



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

Northern Pacific albacore tuna

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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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 61, 71, 67 & 77, all regions north of the equator.
	Country of origin of the product:	Taiwan, Fiji, Solomon Islands
	Stock:	Northern Pacific Albacore Tuna
Date	September 2022	
Report Code	VNM16	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Taiwan, Fiji, Solomon Islands	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Thien Quynh Co Ltd			
Country: Vietnam			
Email address: thienquynh.co@gmail.com		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	September 2022 – September 2023		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Stock	Northern Pacific Albacore Tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 61, 71, 67 & 77, all regions north 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>Note on location of the fishery: Albacore in the Pacific has previously been assessed for MarinTrust byproduct approval using several different combinations of geographical area and stock. This assessment specifically covers albacore tuna from the Northern Pacific stock, which is distributed throughout the parts of FAO Major Fishing Areas 61, 71, 67 and 77 which are north of the equator. The Southern albacore stock, which is also present in some parts of these FAO areas south of the equator, is covered by a separate byproduct assessment.</p> <p>Albacore tuna has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern and does not appear in the CITES appendices. The Northern Pacific albacore stock is managed relative to a dynamic biomass-based limit reference point, and therefore, was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment conducted for the byproduct was published in 2020. The stock assessment used international landings data and concluded that the stock was not subject to overfishing relative to the limit reference point. 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 North Pacific Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) fishery which is pursued by Taiwan, Fiji, Solomon Islands vessels in FAO fishing areas 61, 71, 67 and 77. Albacore tuna is managed by Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) & Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). For this Marin Trust assessment, the North 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 ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Northern Pacific albacore tuna	Yes	C	Least concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

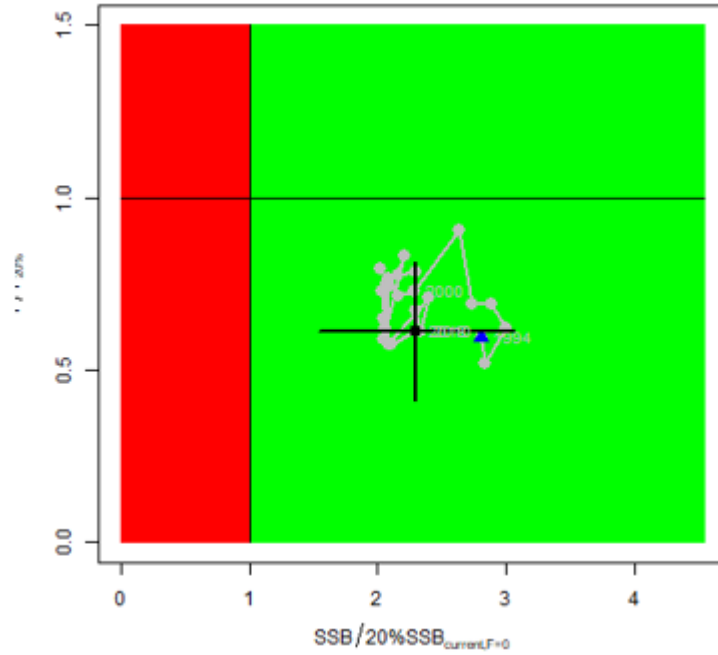
³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21856/46911332>

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>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.</p> <p>The most recent available stock assessment for the northern Pacific albacore stock was conducted in 2020 and utilised all available data from 1994 – 2018. Catch and size composition data were used to inform a length-based, age- and sex-structured Stock Synthesis model. No concerns were raised in the reporting documentation as to the completeness of the catch data (WCPFC 2021). Fishery removals are considered and C1.1 is met.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A limit reference point is established for the northern Pacific albacore stock, and is based on dynamic biomass estimates and therefore fluctuates according to changes in recruitment. The limit reference point $20\%SSB_{current, F=0}$ is calculated as 20% of the unfished dynamic female spawning biomass in the terminal year of the assessment (WCPFC 2021). SSB in the most recent stock assessment, conducted in 2020 and providing an indication of stock status in 2018, was estimated to be 58,858t, considerably above the limit reference point which was estimated to be 25,573t. The conclusion reached at the time of the stock assessment was that the stock is likely not overfished relative to the limit reference point, and therefore C1.2 is met.</p>			



Kobe plot showing the status of Northern Pacific albacore relative to the biomass-based reference point $20\%SSB_{current, F=0}$. Blue triangle indicates the start year (1994) and black circle with 95% CI indicates the terminal year (2018) (WCPFC 2021).

References

WCPFC (2021). North Pacific albacore tuna, current stock status and advice, February 2021.
<https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/05/north-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.

D1	Species Name		
	Productivity Attribute		Value
	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		
	Average Productivity Score		
	Susceptibility Attribute		Value
	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		
	Average Susceptibility Score		
	PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)		
	Compliance rating		
	Further justification for susceptibility scoring (where relevant)		
	<i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
References			
<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			
Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3 - Minimum Requirements			
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.		
			Outcome:
Evidence			
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.			
References			
Links			
MarinTrust Standard clause		1.3.2.2, 4.1.4	
FAO CCRF		7.5.1	
GSSI		D.5.01	