

#### MarinTrust Standard V3

## Reduced Whole Fish Assessment (Category C and/or D) - MSC Verification

Mexico
Gulf of California small pelagics Sonora
FAO 77 Northern/Central Gulf of California
MSCV22

#### **MarinTrust Programme**

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### Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

		Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring (Etrumeus teres/Etrumeus sadina/Etrumeus acuminatus) ["sardina japonesa", in Spanish]		
	Species:	Pacific jack mackerel ( <i>Trachurus symmetricus</i> ) ["charrito", in Spanish] Leatherjackets ( <i>Oligoplites spp.</i> ) ["sardina		
		piña", in Spanish]		
Fishery Under Assessment	Geographical area:	Northern and central Gulf of California, Sonora, Mexico		
Assessment	Country of origin of the product:	Mexico		
	Stock:	Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring in Gulf of California Pacific jack mackerel in Gulf of California Leatherjackets in Gulf of California		
	MSC-certified fishery name:	Small Pelagics in Sonora Gulf of California		
Date	December 2025			
Report Code	MSCV22			
Assessor	Ana Ayres			
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Pass (Mexico)			
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A			

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome						
Company Name(s): Guaymas Protein Company SA, Sardinas de Sonora SA de CV, Productos						
	Pesqueros de Guaymas S.A. de C.V.					
Country: Mexico	3 3.A. uc c.v.					
Certification Body Details						
Name of Certification I						
Name of Certification i	,					
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval			
Ana Ayres	Matthew Jew 0.5 Re-approval					
Assessment Period	December 2025 – December 2026					
Assessment Validity	December 2026					



Scope Details	
Species	Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring (Etrumeus teres/Etrumeus sadina/Etrumeus acuminatus) Pacific jack mackerel (Trachurus symmetricus) Leatherjackets (Oligoplites spp.)
Stock	Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring in Gulf of California Pacific jack mackerel in Gulf of California Leatherjackets in Gulf of California
Fishery Location	Northern and central Gulf of California, Sonora, Mexico
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food SAGARPA, Mexico
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine nets
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's determination
Recommendation	Approved

#### Table 2. Assessment Determination

#### **Assessment Determination**

No stock assessments or catch composition was available for this re-approval report, which remains the same as the published last year.

Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring (*Etrumeus teres/Etrumeus sadina/Etrumeus acuminatus*) ["sardina japonesa", in Spanish] and Pacific jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*) ["Charrito", in Spanish] and Leatherjackets (*Oligoplites spp.*) ["sardina piña", in Spanish] are secondary minor species of the Small Pelagics in Sonora Gulf of California MSC certified assessment.

If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring, Pacific jack mackerel and leatherjackets are not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and do not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, they are eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.

Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring, Pacific jack mackerel and leatherjackets are managed passively, according to the Mexican Management Plan. The passive management species only requires monitoring landings with a maximum percentage of fish smaller than the legal minimum size, thus no reference points were provided for these species and they were assessed under the category D.

Up to the public MSC certification report published in January 2018 during the re-assessment process started in 2016, the Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring was referred as "Etrumeus teres". From the Announcement Comment Draft Report (published in October 2022), the Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring is now referred to as "Etrumeus acuminatus" by the assessment team. "Etrumeus teres" was previous considered a synonym for "Etrumeus sadina", but "Etrumeus teres" is not an accepted name anymore. Recent information shows that Etrumeus sadina is restricted to the northwestern Atlantic (from the Bay of Fundy to the Gulf of Mexico) and Etrumeus acuminatus is found in eastern Pacific [Monterey Bay (California, USA) to Chile]. Herein, it was considered the productivity and susceptibility data for both species, Etrumeus sadina and Etrumeus acuminatus and given the similarity of these species, the results does not change the scores. Japanese



sardine/red-eye round herring was awarded a Productivity score of 1.42 and a Susceptibility score of 2.75, leading to a "Pass" rating against Table D3 of the Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis – PSA.

Pacific jack mackerel was awarded a Productivity score of 1.29 and a Susceptibility score of 2.5, leading to a "Pass" rating against Table D3 of the PSA.

Leatherjackets was awarded a Productivity score of 1.29 and a Susceptibility score of 2.5, leading to a "Pass" rating against Table D3 of the PSA.

Therefore, Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring, Pacific jack mackerel and leatherjackets in Northern and central Gulf of California, Sonora, Mexico are APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v3 standard.

#### **Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments**

Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring and Pacific jack mackerel all in Gulf of California as the correct categorization. Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring, Pacific jack mackerel, and leatherjackets are not subject to active management and are managed passively. Under the passive management, reference points are not defined therefore all species were assessed under Category D.

The assessor correctly assigned values and scores on table D1 (Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring). The given average attribute scores result in passing scores on Table D3 for the Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring.

The assessor correctly assigned values and scores on table D1 (Pacific jack mackerel). The given average attribute scores result in passing scores on Table D3 for the Pacific jack mackerel.

The assessor correctly assigned values and scores on table D1 (leatherjackets). The given average attribute scores result in passing scores on Table D3 for leatherjackets.

Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring, Pacific jack mackerel, and leatherjackets all in Gulf of California passes their respective categories and should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v3.

# N/A

**Note:** This assessment is only allowed through the MarinTrust MSC Verification Tool, which accepts assessments of "by-catch" species from MSC-certified fisheries from applicants holding valid MSC Chain of Custody Certificates.

This reduced whole fish assessment recognises the equivalence between the MarinTrust, the Management, Ecosystem and Category A species against the MSC Fisheries Standard through the MarinTrust recognition process.



#### **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 Red list Category**

Raw 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.

Raw 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**

Note: Category A species are approved through recognition of MSC certified fisheries through the MarinTrust MSC verification tool.

Common name	Latin name	Stock	Management	Category	IUCN Red List Category <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Japanese sardine/redeye round herring ["sardina japonesa", in Spanish]	Etrumeus teres/Etrumeus sadina/Etrumeus acuminatus	Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring in Gulf of California	Yes	D	LC <sup>3</sup>	No
Pacific jack mackerel ["charrito" in Spanish]	Trachurus symmetricus	Pacific jack mackerel in Gulf of California	Yes	D	LC <sup>4</sup>	No
Leatherjackets ["sardina piña", in Spanish]	Oligoplites spp.	Leatherjackets in Gulf of California	Yes	D	LC <sup>5</sup>	No

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.iucnredlist.org/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/82626288/15603445

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/183729/8166054

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?query=Oligoplit&searchType=species



#### **CATEGORY D SPECIES**

Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

1	Species Name	eus teres/Etrumeus nesa", in Spanish]				
	Productivity Attribute		Value	Score		
	Average age at maturity (years)		0.5 <sup>1</sup>	1		
	Average maximum age (years)		1.71	1		
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		1,409-21,023 <sup>1</sup>	2		
	Average maximum size (cm)		22.7 <sup>1</sup>	1		
	Average size at maturity (cm)		13.8 <sup>1</sup>	1		
	Reproductive strategy			1		
	Mean trophic level		$3.5^2 - 3.6^1$	3		
			Average Productivity Score	1.42		
	Susceptibility Attribute		Value	Score		
	Availability (area overlap)		Precautionary score <sup>1</sup>	2		
	Encounterability (the position of the stoc within the water column relative to the f		High overlap	3		
	Selectivity of gear type		Precautionary score	3		
	Post-capture mortality		Retained	3		
			Average Susceptibility Score	2.75		
			PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	Pass		
Ī	Compliance rating Pass					

#### Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)

For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision

Up to the public MSC certification report published in January 2018 during the re-assessment process started in 2016, the Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring was referred as "Etrumeus teres". From the Announcement Comment Draft Report (published in October 2022), the Japanese sardine/red-eye round herring is now referred to as "Etrumeus acuminatus" by the assessment team. "Etrumeus teres" was previous considered a synonym for "Etrumeus sadina", but "Etrumeus teres" is not an accepted name anymore <sup>1,3</sup>. Recent information shows that Etrumeus sadina is restricted to the northwestern Atlantic (from the Bay of Fundy to the Gulf of Mexico)<sup>1,4</sup> and Etrumeus acuminatus is found in eastern Pacific [Monterey Bay (California, USA) to Chile]<sup>2,4</sup>. Herein, it was considered the productivity and susceptibility data for both species, Etrumeus sadina and Etrumeus acuminatus and given the similarity of these species, the results does not change the scores.

A precautionary score of 3 was given to the "Selectivity of gear type" attribute due lack of specific data of the gear.

The distribution of *Etrumeus sadina* is provided in figure 1. No map of distribution was available for *Etrumeus acuminatus*. As such, a precautionary score of 2 was awarded for "availability (area overlap)", considering that *Etrumeus acuminatus* is restrained to the region between Monterey Bay (California, USA) to Chile, resulting in about 10% of overlap.



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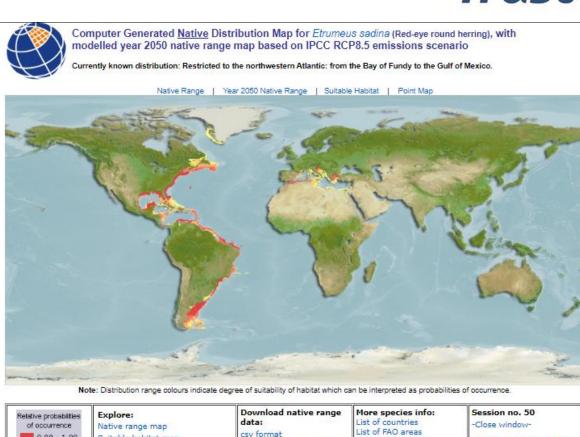


Figure 1. Distribution of Etrumeus sadina (former Etrumeus teres)<sup>5</sup>.

Native range map

Suitable habitat map

Create your own map

Show mapping parameters

#### References

of occurrence

0.80 - 1.00

0.60 - 0.79

0.40 - 0.59

0.20 - 0.39

0.01 - 0.19

<sup>1</sup> Froese, R. and D. Pauly. Editors. 2023. FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. Etrumeus sadina (Mitchill, 1814) https://fishbase.mnhn.fr/summary/1455

csv format

About AquaMaps

NetCDF (view in Godiva)

List of ecosystems

Comments & Corrections

<sup>2</sup>Froese, R. and D. Pauly. Editors. 2023.FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. *Etrumeus acuminatus* (*Gilbert*, 1890) https://www.fishbase.se/summary/66828

<sup>3</sup> Worms. 2023. Etrumeus teres (DeKay, 1842). https://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=158693

<sup>4</sup> Fricke, R., Eschmeyer, W. N. & Van der Laan, R. (eds) 2023. Eschmeyer's catalog of fishes: genera, species, references https://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp

<sup>5</sup> AquaMaps. 2019. Computer generated distribution maps for Etrumeus sadina (Red-eye round herring), with modelled year 2050 native range map based on IPCC RCP8.5 emissions scenario.

https://www.aquamaps.org/receive.php?type of map=regular&map=cached

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2



#### **CATEGORY D SPECIES**

Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

Species Name	Pacific jack mackerel ( <i>Trachurus symmetricus</i> ) ["cho				
Productivity Attribute	Value	Score			
Average age at maturity (years)	1.01	1			
Average maximum age (years)	4.1 <sup>1</sup>	1			
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	>20,000 <sup>1,3</sup>	1			
Average maximum size (cm)	55.7 <sup>1</sup>	1			
Average size at maturity (cm)	30.9 <sup>1</sup>	1			
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner <sup>1</sup>	1			
Mean trophic level	3.6 <sup>1</sup>	3			
	Average Productivity Score	1.29			
Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score			
Availability (area overlap)	<10	1			
Encounterability (the position of the stock/species the water column relative to the fishing gear)	within High	3			
Selectivity of gear type	Precautionary	3			
Post-capture mortality	Retained	3			
	Average Susceptibility Score	2.5			
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	Pass			
Compliance rating					

#### Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)

For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision.

Pacific jack mackerel is found in a depth range of 0 - 400 m and distributed along the eastern Pacific: southeastern Alaska to southern Baja California, Mexico and the Gulf of California; reported from Acapulco in Mexico and the Galapagos Islands<sup>1</sup> (Figure 4). Fishbase provides only an estimate of the maximum fecundity for this species (53,000)<sup>1</sup>, while there are reports of 31,572-171,466 of batch fecundity in California<sup>3</sup>. Thus, the fecundity is estimated to be > 20,000 eggs.

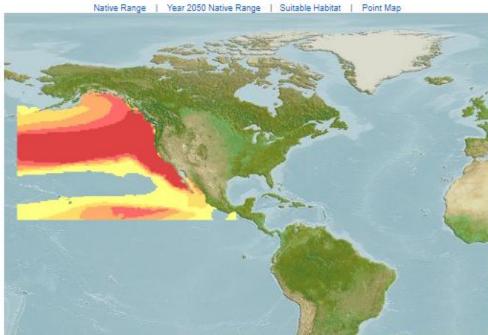
Due lack of specific data of the selectivity of gear type, a precautionary score of 3 was given for this attribute.





Computer Generated Native Distribution Map for Trachurus symmetricus (Pacific jack mackerel), with modelled year 2050 native range map based on IPCC RCP8.5 emissions scenario

Currently known distribution: Eastern Pacific: southeastern Alaska to southern Baja California, Mexico and the Gulf of California; reported from Acapulco in Mexico and the Galapagos Islands.



Note: Distribution range colours indicate degree of suitability of habitat which can be interpreted as probabilities of occurrence



Download native range data: csv format NetCDF (view in Godiva) About AquaMaps

More species info: List of countries List of FAO areas List of ecosystems Comments & Corrections

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Figure 2. Distribution of Pacific jack mackerel.<sup>2</sup>

#### References

<sup>1</sup>Froese, R. and D. Pauly. Editors. 2023. FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication.

https://fishbase.mnhn.fr/summary/trachurus-symmetricus.html

<sup>2</sup>AquaMaps. 2019. Computer generated distribution maps for *Trachurus symmetricus* (Pacific jack mackerel), with modelled year 2050 native range map based on IPCC RCP8.5 emissions scenario.

https://www.aquamaps.org/receive.php?type of map=regular&map=cached

<sup>3</sup>Macewicz, B.J. and Hunter, J.R. 1993. Spawning frequency and batch fecundity of jack mackerel, *Trachurus symmetricus*, off California During 1991. California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations Reports 34: 112-121.

https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/SPAWNING-FREQUENCY-AND-BATCH-FECUNDITY-OF-JACK-Mackerel/66dc90feddd6d57a4a12e31e814790df04087a95

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2



#### **CATEGORY D SPECIES**

Category D species are those which are not subject to a species-specific management regime. In the case of mixed trawl fisheries, Category D species may make up the majority of landings. The comparative lack of scientific information on the status of the population of the species means that a risk-assessment style approach must be taken.

Species Name  Leatherjackets (Oligoplites spp) ["sardina piño					
Productivity Attribute	Value				
Average age at maturity (years)	< 5 <sup>3</sup>	1			
Average maximum age (years)	< 10 <sup>3</sup>	1			
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	>20,000 <sup>3</sup>	1			
Average maximum size (cm)	35 <sup>1</sup>	1			
Average size at maturity (cm)	< 100 <sup>3</sup>	1			
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner <sup>1,3</sup>	1			
Mean trophic level	4.3 <sup>1</sup>	3			
	Average Productivity Score	1.29			
Susceptibility Attribute	Value	Score			
Availability (area overlap)	<10%	1			
Encounterability (the position of the stock/species with the water column relative to the fishing gear)	nin Precautionary	3			
Selectivity of gear type	Precautionary	3			
Post-capture mortality	Retained	3			
	Average Susceptibility Score	2.5			
	Pass				
Compliance rating Pass					

#### Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)

For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision

Leatherjackets (*Oligoplites spp*) was assessed based on current information available for *Oligoplites saurus* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801) in Fishbase<sup>1</sup> and in the risk-based assessment performed by Sardaña-Ruiz et al (2022)<sup>3</sup>. The species is found in Western Atlantic: Maine, USA and northern Gulf of Mexico to Uruguay; throughout most of the West Indies; and in Eastern Pacific: Baja California, Mexico to Ecuador<sup>1</sup>. Two subspecies exists: *Oligoplites saurus saurus* (western Atlantic population) and *Oligoplites saurus inornatus* (eastern Pacific population). Due lack of specific data of selectivity and encounterability of gear type, a precautionary score of 3 was given for these attributes. As it is a commercial species, it is usually retained.



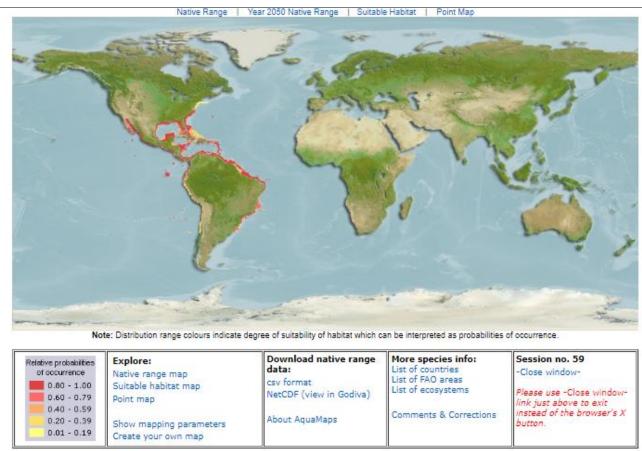


FIGURE 3. Distribution of leatherjackets<sup>2</sup>.

#### References

<sup>1</sup>Froese, R. and D. Pauly. Editors. 2023. FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication.

https://www.fishbase.se/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?id=1001&lang=swedish

<sup>2</sup>AquaMaps (2019). Computer generated distribution maps for *Oligoplites saurus* (Leatherjacket), with modelled year 2050 native range map based on IPCC RCP8.5 emissions scenario.

https://www.aquamaps.org/receive.php?type of map=regular&map=cached

<sup>3</sup>Saldaña-Ruíz, L.E., Flores-Guzmán, A., Cisneros-Soberanis, F., Cuevas-Gómez, G.A., Gastélum-Nava, E., Rocha-Tejeda, L., Chavez, J.F., Hernandez-Pimienta, R.E. y Fernández-Rivera Melo, F.J. 2022. A Risk-Based Assessment to Advise the Responsible Consumption of Invertebrates, Elasmobranch, and Fishes of Commercial Interest in Mexico. Front. Mar. Sci. 9:866135. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2022.866135

Standard clauses 1.3.2.2

#### Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.



Productivity attributes	High productivity (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium productivity (medium risk, score = 2)	Low productivity (high risk, score = 3)
Average age at maturity	<5 years	5-15 years	>15 years
Average maximum age	<10 years	10-25 years	>25 years
Fecundity	>20,000 eggs per year	100-20,000 eggs per year	<100 eggs per year
Average maximum size	<100 cm	100-300 cm	>300 cm
Average size at maturity	<40 cm	40-200 cm	>200 cm
Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	Demersal egg layer	Live bearer
Mean Trophic Level	<2.75	2.75-3.25	>3.25

Susceptibility		ow susceptibility				High susceptibility	
attributes	(Low risk, score = 1)		(medium risk, score = 2)		(h	(high risk, score = 3)	
Areal overlap (availability) Overlap of the fishing effort with the species range	<10% overlap		10	10-30% overlap		>30% overlap	
Encounterability The position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear, and the position of the stock/species within the habitat relative to the position of the gear	fis	ow overlap with hing gear (low ecounterability).		Medium overlap with fishing gear.		High overlap with fishing gear (high encounterability). Default score for target species	
Selectivity of gear type	а	Individuals < size at maturity are rarely caught	а	Individuals < size at maturity are regularly caught.	а	Individuals < size at maturity are frequently caught	
Potential of the gear to retain species	b	Individuals < size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b	Individuals < half the size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	ь	Individuals < half the size at maturity are retained by gear.	
Post-capture mortality (PCM) The chance that, if captured, a species would be released and that it would be in a condition permitting subsequent survival	rel	vidence of majority leased post-capture Id survival.	Evidence of some released post-capture and survival.		m	etained species or ajority dead when leased.	



D3		Average Susceptibility Score				
		1 - 1.75 1.76 - 2.24		2.25 - 3		
Average Productivity	1 - 1.75	PASS	PASS	PASS		
Score	1.76 - 2.24	PASS	PASS	TABLE D4		
	2.25 - 3	PASS	TABLE D4	TABLE D4		