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 2025

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	mt-ca@lrqa.com
Assessor name	Blanca Gonzalez
CB internal peer reviewer name	José Peiró Crespo
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. One species, pilchard (*Sardinops sagax*) has a medium risk flag states approving the assessment, but should be source with caution, and do not require a step 3 assessment. 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. 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.	
3. Approval validity	Valid from 06/2025	Valid until 06/2025
4. Assessment cycle	Initial	

1. Scope Extension Assessment

Extension of the Scope	For the scope extension, two hake species were added: *Merluccius capensis* and *Merluccius paradoxus* This species is caught by South African-flagged vessels, which are considered medium-risk; therefore, Category C assessments were not required. The European pilchard category C assessments for central zone stock (zones A and B) and the south zone (zone C) were updated as part of a harmonization process, as the 2025 assessment report for these stocks is now available. As a result, European pilchard in the Eastern Central Atlantic stocks (Central Zone A and B, and South zone C) fails the Category C assessment since both stocks are considered to be overexploited with biomass levels below the established reference points, maintaining a high-risk status; therefore, these stocks are no longer approved to be used as byproduct.
Name of Certification Body (CB)	LRQA
Contact information for CB	mt-ca@lrqa.com
Assessor name	Blanca Gonzalez
CB internal peer reviewer name	Ayana Sabu
Internal peer review evaluation	Agree with evaluation

Comments on the assessment	All byproduct species listed in this report are not considered ETP species under the Marin Trust definition, thereby fulfilling this requirement for the assessment. Pilchard (*Sardinops sagax*) and hake (*Merluccius capensis* and *Merluccius paradoxus)* have a medium risk flag state, approving the assessment, but they should be sourced with caution, and do not require a step 3 assessment. 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 Japanese and Californian pilchard to be downgraded to medium risk, approving this byproduct, but should be sourced with caution. European pilchard in the Eastern Central Atlantic stocks (Central Zone A and B, and South zone C) fails the Category C assessment since both stocks are considered to be overexploited with biomass levels below the established reference points, maintaining a high-risk status; therefore, these stocks are no longer approved to be used as byproduct.
Approval validity	January 2026 - June 2026

5. By-product assessment outcomes			
By-product species name *Common and Latin names*	**Flag country(ies)**	**Fishing Areas** *Only applicable to Step 3 assessed species*	**MarinTrust approval status**
European pilchard - *Sardina pilchardus*	Morocco, Spain, Portugal	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central	Approved

European pilchard - *Sardina pilchardus*	Mauritania	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central, Central Zone (zones A and B)	Not approved
European pilchard - *Sardina pilchardus*	Mauritania	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central, South Zone (zone C)	Not approved
Pilchard - *Sardinops sagax*	South Africa, Namibia	NA	Approved source with caution
Japanese pilchard - *Sardinops sagax melanostictus*	Russia	FAO 61 – Pacific, Northwest	Approved source with caution
Californian pilchard - *Sardinops sagax caeruleus*	Mexico	FAO 77 – Pacific, Eastern Central	Approved source with caution
Hake - *Merluccius capensis*	South Africa	NA	Approved source with caution
Hake - *Merluccius paradoxus*	South Africa	NA	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 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 *Common and Latin names*	**Flag country(ies)**	**IUCN Red List** *Select IUCN red list category from dropdown*	**CITES Appendices** *Select CITES appendix status from dropdown*	**Step 2 risk status** *Low risk/ Medium risk/ High risk*	**Step 3 required** *Yes / No*
European pilchard - *Sardina pilchardus*	Morocco, Spain, Portugal	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
European pilchard - *Sardina pilchardus*	Mauritania	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Pilchard - *Sardinops sagax*	South Africa, Namibia	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
Japanese pilchard - *Sardinops sagax melanostictus*	Russia	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes
Californian pilchard - *Sardinops sagax caeruleus*	Mexico	Least concern	Not listed	High risk	Yes

Hake - *Merluccius capensis*	South Africa	Least concern	Not listed	Medium risk	No
Hake - *Merluccius paradoxus*	South Africa	Not Evaluated	Not listed	Medium risk	No

Step 3 Assessment Outcomes

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

By-product species name *Common and Latin names*	Flag country(ies)	Fishing Area	Stock name *(If applicable e.g. Eastern Pacific stock)*	Category C Assessment Outcome *Pass/Fail*	Traceability information *Path 1 – Yes OR* *Path 2 – Yes/No OR* *MT Approved Whole Fish*	Step 3 Risk Outcome *Risk downgraded to Medium Risk/ Remains High Risk*
European pilchard - *Sardina pilchardus*	Mauritania	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central	Central Zone (zones A and B)	Fail	*NA*	*Remains High Risk*
European pilchard - *Sardina pilchardus*	Mauritania	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central	South Zone (zone C)	Fail	*NA*	*Remains High Risk*
Japanese pilchard - *Sardinops sagax melanostictus*	Russia	FAO 61 – Pacific, Northwest	Pacific and Tsushima warm current	Pass	*Path 2 -Yes*	*Risk downgraded to Medium Risk*
Californian pilchard - *Sardinops sagax caeruleus*	Mexico	FAO 77 – Eastern Central Pacific	Western coast of the Baja California Peninsula	Pass	*Path 2 – Yes*	*Risk downgraded to Medium Risk*

Comments on Step 3 Assessment: European pilchard (*Sardina pilchardus)* assessments were updated as part of a harmonization process, since the 2025 report of the stock status is now available.

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	2.67	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%

Step 3 outcomes

Category C assessment

Species name		European pilchard - *Sardina pilchardus*	
Fishing area and stock		FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central Central Zone (zones A and B)	
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.	Fail
		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 2025 were obtained using the dynamic version of the Schaefer (1954) model as in previous years, which uses historical fishing mortality and/or catch data (Figure 1) for simple medium-term projections of future yields and stock development (FAO 2025).

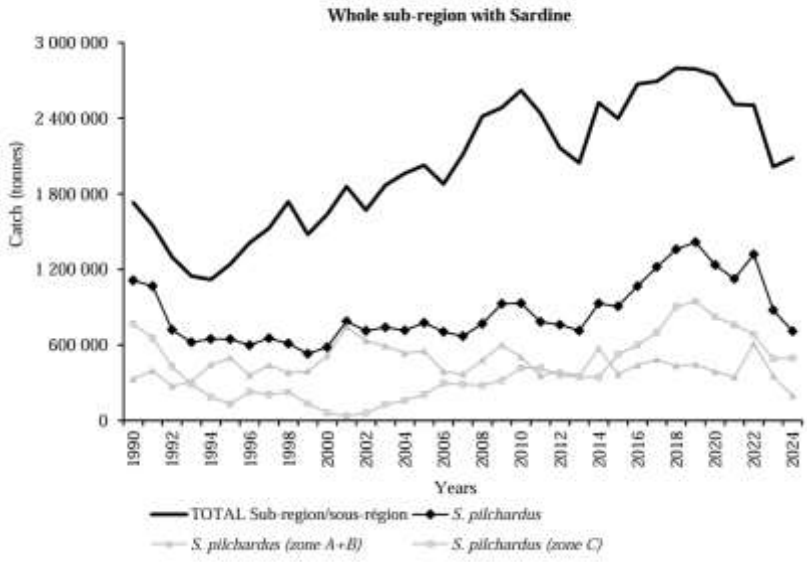

Figure 1. Total catch of small pelagic species and sardine catch in the whole subregion from 1990 to 2024 (FAO 2025).

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 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% of the target reference point (Bcur/B0.1 = 71%) for zones A and B stock; therefore, the stock is below its target level (Table1). Target reference point used for this fishery (B0.1) is more conservative than MSY, and it is used due to inconsistencies of some data since environmental factors strongly influence this stock and show 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 (FAO 2025)

Stock	Catch 2024 In tonnes (avg. 2020-2024)	$B_{CUR}/B_{0.1}$	$F_{CUR}/F_{0.1}$	Assessment
Sardine *S. pilchardus* Zone A+B	196 000 (379 000)	71% (Biodyn)	37% (Biodyn)	Overexploited

Table 1. Summary of the assessment for *S.pilchardus* in zona A and B by the 2024 Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off Northwest Africa (FAO 2025).

References

FAO. 2025. Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic. Summary report of the FAO working group on the assessment of small pelagic fish off northwest Africa 2025. https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/48572e26-38ef-40b9-8f89-9cbf92efc545/content

Species name	European pilchard - *Sardina pilchardus*
Fishing area and stock	FAO 34 - Atlantic, Eastern Central South Zone (zone C)
	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.	Fail
		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 2025 were obtained using the dynamic version of the Schaefer (1954) model, as in previous years, which uses historical fishing mortality and/or catch data (Figure 1) for simple medium-term projections of future yields and stock development (FAO 2025).

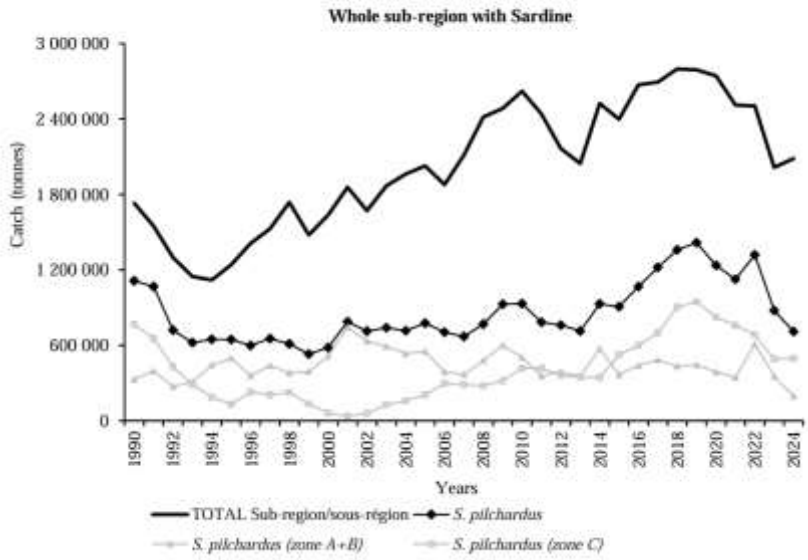

Figure 1. Total catch of small pelagic species and sardine catch in the whole subregion from 1990 to 2024 (FAO 2025).

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 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 66% the target reference point (Bcur/B0.1 = 66%) for the zone C stock; therefore, the stock is below its target level (Table 1). Target reference points used for this fishery (B0.1) is more conservative than MSY, and it is used due to inconsistencies of some data since environmental factors strongly influence this stock 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 (FAO 2025)

Stock	Catch 2024 In tonnes (avg. 2020-2024)	$B_{CUR}/B_{0.1}$	$F_{CUR}/F_{0.1}$	Assessment
Sardine *S. pilchardus* Zone C	496 000 (651 000)	66% (Biodyn)	109% (Biodyn)	Overexploited

Table 1. Summary of the assessment for *S.pilchardus* in Zones C by the 2024 Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off Northwest Africa (FAO 2025).

References

FAO. 2025. Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic. Summary report of the FAO working group on the assessment of small pelagic fish off northwest Africa 2025. https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/48572e26-38ef-40b9-8f89-9cbf92efc545/content

Species name		Japanese pilchard - *Sardinops sagax melanostictus*	
Fishing area and stock		FAO 61 – Pacific, Northwest Pacific and Tsushima warm current	
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:

A stock assessment for Japanese pilchard is conducted by Japan within their, wich includes the Pacific and Tsushina 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)

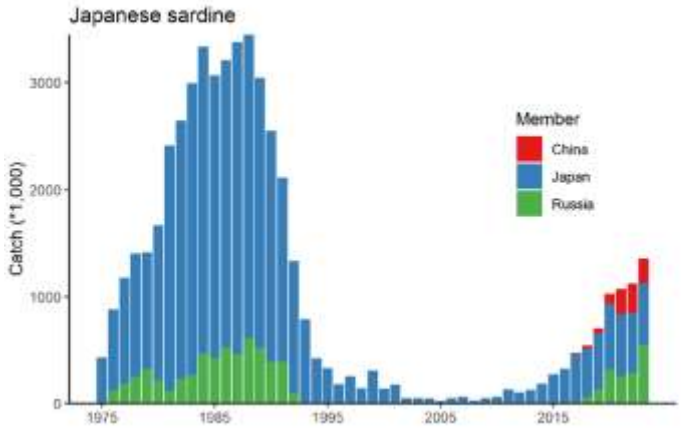

Figure 1. Historical catch of Japanese pilchard from 1975 to 2023 (NPFC 2024).

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).

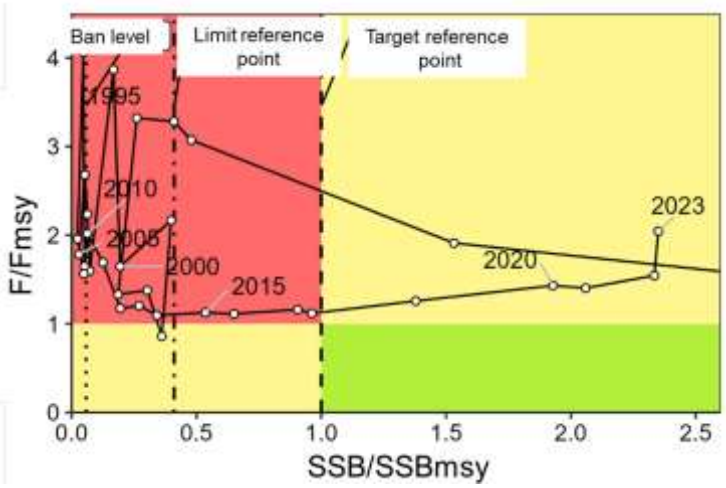

Figure 2. Kobe plot indicating historical and current status of Japanese sardine in relation to MSY-based reference points (NPFC 2024)

References

NPFC. 2024. 9TH Scientific Committee Meeting, Tokyo, Japan.

https://www.npfc.int/sites/default/files/2025-01/SC09%20Report.pdf

Species name		Californian pilchard - *Sardinops sagax caeruleus*	
Fishing area and stock		FAO 77 – Eastern Central Pacific Western coast of the Baja California Peninsula	
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 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).

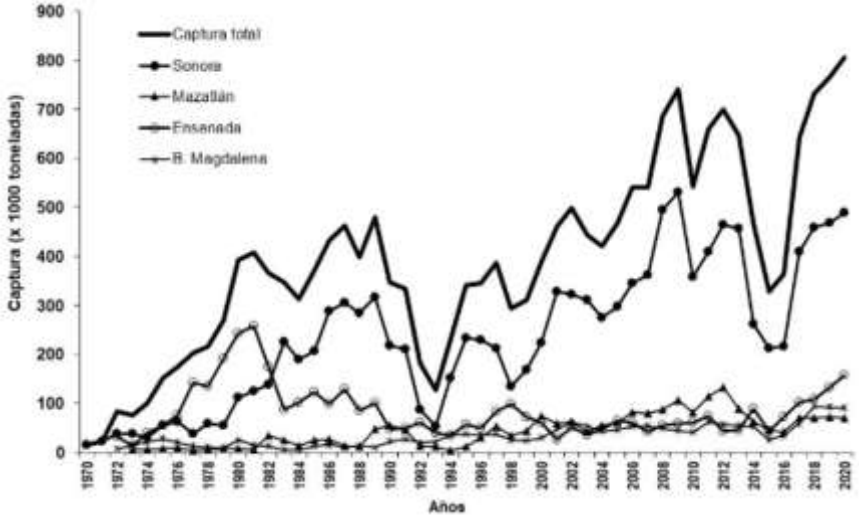

Figure 1. Total annual catch of small pelagic fish from 1970 to 2020 (Captura total), as well as the breakdown for the Western coast of the Baja California Peninsula stock which includes Ensenada and Bahía Magdalena (stock assessed in this report); and the Gulf of California stock (not part of this assessment), 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).

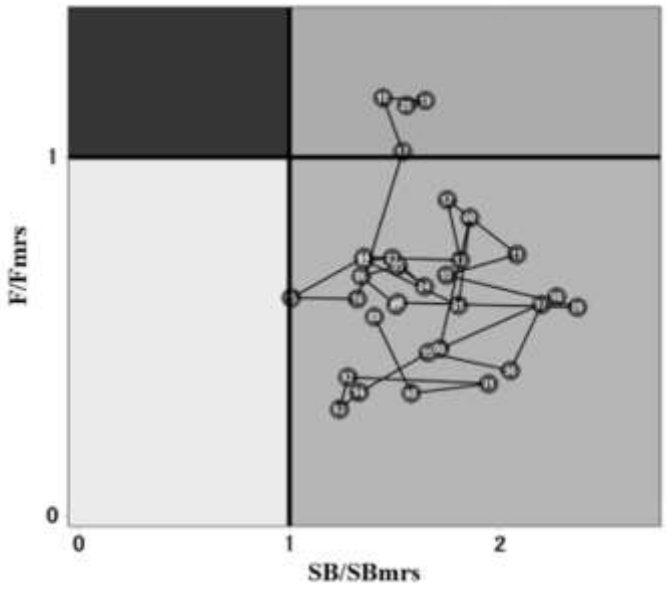

Figure 2. Kobe plot showing the evolution and current status of the west coast of the Baja California Peninsula Californian pilchard stock (DOF 2023)

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

Species name	Japanese pilchard - *Sardinops sagax melanostictus*			
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**
	Russia	Medium risk 2.57	Medium risk 2.78	Downgraded to medium risk

Species name	Californian 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 risk 2.86	Medium risk 3.06	Downgraded to medium risk