



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in FAO 71 & 77 North Pacific Ocean

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 71 & 77 North Pacific Ocean
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles, South Africa
	Stock:	Albacore tuna in FAO 71 & 77 North Pacific Ocean
Date	16 September 2022	
Report Code	USA10	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	USA (Flag countries: Seychelles and South Africa)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): The Scoular Company			
Country: USA			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Matthew Jew	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Initial
Assessment Period	Up to September 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Stock	Albacore tuna in FAO 71 & 77 North Pacific Ocean
Fishery Location	FAO 71 & 77 North Pacific Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
Gear Type(s)	Troll, Longline, and pole-and-line
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's recommendation of approval
Recommendation	APPROVE

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any 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. Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) do not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, nor do they appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment for north Pacific albacore tuna was conducted in 2020. The assessment considers albacore tuna in the north Pacific Ocean to be a single stock (which includes FAO subareas 71 & 77) and this is the only stock under assessment. The stock is subject to a specific management regime, therefore it was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and it PASSES Clause C1.1. The stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point, it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, albacore tuna in FAO subareas 71 & 77 (north Pacific Ocean) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.0 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The internal peer reviewer agrees with the assessor's determination, who correctly classified the stock of north Pacific Ocean albacore tuna under Category C, as the stock is subject to a specific management regime in place and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and the stock has its biomass above reference point, so it passes Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, albacore tuna in FAO subareas 71 & 77 (north Pacific Ocean), is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standards.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
N/A

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

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
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Albacore tuna in FAO 71 & 77 (north Pacific Ocean)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Seychelles Fishing Authority, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (South Africa)	C	LC	No

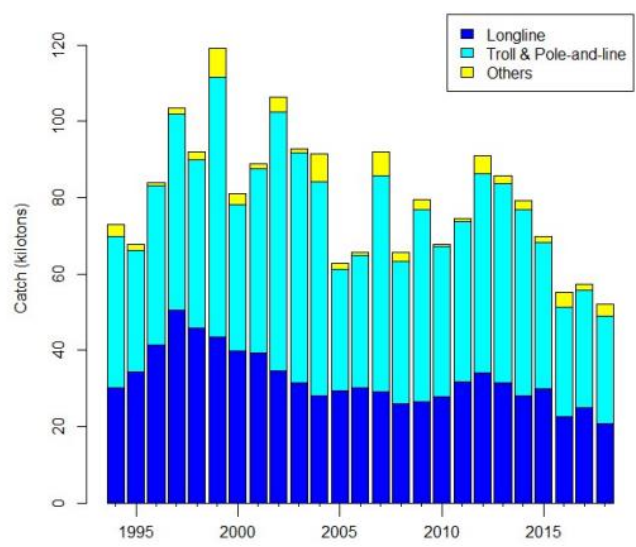
¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

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.	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.			
Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process via Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) processes. The stock is assessed under a Stock Synthesis (SS3) model, which uses fishing mortality in the forecast (WCPFC, 2020). The total catch series is shown in Figure 1.			
<div></div>			
Figure 1. Catches of albacore tuna by gear type in the Southern Atlantic Ocean from 1950 to 2019. Source: WCPFC 2020.			
Therefore, fishery removals of the stock, including from the fishery under assessment, are included in the stock assessment process. The stock PASSES Clause C1.1.			
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 most recent analyses of the status of the northern Pacific albacore tuna stock were conducted in 2020 by the northern committee (NC) of WCPFC and IATTC. The NC adopted a biomass-based limit reference point (LRP) in 2014 of 20% of the current spawning stock biomass when F=0 (20%SSB _{current, F=0}). The LRP is based on dynamic biomass and fluctuates depending on changes			

in recruitment. Neither WCPFC nor IATTC have adopted F-based LRPs for the north Pacific albacore tuna stock. The NC concluded that SSB is above the biomass-based LRP (WCPFC, 2020; Figure 2). Furthermore, a proxy fishing mortality reference point ($F_{20\%}$) was defined as the fishing intensity that will result in 20% of SSB_0 over time. This proxy was used to illustrate that the stock is not overfished nor currently being overfished (WCPFC; Figure 3).

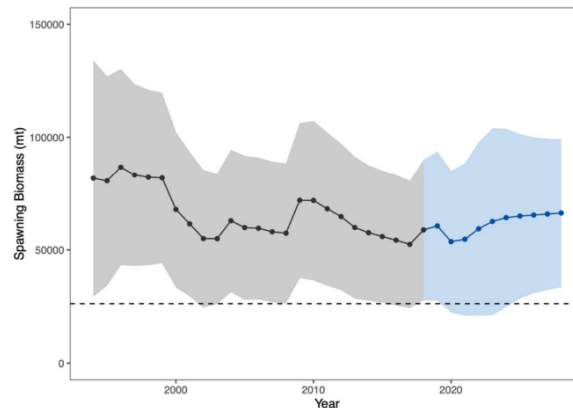


Figure 2. Historical and future trajectories of north Pacific albacore female spawning biomass (SSB) under constant catch (average 2013-2017) harvest scenario. Grey/black section represents past maximum likelihood estimates with 95% confidence intervals. Blue region represents projected SSB with 95% confidence intervals. Horizontal dashed line is 20%SSB_{current} F=0 limit reference point. Source: WCPFC 2020.

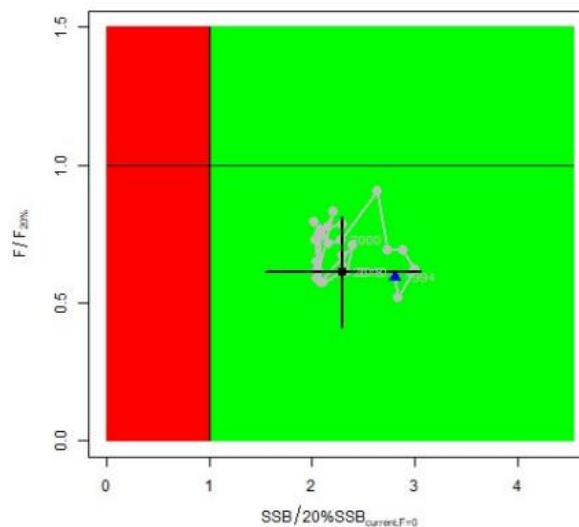


Figure 3. North Pacific albacore (Kobe plot). Stock status trajectories of SSB/SSB_{LRP} and $F/F_{20\%}$ over time (1994-2018). Blue triangle indicates the start year (1994) and black circle (with 95% confidence intervals) indicates the terminal year (2018). Source: WCPFC 2020.

Therefore, the stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point. The stock PASSES Clause C1.2.

References

WCPFC. 2020. Stock assessment of albacore tuna in the North Pacific Ocean in 2020. Scientific Committee 16th regular session: WCPFC-SC16-2020/SA-WP-05. July 2020: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/file/7890/download>.

Links

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