MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

ESP28 – Albacore in FAO area 34 (Eastern Central Atlantic)

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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 area 34 (Eastern Central Atlantic)
	Country of origin of the product:	Spain, Portugal
	Stock:	Northern and Southern Atlantic albacore tuna
Date	August 2024	
Report Code	ESP28	
Assessor	Jose Peiro Crespo	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Spain, Portugal	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Arteixo, Conserveros Reunidos SL (CONRESA)			
Country:			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Jose Peiro Crespo	Sam Peacock	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	Up to September 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)
Stock	Northern and Southern Atlantic albacore tuna
Fishery Location	FAO area 34
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Gear Type(s)	Longlines and seines - Not provided
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's conclusion
Recommendation	**Approve**

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) has been categorised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List as Least Concern, and does not appear in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices. Therefore, as the species is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red list and it does not appear in the CITES appendices, it is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material. Given the distribution of albacore tuna stocks and the FAO 34 fishing area, both the North and South Atlantic stocks were considered in this assessment. Fishery removals have been recorded since 1950, and this data has been incorporated into albacore tuna stock assessments. The most recent assessments were conducted in 2023 for the northern stock and in 2020 for the southern stock. Currently, the biomass of both stocks is above the target and limit reference points. As a result, the fishery effectively complies with **clauses C1.1 and C1.2.** Therefore, albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in FAO 34 Eastern Central Atlantic is granted **approval** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil, adhering to the existing MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The peer reviewer agrees that these stocks are eligible for MarinTrust approval, and that both should be assessed under Category C. The assessor has demonstrated, with references, that the stocks are subject to regular stock assessment which incorporates fishery removals, and that biomass is currently above the limit reference point level in both stocks. For these reasons, the peer reviewer agrees that this byproduct should remain approved for use as a raw material.
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 and Southern Atlantic albacore tuna	Yes	C	Least Concern	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**	
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**

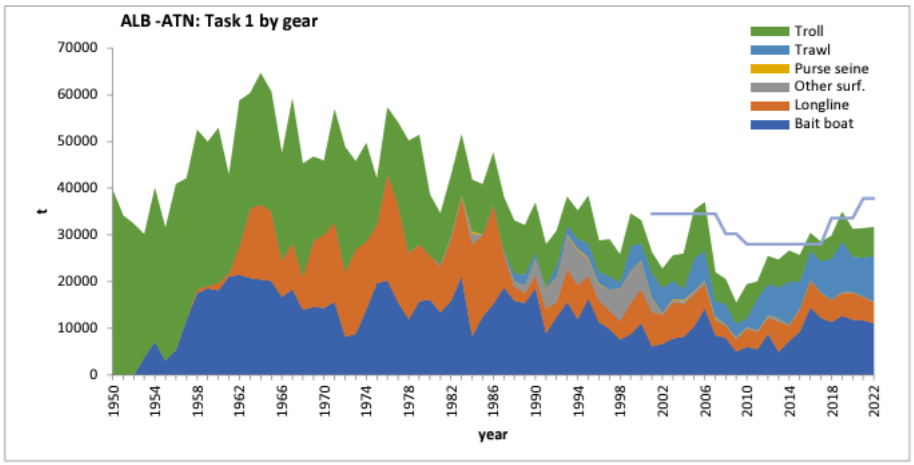
C1.1 Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.

Northern Atlantic albacore tuna

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) monitors the abundance of albacore tuna and evaluates the sustainability of current and proposed harvesting practices. Databases provide information on total albacore tuna catches in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea dating back to 1950. This data has been used for stock assessments, with the most recent assessment of the North Atlantic stock conducted in 2023, utilizing data available up to 2021 (ICCAT 2023).

Southern Atlantic albacore tuna

The status of the South Atlantic albacore stock is based on the analyses conducted in July 2020 with available data up to 2018.



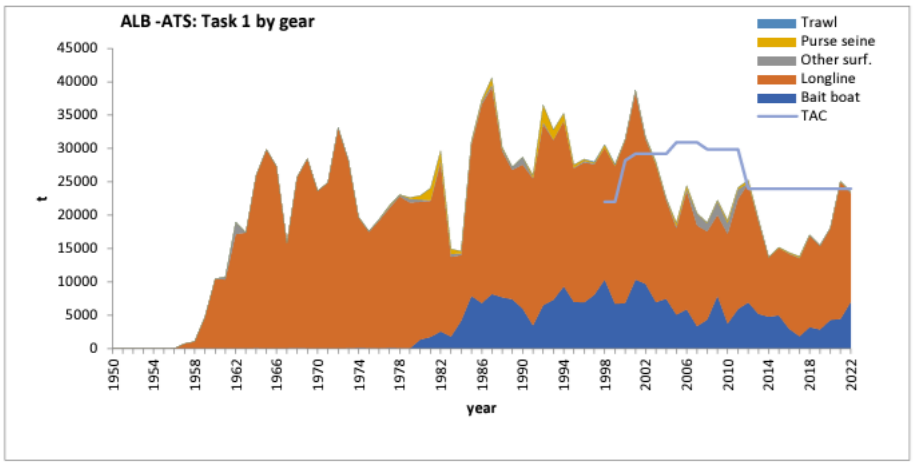


FIGURE 1 TOTAL ALBACORE CATCHES REPORTED TO ICCAT (TASK 1) BY GEAR FOR THE NORTHERN (TOP) AND SOUTHERN (BOTTOM) ATLANTIC STOCKS INCLUDING TAC (ICCAT 2023).

Fishery removals are integrated into the stock assessment, and criterion **C1.1 is deemed to be met**.

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.

As indicated, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) assessed the status of tuna stock in Atlantic waters. For the northern and southern albacore stocks a Stock Synthesis Model was used. The results of the stock assessments for both stocks are summarised below:

Northern Atlantic albacore stock

The Stock Synthesis model results suggest a biomass drop between 1930 and the 1990s and a recovery since then, while fishing mortality decreases. Relative to MSY benchmarks, the base case scenario estimates that the stock remained slightly overfished with B below BMSY between the late 1970s and the 2000s, but has now recovered to levels well above BMSY. Peak relative fishing mortality levels in the order of 1.66 times FMSY were observed in the early 1980s but overfishing stopped in the early 2000s, with the current F2021/FMSY ratio being 0.45. There is large uncertainty around the current stock status estimated by the model. 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% (ICCAT 2023).

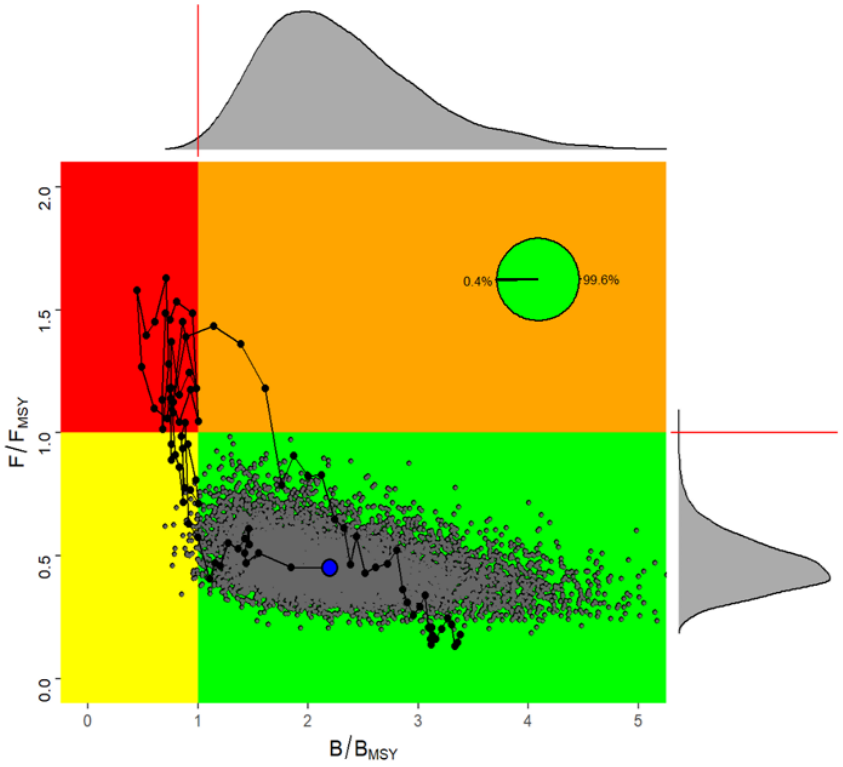


FIGURE 2 NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE (KOBE PLOT). STOCK STATUS TRAJECTORIES OF B/BMSY AND F/FMSY OVER TIME (1930-2021), AS WELL AS UNCERTAINTY (GREY DOTS) AROUND THE CURRENT (F2021/FMSY, B2021/BMSY) ESTIMATE (BLUE POINT) BASED ON STOCK SYNTHESIS MODEL WITH PROBABILITY OF BEING OVERFISHED AND OVERFISHING (RED, 0%), OF BEING NEITHER OVERFISHED NOR OVERFISHING (GREEN, 99.6%), AND OF BEING OVERFISHED (YELLOW, 0.4%) (ICCAT 2023).

Sothern Atlantic albacore stock

In the 2020 assessment the Committee selected a base case to best represent the population dynamics of albacore and uncertainty around stock status as well as impact of alternative fishing scenarios. Base case model results suggest that biomass increased since fishing mortality started to decrease in the early 2000s, and currently there is a 99.4% probability that the South Atlantic albacore stock is neither overfished nor subject to overfishing, with only 0.6% probability for the stock to be overfished. The median MSY value was 27,264 t (ranging between 23,734 t and 31,567 t), the median estimate of current B2018/BMSY was 1.58 (ranging between 1.14 and 2.05) and the median estimate of current F2018/FMSY was 0.40 (ranging between 0.28 and 0.59) (ICCAT 2023).

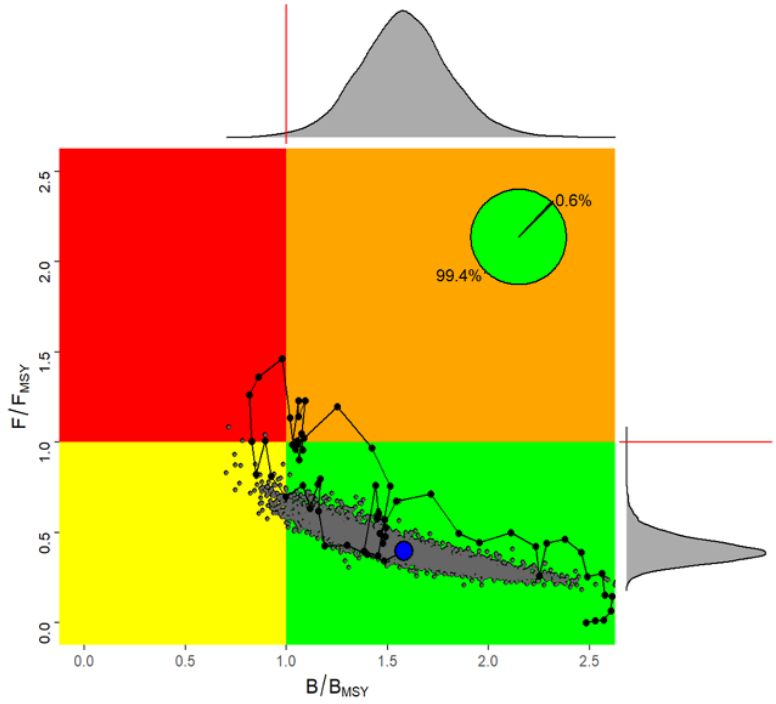


FIGURE 3 SOUTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE (KOBE PLOT). STOCK STATUS TRAJECTORIES OF B/BMSY AND F/FMSY OVER TIME (1956-2018), AS WELL AS UNCERTAINTY (GREY DOTS) AROUND THE CURRENT (2018) ESTIMATE (BLUE POINT) BASED ON BAYESIAN SURPLUS PRODUCTION MODEL WITH PROBABILITY OF BEING OVERFISHED AND OVERFISHING (RED, 0%), OF BEING NEITHER OVERFISHED NOR OVERFISHING (GREEN, 99.4%), AND OF BEING OVERFISHED (YELLOW, 0.6%) (ICCAT 2023).

The most recent stock assessment concluded that the stock biomass of both stocks is currently above the limit reference point, and therefore **C1.2 is met.**

References

ICCAT (2023). Albacore – Atlantic. ICCAT REPORT 2022-2023 (II). https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html

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**	**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