MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Report Template

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Alaska pollack *Gadus chalcogrammus / Theragra chalcogrammus*
	Geographical area:	FAO 67 Pacific Northeast (Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)
	Country of origin of the product:	USA
	Stock:	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)
Date	25/08/2021	
Report Code	BP99	
Assessor	Virginia Polonio	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	USA	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL		

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Name: Thien Quynh Co Ltd			
Address:			
Country: Vietnam		Zip:	
Tel. No.:		Fax. No.:	
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Key Contact:		Title:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Virginia Polonio	Sam Dignan	0.5	Initial
Assessment Period	To August 2021		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Alaska pollack *Gadus chalcogrammus / Theragra chalcogrammus*
Stock	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)
Fishery Location	FAO 67 Pacific Northeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) , US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation to approve.
Recommendation	**APPROVE**

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
If a species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Alaska Pollack, (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) is listed on the IUCN Red List as globally Near Threatened (NT) and is not listed in CITES such that Alaska Pollack derived products are eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material. There is a management plan defined for this stock and reference points are defined. In February 2019 a review of the Programmatic Groundfish Management Policy, highlighting activities relevant to priorities and objectives established by the Policy in 2018, therefore the stock it has been evaluated under category C. Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the respective stock assessment processes such that the fishery **PASSES** Clause C1.1. In the last assessment of 2020, the biomass was above its reference point and therefore, the fishery **PASSES** Clause C1.2. As the stock passes both Clause C1.1 and C1.2, the Alaska Pollack stock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 by-product standard.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
Agree with recommendation to approve.
Notes for On-site Auditor

Species Categorisation

NB: If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, or if it appears in CITES Appendix 1, it **cannot** be approved for use as an MARINTRUST raw material.

IUCN Redlist Category

By-product material from a species listed by IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) under the Red List for the following categories shall immediately fail the assessment;

- EXTINCT (E) AND EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW)
- CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- ENDANGERED (EN) facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

By-product material may be used from the following categories provided that all clauses in the MarinTrust standard are passed.

- VULNERABLE (VU) facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- NEAR THREATENED (NT) does not qualify for above now, but is close or is likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.
- LEAST CONCERN (LC) Widespread and abundant.
- DATA DEFICIENT (DD) and NOT EVALUATED (NE)

Table 3 Species Categorisation Table

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category[1]	CITES Appendix 1[2]
Alaska pollack	*Gadus chalcogrammus*	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)	North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) , US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	C	NT	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php

CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a whole fish assessment, Category C species are those which make up less than 5% of landings, but which are subject to a species-specific management regime. In most cases this will be because they are a commercial target in a fishery other than the one under assessment.

Clause C1 should be completed for **each** Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name	**Alaska pollack, *Gadus chalcogrammus***	
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.	Yes
	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.	Yes
	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.

Catches for 1978 to 2020 were updated to latest estimates from the catch accounting system (CAS). There were no significant changes except the addition of the 2020 estimate at 3,000 t. 2018 AI bottom trawl survey age composition data were added.

The 2018 survey age composition data, 2018 fishery age composition, and updated 2019 and 2020 fishery catch estimates comprised the new data for this year's assessment. Due to COVID-19 precautions the 2020 Aleutian Islands (AI) bottom trawl survey was not conducted. In 2019 and 2020 an Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) was implemented which allowed for 500 t of Pacific ocean perch bycatch in the A-season pollock fishery instead of the trip specific bycatch limits. This EFP provided more opportunities for a limited directed AI pollock fishery. In 2019 weather precluded a substantial fishery and total catch in the AI was limited to 1,660 t, and as of October 22 the 2020 catch was at 2,828.

With all this information above it can be concluded that Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and Clause 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.

In the last stock assessment, some changes were done. A summary of changes was reported as follows: There were no changes to the recommended model for ABC/OFL advice. However, for comparison Model 15.2 configuration was again presented which allows for differential natural mortality (M) with age. In this configuration, natural mortality for ages 1, 2, and 15 were modelled as deviations from the natural mortality for ages 3-14 fit with a log normal prior on M with a mean of 0.2 and CV of 0.2.

A summary of results is shown in the table below (table 1).

Table 1. Summary of results of the 2020 stock assessment for Alaska Pollack in Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI). Source (Barbeaux et al. 2020)

Quantity	As estimated or *specified last* year for: 2020	2021	As estimated or *recommended this* year for: 2021	2022*
M (natural mortality rate)	0.20		0.21	
Tier	3a		3a	
Total (age 1+) biomass (t)	340,680	367,017	292,967	308,671
Female spawning biomass (t)				
Projected	98,172	102,413	89,906	85,785
$B_{100\%}$	203,279		185,475	
$B_{40\%}$	81,312		74,190	
$B_{35\%}$	71,147		64,916	
F_{OFL}	0.415	0.415	0.390	0.390
$maxF_{ABC}$	0.331	0.331	0.313	0.313
F_{ABC}	0.331	0.331	0.313	0.313
OFL (t)	66,973	70,970	61,856	61,308
maxABC (t)	55,120	58,384	51,241	50,789
ABC (t)	55,120	58,384	51,241	50,789
Status	As determined *this* year for: 2018	2019	As determined *this* year for: 2019	2020
Overfishing	no	no	no	n/a
Overfished	n/a	n/a	n/a	no
Approaching overfished	n/a	n/a	n/a	no

* Projection based on estimated catches of 3,000 t for 2020 and 1,670 t for 2021, the five-year average F (2015-2019) of 0.021, used in place of maximum permissible ABC .

** Long-term equilibrium FOFL and FABC were 0.390 and 0.313, respectively.

Following the results above, the stock is not being subject to overfishing, is not currently overfished, nor is it approaching a condition of being overfished.

Therefore, the stock is above limits and clause **C1.2 is met.**

References

Cook, R., Fernandes, P., Florin, A., Lorance, P. & Nedreaas, K. 2015. *Gadus chalcogrammus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: e.T18258863A45097315.

Barbeaux, S., J. Ianelli, I. Ortiz, W. Palsson, and S. Zador. 2020. Chapter 1A: Assessment of the pollock stock in the Aleutian Islands. https://apps-afsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/refm/docs/2020/AIpollock.pdf

MSC. 2021. Assessments Alaska pollock - Gulf of Alaska - MSC Fisheries. https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/alaska-pollock-gulf-of-alaska/@@assessments. https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/alaska-pollock-gulf-of-alaska/@@assessments

Links	
MARINTRUST Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01