur}/B_{0.1} = 86\%$ ) (Figure 2), biomass is within the limit reference points; otherwise, the fishery would be considered overexploited. Also, the target reference point used for this fishery ( $B_{0.1}$ ) is more conservative than MSY. It is used due to inconsistencies of some data sets driven by common fluctuations of the biomass and recruitment levels of the stock, and to be in line with the precautionary approach, where the management recommendation from the working group is not to exceed the current level of catches (354,000 tons). (FAO 2024)

Stock	2023 catch in thousand tons (2019–2023 avg)	$B_{cur}/B_{0.1}$	$F_{cur}/F_{0.1}$	Assessment
Sardine <i>S. pilchardus</i> Zone A+B	354 (429)	86%	57%	Fully exploited

Figure 2. Summary of the assessment for *S. pilchardus* in Zones A and B by the 2024 Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off Northwest Africa (FAO 2024).

**References**

FAO. 2024. Summary report of the FAO working group on the assessment of small pelagic fish off northwest Africa 2024. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/beefe160-e734-49af-8696-a0320e1dc981>

<b>Species name</b>		European pilchard - <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	
<b>Fishing area and stock</b>		FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central South Zone (zone C)	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	<b>C1.1</b>	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
	<b>C1.2</b>	The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR	Fail

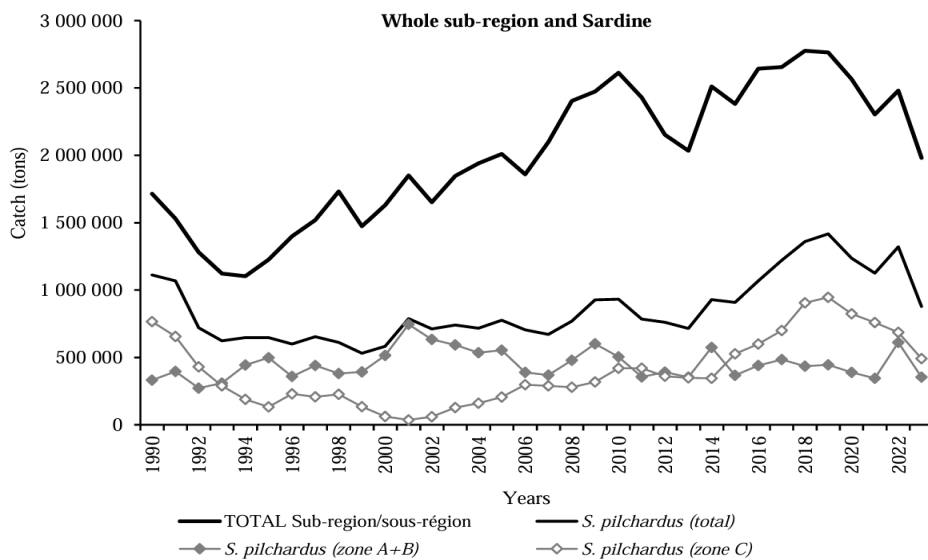
	removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	
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**Clause outcome:** Fail

**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 preliminary results from the FAO working group on the assessment of small pelagic fish off northwest Africa in 2024 were obtained using the dynamic version of the Schaefer (1954) model as in previous years, which uses historical fishing mortality and/or catch data for simple medium-term projections of future yields and stock development. (FAO 2024) (Figure1).



**Figure 1.** Total catch of small pelagic species and sardine catch in the whole subregion from 1990 to 2023 (FAO 2024).

**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 not met considering that:

The stock is considered to be overexploited, which means that the fishery is in an undesired state in terms of biomass or/and fishing mortality, and fishing pressure should be reduced to allow the stock to grow. Results indicate that the current biomass was 71% the target reference point ( $B_{cur}/B_{0.1} = 86\%$ ) (figure 2). Target reference point used for this fishery ( $B_{0.1}$ ) is more conservative than MSY, and it is used due to inconsistencies of some data since this stock is strongly influenced by environmental factors and shows fluctuations in biomass that are independent of fishing, because abundance indices in this area are not regularly assessed, and to be in line with the precautionary approach.

Stock	2023 catch in thousand tons (2019–2023 avg)	$B_{cur}/B_{0.1}$	$F_{cur}/F_{0.1}$	Assessment
<b>Sardine</b> <i>S. pilchardus</i> Zone C	491 (741)	71%	98%	Overexploited

Figure 2. Summary of the assessment for *S. pilchardus* in Zone C by the 2024 Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off Northwest Africa (FAO 2024).

### References

FAO. 2024. Summary report of the FAO working group on the assessment of small pelagic fish off northwest Africa 2024. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/beefe160-e734-49af-8696-a0320e1dc981>

<b>Species name</b>		Japanese pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>	
<b>Fishing area and stock</b>		FAO 61 – Pacific, Northwest Pacific and Tsushima warm current	
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
	<b>C1.1</b>	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
	<b>C1.2</b>	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
<b>Clause outcome:</b>			Pass
<b>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</b>			
The clause is met considering that:			
A stock assessment for Japanese pilchard is conducted by Japan within their, which includes the Pacific and Tsushima warm current stock, and it is used for management of the domestic fishery. The last stock assessment was published in December 2024 and used catch data from China, Japan and Russia to run a tuned VPA model (Figure 1). The Russian fishery occurs inside their EEZ, but the success of Russian fishery depends on the migration patterns and overall abundance of Japanese Sardine, as the sardine move into Russian waters when their abundance is high. For this reason, there was no catch from 1994-2011 when the stock abundance was low. (NPFC 2024)			

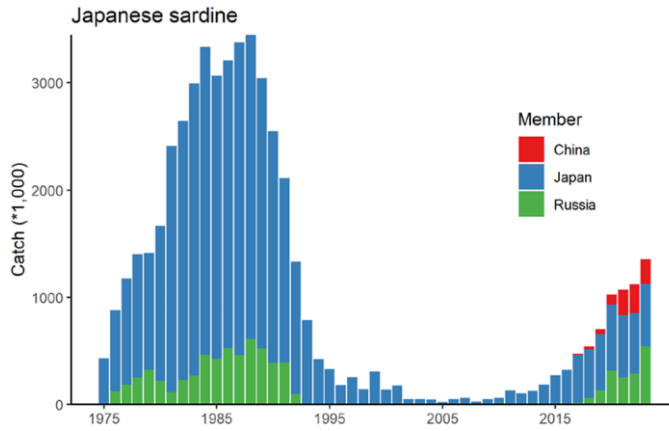


Figure 1. Historical catch of Japanese pilchard from 1975 to 2023 (NPFC 2024).

**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; therefore, the spawning stock biomass is currently estimated to be higher than  $SSB_{MSY}$ , but fishing mortality is higher than  $F_{MSY}$  indicating overfishing in the most recent 3 years (Figure 2). (NPFC 2024).

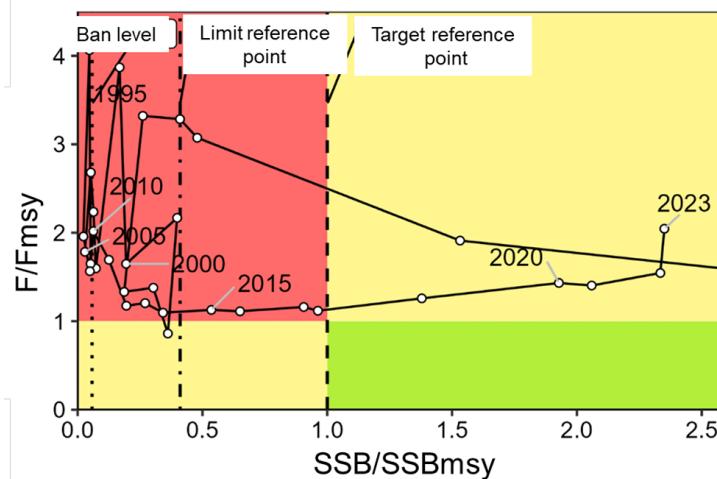
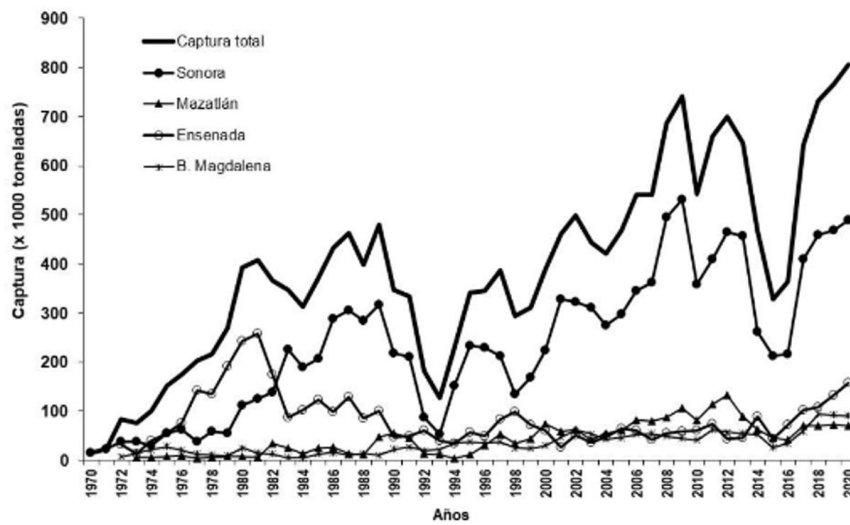


Figure 2. Kobe plot indicating historical and current status of Japanese sardine in relation to MSY-based reference points (NPFC 2024)

**References**

NPFC. 2024. 9<sup>TH</sup> Scientific Committee Meeting, Tokyo, Japan.  
<https://www.npfc.int/sites/default/files/2025-01/SC09%20Report.pdf>

<b>Species name</b>	Californian pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>		
<b>Fishing area and stock</b>	FAO 77 – Eastern Central Pacific Western coast of the Baja California Peninsula		
<b>C1</b>	<b>Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements</b>		
<b>C1.1</b>	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.	<b>Pass</b>	
<b>C1.2</b>	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.	<b>Pass</b>	
<b>Clause outcome:</b>			<b>Pass</b>
<p><b>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</b></p> <p>The Clause is met considering that:</p> <p>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) (Figure1).</p>			



**Figure 1.** 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 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 (Figure 2). (DOF 2023).

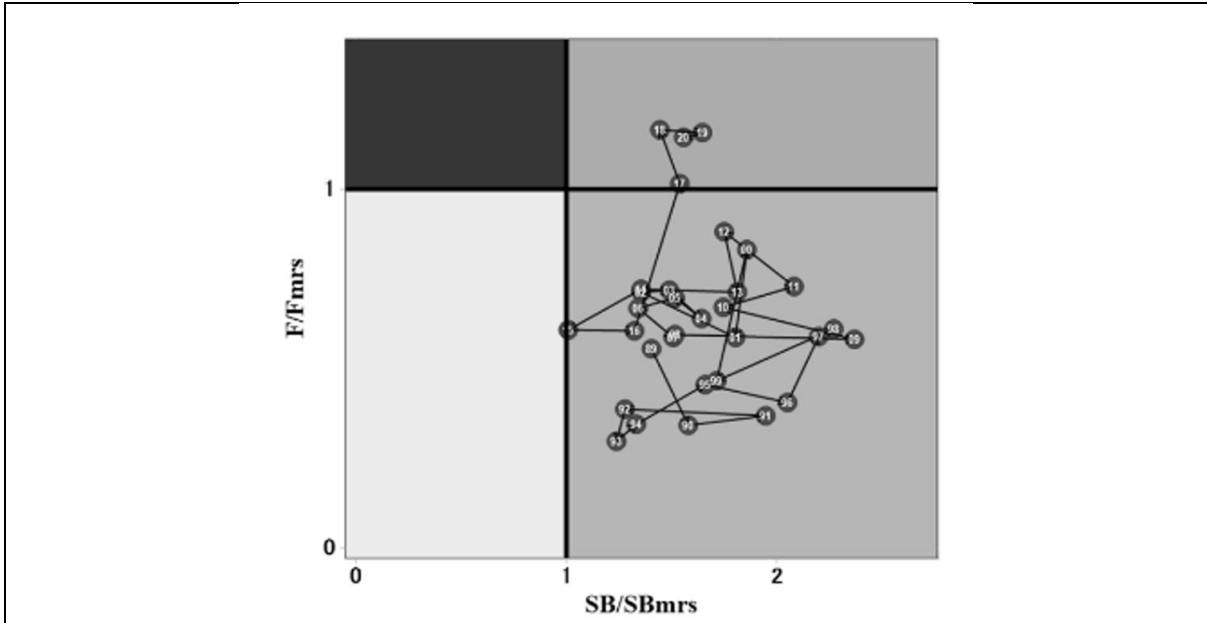


Figure 2. Kobe plot showing the evolution and current status of the west coast of the Baja California Peninsula Californian pilchard stock (DOF 2023)

**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>

**Traceability information**

Information provided for Step 3 Path 1 or Path 2

<b>Species name</b>	European pilchard - <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>			
<b>Path 1</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Path 2</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
<b>Path 2 outcome</b> <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	<b>Flag country</b>	<b>Coastal score</b>	<b>Port score</b>	<b>Risk outcome</b>
	Mauritania	Medium risk 2.69	Medium risk 3	Downgraded to medium risk

<b>Species name</b>	Japanese pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax melanostictus</i>			
<b>Path 1</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Path 2</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
<b>Path 2 outcome</b> <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	<b>Flag country</b>	<b>Coastal score</b>	<b>Port score</b>	<b>Risk outcome</b>
	Russia	Medium risk 2.57	Medium risk 2.78	Downgraded to medium risk

<b>Species name</b>	Californian pilchard - <i>Sardinops sagax caeruleus</i>			
<b>Path 1</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Confirm all KDEs are provided	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Path 2</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes for Path 2, complete the next section</i>			
<b>Path 2 outcome</b> <i>Countries may be different for Coastal State and Port State.</i>	<b>Flag country</b>	<b>Coastal score</b>	<b>Port score</b>	<b>Risk outcome</b>
	Mexico	Medium risk 2.86	Medium risk 3.06	Downgraded to medium risk