



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment

## *Southern Pacific albacore tuna*

**MarinTrust Programme**

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Albacore tuna ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO Areas 71, 77, 81 & 87, all regions south of the equator
	Country of origin of the product:	Vanuatu, Taiwan, China
	Stock:	Southern Pacific albacore tuna
Date	August 2022	
Report Code	THA20	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Vanuatu, Taiwan, China	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Golden Prize Canning Co Ltd; Sirisaengarumpee Co. Ltd; South East Asian Packaging and Canning Ltd; T.C. Union Agrotech Co, Ltd; Thai Union Ingredients Co Ltd			
Country: Thailand			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Kate Morris	0.25	Re-approval
Assessment Period	August 2021- August 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )
Stock	Southern Pacific albacore tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 71, 77, 81 & 87, all regions south of the equator
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) & Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Approve byproduct

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p><b>Note on the location of the fishery:</b> Albacore in the Pacific has previously been assessed for MarinTrust approval in several different combinations of geographical area and stock. This assessment specifically covers albacore tuna from the Southern Pacific stock, which is distributed throughout the parts of FAO Major Fishing Areas 71, 77, 81 and 87 which are south of the equator. The Northern albacore stock, which is also present in parts of these FAO areas, is not covered by this MT assessment.</p> <p>Albacore tuna has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern and does not appear in the CITES appendices. The Southern Pacific albacore stock is managed relative to a range of reference points and therefore was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment conducted for the by-product was published in 2021. The stock assessment used international landings data and concluded that the stock was not subject to overfishing. Current biomass was estimated to be between 1.45 and 4.28 times greater than the MSY level. The by-product, therefore, meets the Category C requirements and should be approved for use as a raw material in MT-certified marine ingredients.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment here is the South Pacific Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) fishery which is pursued by international vessels in FAO fishing areas 71, 77, 81 and 87. Albacore tuna is managed by Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) &amp; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). For this Marin Trust assessment, the South Pacific Albacore tuna is scored as a category C species. The assessment of Albacore as a category C species met the MT requirements.</p> <p>All species scoring tables have been completed by the auditor with sufficient evidence presented to support their final determination.</p> <p>The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to Pass this fishery under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.</p>
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 a MarinTrust raw material.

### IUCN Red list 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Southern Pacific albacore tuna	Yes	C	Least concern <sup>3</sup>	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

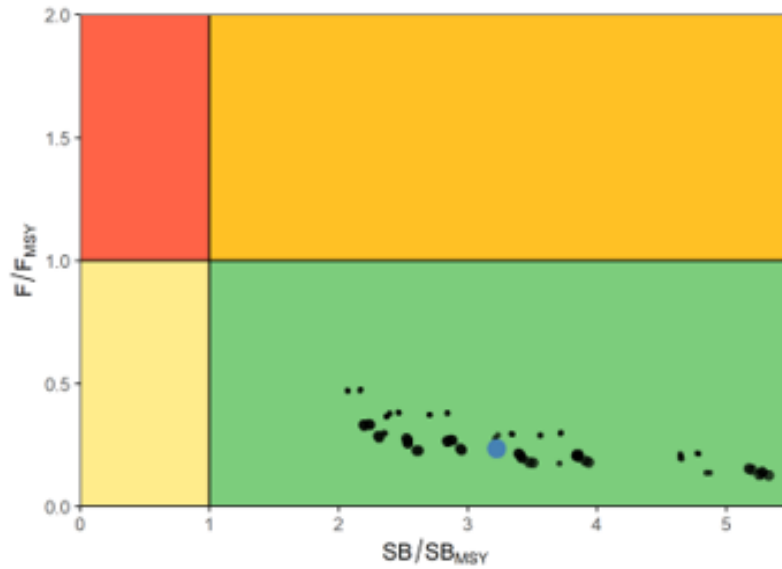
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21856/46911332>

## CATEGORY C SPECIES

In a by-product assessment, Category C species are those which are subject to a species-specific management regime and are usually targeted species in fisheries for human consumption.

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		Albacore tuna ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )	
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.	PASS
			Clause outcome: PASS
<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 most recent stock assessment for albacore tuna in the south Pacific was conducted in 2021, using data up to 2019, and was the first to attempt a region-wide assessment (i.e., covering the entire stock across both the WCPFC and IATTC areas). The assessment used catch data including international catches by fishing gear. The published stock assessment report (WCPFC 2021) does not appear to include any concerns relating to the availability of catch data. Fishery removals are incorporated into the stock assessment, and C1.1 is met.</p>			
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>The stock is assessed relative to a range of potential reference points (WCPFC 2021a), with the key reference point used to determine whether the stock was overfished being <math>20\%SB_{F=0}</math>. The 2021 stock assessment concluded that “the stock is not overfished, and there was zero estimated risk of the stock being below <math>20\%SB_{F=0}</math>” (WCPFC 2021). <math>SB_{latest}/SB_{MSY}</math> at the time of the assessment was estimated to be between 1.45 and 4.28, providing strong evidence that the stock biomass was above the MSY level. The most recent stock assessment concluded that the stock biomass is currently above the target and limit reference points, and therefore C1.2 is met.</p>			



Kobe plot for Southern Pacific albacore tuna summarising the Pacific-wide results for each of the models used in the 2021 stock assessment. The blue point is the median value based on the weighted grid models (WCPFC 2021a).

**References**

- WCPFC (2021). Stock assessment of South Pacific albacore tuna. <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12551>
- WCPFC (2021a). Stock status and advice key documents, South Pacific albacore tuna. <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/04/south-pacific-albacore-tuna>

**Links**

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

## 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.

<b>D1</b>	<b>Species Name</b>		
	<b>Productivity Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	Average age at maturity (years)		
	Average maximum age (years)		
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)		
	Average maximum size (cm)		
	Average size at maturity (cm)		
	Reproductive strategy		
	Mean trophic level		
	<b>Average Productivity Score</b>		
	<b>Susceptibility Attribute</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Score</b>
	Availability (area overlap)		
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)		
	Selectivity of gear type		
	Post-capture mortality		
	<b>Average Susceptibility Score</b>		
	<b>PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)</b>		
	<b>Compliance rating</b>		
	<b>Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)</b>		
	<b>References</b>		
<i>Standard clauses 1.3.2.2</i>			

Table D2 - Productivity / Susceptibility attributes and scores.

Productivity attributes	Low productivity/ High risk	Medium productivity/ Medium risk	High productivity/ Low risk
	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Average age at maturity (years)	>4	2 to 4	<2
Average maximum age (years)	>30	10 to 30	<10
Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	<1 000	1 000 to 10 000	>10 000
Average maximum size (cm)	>150	60 to 150	<60
Average size at maturity (cm)	>150	30 to 150	<30
Reproductive strategy	Live bearer, mouth brooder or significant parental investment	Demersal spawner "berried"	Broadcast spawner
Mean trophic level	>3.25	2.5–3.25	<2.5

Susceptibility attributes		High susceptibility/ High risk	Medium susceptibility/ Medium risk	Low susceptibility/ Low risk
		Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Availability	1) Overlap of adult species range with fishery	>50% of stock occurs in the area fished	Between 25% and 50% of the stock occurs in the area fished	<25% of stock occurs in the area fished
	2) Distribution	Only in the country/ fishery	Limited range in the region	Throughout region/ global distribution
Encounterability	1) Habitat	Habitat preference of species make it highly likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. demersal, muddy/sandy bottom)	Habitat preference of species make it moderately likely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. rocky bottom/reefs)	Depth or distribution of species make it unlikely to encounter trawl gear (e.g. epi-pelagic or meso-pelagic)
	2) Depth range	High overlap with trawl fishing gear (20 to 60 m depth)	Medium overlap with trawl fishing gear (10 to 20 m depth)	Low overlap with trawl fishing gear (0 to 10 m, >70 m depth)
Selectivity		Species >2 times mesh size or up to 4 m length	Species 1 to 2 times mesh size or 4 to 5 m length	Species <mesh size or >5 m length
Post capture mortality		Most dead or retained Trawl tow >3 hours	Alive after net hauled Trawl tow 0.5 to 3 hours	Released alive Trawl tow <0.5 hours

**Note:** Availability 2 is only used when there is no information for Availability 1; the most conservative score between Encounterability 1 and 2 is used.



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

D4 Species Name			
<b>Impacts On Species Categorized as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements</b>			
D4.1	The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.		
D4.2	There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.		
			<b>Outcome:</b>
<b>Evidence</b>			
D4.1: The potential impacts of the fishery on this species are considered during the management process, and reasonable measures are taken to minimise these impacts.			
D4.2 There is no substantial evidence that the fishery has a significant negative impact on the species.			
<b>References</b>			
<b>Links</b>			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	