MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

ESP25- FAO 27 Albacore tuna (Thunnus alalunga), Spain

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Albacore tuna (Thunnus alalunga)
	Geographical area:	FAO 27, Atlantic Northeast
	Country of origin of the product:	Spain
	Stock:	Atlantic albacore tuna, Northern stock
Date	June 2024	
Report Code	ESP25	
Assessor	Vineetha Aravind	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Spain	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Conserveros Reunidos SL (CONRESA), Arteixo, Hijos de Emilio Ramirez SA - Pescave			
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		0.2	Re-approval
Assessment Period	June 2024-June2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna (Thunnus alalunga)
Stock	Atlantic albacore tuna, Northern stock
Fishery Location	FAO Area 27 Atlantic, Northeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and National authorities of Spain
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
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 Atlantic 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. There are three Atlantic albacore stocks: northern and southern Atlantic stocks (separated at 5°N) and a Mediterranean stock. As FAO 27 Atlantic Northeast occurs entirely north of 5° N latitude, only the northern Atlantic stock is included in this assessment. Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the ICCAT stock assessment processes so the stock PASSES Clause C1.1. Latest stock assessment is based on the analyses conducted in June 2023 with available data up to 2021. The assessment shows that the stock is not overfished nor undergoing overfishing. Therefore, the stock PASSES Clause C1.2. To be approved, the stock assessed must pass both Clause C1.1 and C1.2; therefore, Albacore tuna in FAO 27 is APPROVED to produce fishmeal and fish oil under the current Marin Trust v 2.0 by-product standard
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
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.
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]
Albacore tuna	*Thunnus alalunga*	Northern Atlantic 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**	
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.

Abundance of North Atlantic Albacore tuna is assessed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The most recent assessment was in 2023 using data available up to 2021. Fishery removals are recorded.

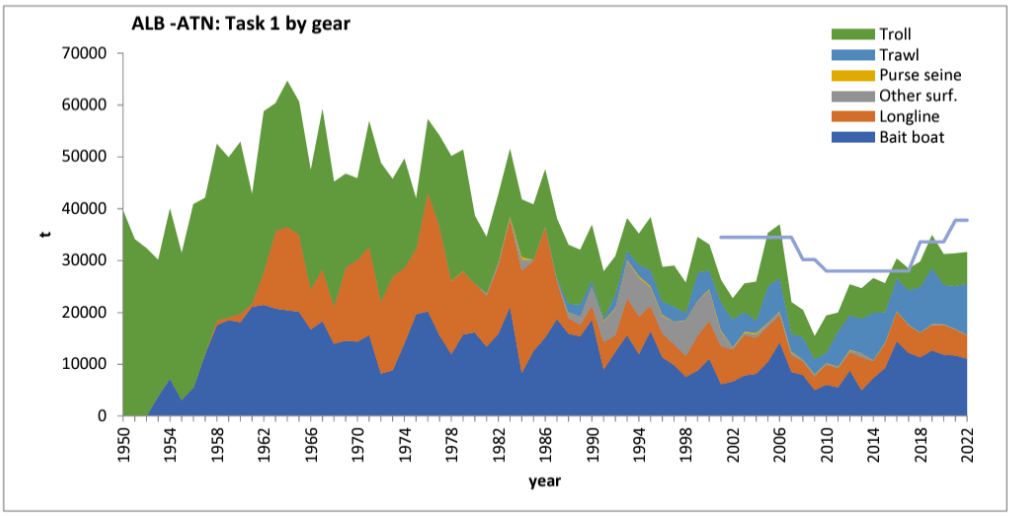

Figure 1: Total albacore catches reported to ICCAT by gear for the northern Atlantic stocks including TAC Source: ICCAT REPORT 2022-2023 (II).

The preliminary total reported catch in 2022 was 31,654 t (below the TAC of 37,801 t), and the catch in the last five years has remained slightly above 30,000 t. During the last years, the surface fisheries (mainly by EU-Spain, EU-Ireland and EU-France) contributed to approximately 84% of the total catch. Longline catch contributed to approximately 16% of the total catch during the last five years.

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.

In the 2023 assessment it was noted that the relative abundance of North Atlantic albacore has continued to increase over the last two decades and the stock is estimated to be in the green area of the Kobe plot with > 99% probability.

The current biomass is 519,799 t (B_{2021}). The recommended TAC obtained by applying the Management Procedure is 47,251 t, which represents a 25% increase with respect to the previous one. The current F_{2021}/F_{MSY} ratio is 0.45. The probability of the

stock currently being in the green area of the Kobe plot (not overfished and not undergoing overfishing, F<FMSY and B>BMSY) is 99.6% while the probability of being in the yellow area (overfished, B<BMSY) is 0.4%. The probability of being in the red area (overfished and undergoing overfishing, F>FMSY and B<BMSY) is 0%.

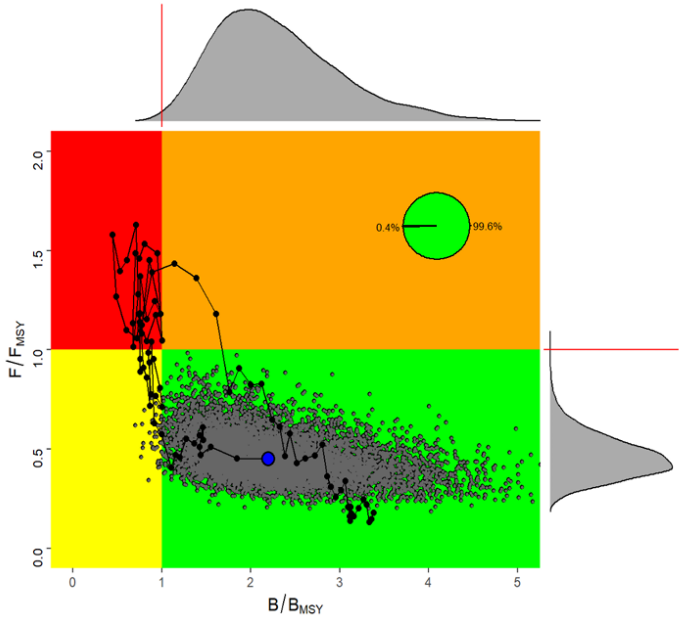

Figure 2: North Atlantic albacore (Kobe plot). Stock status trajectories of B/BMSY and F/FMSY over time (1930-2021), as well as uncertainty (grey dots) around the current (F2021/FMSY, B2021/BMSY) estimate (blue point) based on Stock Synthesis model with probability of being overfished and overfishing (red, 0%), of being neither overfished nor overfishing (green, 99.6%), and of being overfished (yellow, 0.4%) Source: ICCAT REPORT 2022-2023 (II)

References

ICCAT 2023. 2023 Advice to the commission. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB_ENG.pdf

REPORT OF THE 2023 ICCAT ATLANTIC ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (INCLUDING MSE). Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 80(3): 175-278 (2023). https://www.iccat.int/Documents/CVSP/CV080_2023/n_3/CV080030175.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.

D1	**Species Name**	**N/A**	
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	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**	**Score**
	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) *For susceptibility attributes, please provide a brief rationale for scoring of parameters where there may be uncertainty affecting your decision*		
References			
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		
	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