



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

VNM09

Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*)

in FAO 61, Western Bering Sea

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Pacific cod (<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 61
	Country of origin of the product:	Russia
	Stock:	FAO 61, Western Bering Sea
Date	June 2024	
Report Code	VNM09	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Russia	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Thien Quynh Co. Ltd			
Country: Vietnam			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification Ltd. / NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Re-approval
Assessment Period			

Scope Details	
Main Species	Pacific cod (<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>)
Stock	FAO 61, Western Bering Sea
Fishery Location	FAO 61
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Russia
Gear Type(s)	Demersal longline
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	APPROVED

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. Pacific cod (<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The stock is managed by Federal Fisheries Agency (FFA) of the Russian Federation with regular stock assessment carried out by KamchatNIRO. The stock is managed by a TAC spread over the western region of FAO 61 (within the Russian EEZ). There are fishing and biomass reference points defined for this stock and therefore it was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and for this reason Clause C1.1 is met. The stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point, and so C1.2 is also met.</p> <p>Therefore, Pacific cod (<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>) in FAO 61, Western Bering Sea is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified the Western Bering Sea (FAO 61) Pacific cod (<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>) under category C, as the stock is managed by a TAC spread over the western region of FAO 61 (within the Russian EEZ). and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.</p> <p>Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process, and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass well above the limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore the Western Bering Sea (FAO 61) Pacific cod is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.</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 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
Pacific cod	<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>	FAO 61, Western Bering Sea	Yes	C	Not evaluated	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		Pacific cod (<i>Gadus macrocephalus</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

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 stock is assessed annually according to the standard assessment methods (Aravind and Samy-Kamal, 2022). The stock assessment process is conducted using the 'SYNTHESIS' method which algorithm is realized in a computer program 'Methods' version 3.06 (Aravind and Samy-Kamal, 2022). The model uses a variety of fishery-dependent and -independent sources including CPUE.

As this stock is managed by TAC, total catch efforts are recorded each year and used in the stock assessment process. Figure 1 shows the long-term trends in catch data. More recent catch data does not appear to be available.

Catches are presented in the figure below:

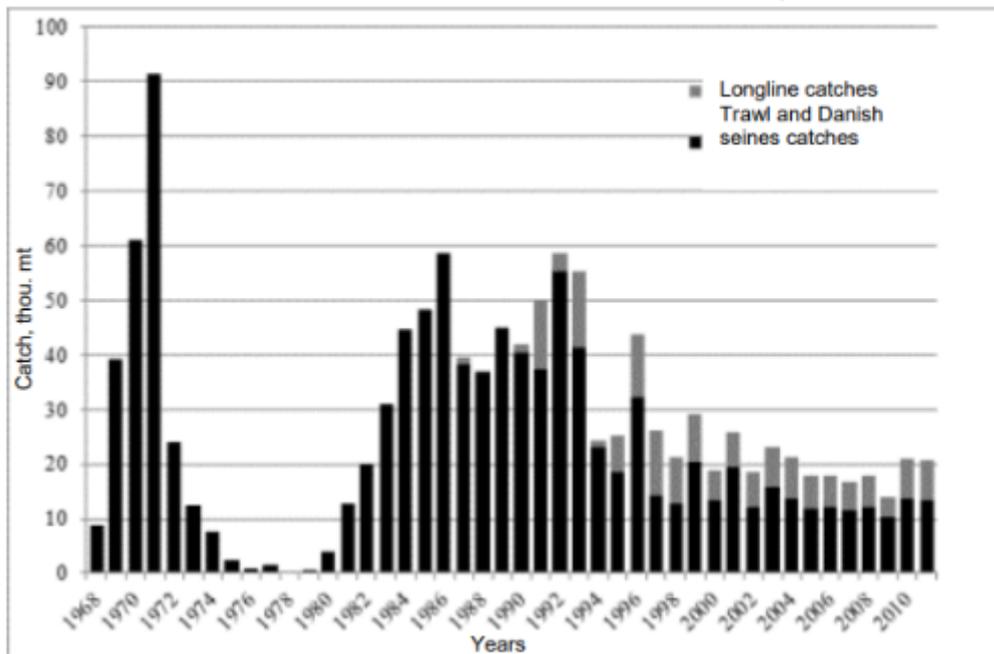


Figure 1. Catches of Pacific cod in the Western Bering Sea from 1968 – 2011 (Lajus *et al* 2019)

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore 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.

There do not appear to be any new stock assessment materials available since the 2023 surveillance assessment of this byproduct. Biomass for this stock was last evaluated in 2022, against the following reference points:

- $B_{MSY} = 1,123,210t$
- $B_{lim} = 291,080t$
- $B_{pa} = 375,620t$

At the time of the 2022 stock assessment, biomass was estimated to be fluctuating around B_{MSY} , substantially higher than the limit reference point level.

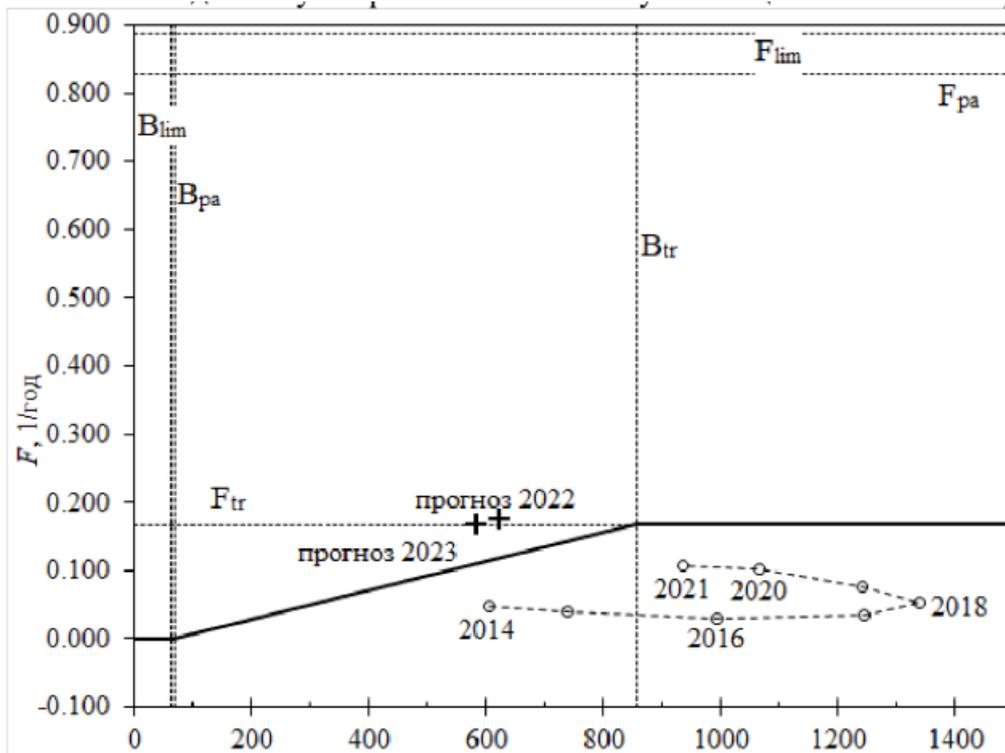


Figure 2. Harvest Control Rule of Pacific cod fishery in the western Bering Sea (West Bering Sea and Chukotskaya zones) and evaluation of its implementation from 2014 to 2021 with forecasts for 2022 and 2023. Biomass parameters are on the horizontal axis and fishing mortality on the vertical axis (UCSL 2024)

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it PASSES clause C1.2.

References

Lajus, D., Safronova, D., Orlov, A., and Blyth-Skyrme, R. 2019. Western Bering Sea Pacific cod and Pacific halibut longline Public Certification Report. MSC fisheries assessment. Marine Certification. https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/western-bering-seapacific-cod-and-pacific-halibut-longline/@assessmentdocumentsets?assessment_step=Initial+assessment&documentset_name=Public+certification+report&assessment_id=FA01881&phase_name=Public+certification+report+and+certificate+issue&start_date=2018-04-18

UCSL, 2024. Additional materials for "Western Bering Sea Pacific cod and Pacific halibut longline" Second Surveillance Report, https://drive.google.com/file/d/119Uac_QEUyk3AakhCdD4pQLMVBfgg3fu/view

Links

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