



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment

## *ESP16- Albacore tuna, FAO 51, 57*

### *(Indian Ocean)*

**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 51, 57
	Country of origin of the product:	Spain, Portugal
	Stock:	Indian Ocean Albacore tuna
Date	June 2024	
Report Code	ESP16	
Assessor	Vineetha Aravind	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Spain, Portugal	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Conserveros Reunidos SL (CONRESA), Arteixo			
Country: Spain			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body: LRQA			
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Vineetha Aravind	Sam Peacock	0.2	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	June 2024-June2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )
Stock	Indian Ocean Albacore tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Area 51 and 57, Indian Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
Gear Type(s)	Longlines and purse seines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessment outcome
Recommendation	PASS

## Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>To be approved as Marin Trust raw material, the species should not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red list and should not appear in CITES appendices. Albacore tuna in the Indian Ocean does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, nor does it appear in CITES appendices; therefore, it is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The stock is managed by Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and therefore is eligible to be assessed under Category C.</p> <p>No new stock assessment was carried out for albacore tuna in 2023, thus the stock status is determined based on the 2022 assessment (which is same as in the re-approval audit). The assessment considered international catch data and multiple CPUE indices. The assessment concluded that stock biomass is above the target and limit reference points. The byproduct meets the MT requirements and should be approved for use as a raw material.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The peer reviewer agrees that this species is eligible for assessment under the MarinTrust byproduct assessment methodology, and that the stock falls into Category C. The most recent stock assessment was adequate to meet the requirements of C1.1, and biomass is currently estimated to be above the target reference point level, meeting the requirements of C1.2. Overall, the peer reviewer agrees that this stock should be approved as a source of byproduct raw material for MarinTrust certified facilities.</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>	Indian Ocean 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	
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>IOTC conducts regular stock assessment of Albacore in the Indian Ocean. No new stock assessment was carried out in 2023, thus the stock status is determined based on the 2022 assessment. The stock assessment was carried out using Stock Synthesis III (SS3), a fully integrated model that is currently also used to provide scientific advice for the three tropical tunas stocks in the Indian Ocean. The assessment used international catch and CPUE data. Several CPUE indices are available – including those for the North-Western and South-Western fisheries, and several eastern indices – which indicate trends in separate components of the Indian Ocean albacore stock. The stock assessment summary concludes that the western indices “may best represent the abundance of albacore at this time”, and that “the eastern indices are affected by changes in targeting” (IOTC 2022). Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process 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 2022 stock assessment concluded that in relation to the IOTC’s interim target reference points, the stock is “not overfished and is not subject to overfishing” (IOTC 2022 &amp; 2023). The biomass target reference point is set at <math>0.4 \times SB_{MSY}</math> (i.e. 40% of the target reference point <math>SB_{MSY}</math>), and therefore the stock assessment also concluded that “current spawning biomass is considered to be...above the limit reference point” (IOTC 2022). Catches in 2020 were marginally below the MSY level estimated by the SS3 model. Fishing mortality represented as <math>F_{2020}/F_{MSY}</math> is 0.68 (0.42–0.94). Biomass is estimated to be above the <math>SB_{MSY}</math> level (1.56 (0.892.24)) from the SS3 models</p> <p>Biomass is highly likely to be above the limit reference point and C1.2 is met.</p>			

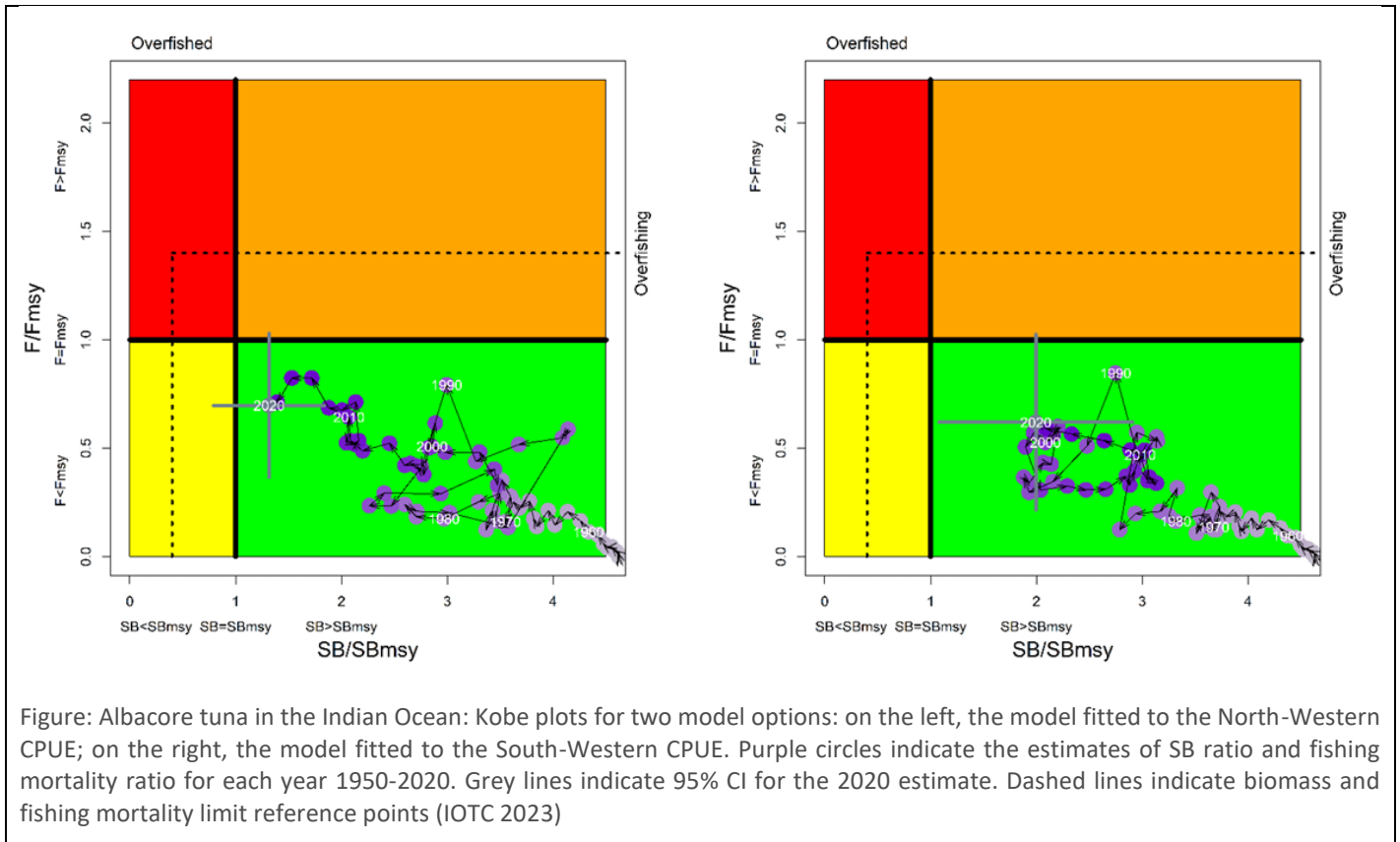


Figure: Albacore tuna in the Indian Ocean: Kobe plots for two model options: on the left, the model fitted to the North-Western CPUE; on the right, the model fitted to the South-Western CPUE. Purple circles indicate the estimates of SB ratio and fishing mortality ratio for each year 1950-2020. Grey lines indicate 95% CI for the 2020 estimate. Dashed lines indicate biomass and fishing mortality limit reference points (IOTC 2023)

**References**

IOTC (2022). Albacore tuna stock status and advice, executive summary, 2022. [https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock\\_status/2022/Albacore2022E.pdf](https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock_status/2022/Albacore2022E.pdf)

IOTC (2023). Albacore tuna stock status and advice, executive summary, 2023. [https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock\\_status/2023/Albacore\\_ES\\_2023.pdf](https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock_status/2023/Albacore_ES_2023.pdf)

**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>NA</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>		
	<i>For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision</i>		
<b>References</b>			
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 attributes	Low susceptibility (Low risk, score = 1)	Medium susceptibility (medium risk, score = 2)	High susceptibility (high risk, score = 3)
Areal overlap (availability) Overlap of the fishing effort with the species range	<10% overlap	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	Low overlap with fishing gear (low encounterability).	Medium overlap with fishing gear.	High overlap with fishing gear (high encounterability). Default score for target species
Selectivity of gear type Potential of the gear to retain species	a Individuals < size at maturity are rarely caught	a Individuals < size at maturity are regularly caught.	a Individuals < size at maturity are frequently caught
	b Individuals < size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b Individuals < half the size at maturity can escape or avoid gear.	b 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	Evidence of majority released post-capture and survival.	Evidence of some released post-capture and survival.	Retained species or majority dead when released.



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 Categorised 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	