MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

ESP29 – Albacore in FAO area 37 (Mediterranean and Black Sea)

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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 37 (Mediterranean and Black Sea)
	Country of origin of the product:	Spain, Portugal
	Stock:	Mediterranean albacore tuna
Date	August 2024	
Report Code	ESP29	
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			
Country: Spain			
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	Mediterranean albacore tuna
Fishery Location	FAO area 37
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 recommendation
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. The stock is managed using biomass-based limit reference points and has therefore been assessed under Category C. The most recent stock assessment for the Mediterranean albacore stock was conducted in 2021 by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Fishery removals of the stock are included in the stock assessment process. The stock assessment considered the stock to have biomass above the Mt default limit reference point. As a result, the fishery effectively complies with **clauses C1.1 and C1.2.** Therefore, albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in FAO 37 Mediterranean Sea 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 this stock is eligible for MarinTrust approval, and that it should be assessed under Category C. The assessor has demonstrated, with references, that the stock is subject to a regular stock assessment which incorporates fishery removals, and that stock biomass is currently above the MarinTrust default limit reference point level of 0.5 B_{MSY}. 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*	Mediterranean 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.

The most recent stock assessment for the Mediterranean albacore tuna was conducted in 2021 by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The stock assessment was conducted using catch and CPUE data up to 2019. Eight indices were used: Spanish, Italian, Ionian, Ligurian, Med-South, and historical Italian longline indices, western Mediterranean larval index (providing information on the trends of the spawning biomass), and the Spanish Tournament index (ICCAT 2023).

Despite the ICCAT acknowledging uncertainties in some data inputs to the model—such as potential under-reporting of catches and limitations in the spatial and temporal coverage of available abundance indices— and the committee reaffirmed that the ability of the catch per unit effort (CPUE) series to track stock trends remains limited, it is considered that fishery removals are integrated into the stock assessment, and criterion **C1.1 is deemed to be met**.

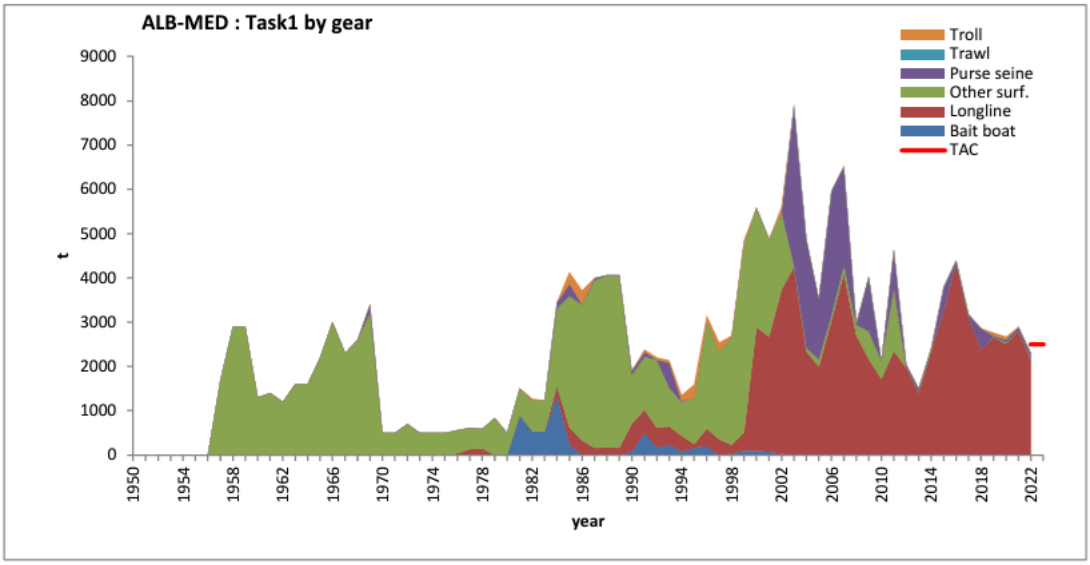

FIGURE 1 TOTAL ALBACORE CATCHES REPORTED TO ICCAT (TASK 1) BY GEAR FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN STOCK (ICCAT 2023).

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 Mediterranean albacore tuna stock was assessed in 2021 using a Bayesian state space surplus production model (JABBA) was used for assessment purposes. The results of the stock assessment indicated that current fishing mortality levels (2019) are above FMSY (1.2; 0.62-2.18, median and 95% Confidence Interval (CI)), and the current biomass is below the BMSY level (0.57; 0.32-1.00, median and 95% CI). The probability of being in the red, yellow, orange and green quadrants of the Kobe plot is 73.8%, 23.6%, 0.1% and 2.5%, respectively (ICCAT 2023).

However, as seen in the figure and table below, the stock is above the MT default limit reference point (50%MSY).

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

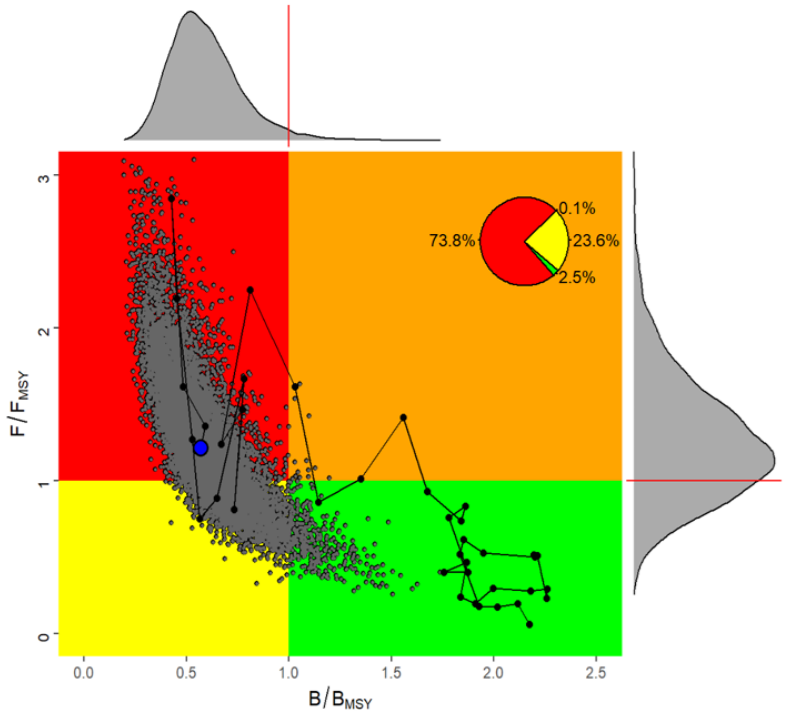

FIGURE 2 MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE. STOCK STATUS TRAJECTORIES OF B/BMSY AND F/FMSY OVER TIME (1980-2019) WITH UNCERTAINTY AROUND THE CURRENT ESTIMATE (KOBE PLOTS) FOR BAYESIAN SURPLUS PRODUCTION MODEL, AS WELL AS PROBABILITY OF BEING OVERFISHED AND OVERFISHING (RED, 73.8%), OF BEING NEITHER OVERFISHED NOR OVERFISHING (GREEN (2.5%), OF BEING OVERFISHED BUT NOT OVERFISHING (YELLOW, 23.6%) AND OF OVERFISHING BUT NOT OVERFISHED (ORANGE, 0.1%) (ICCAT 2023).

TABLE 3 STOCK ASSESSMENT MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE SUMMARY (ICCAT 2023).

MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE SUMMARY	
Maximum Sustainable Yield	3,653.9 t (2,446 - 5,090 t)[1]
Current (2022) Yield	2,295 t
Yield in last year of assessment (2019)	2,484 t
B_{MSY}	19,703.1 t (11,676 - 36,833 t)[1]
F_{MSY}	0.184 (0.091 - 0.335)[1]
B_{2019}/B_{MSY}	0.570 (0.322 - 1.004)[1]
F_{2019}/F_{MSY}	1.213 (0.618 - 2.175 t)[1]
Stock Status	Overfished: YES Overfishing: YES
Management measures in effect:	Rec. 22-05: 15-year Rebuilding plan (2022-2036); TAC for years 2022, 2023 and 2024: 2,500 t Limited number of vessels (reference year 2017 or 2018); Census of authorized sport & recreational vessels (maximum three albacore specimens/vessel/day); Time closure: 01/10-30/11 + 1 month between 15/02-31/03; alternatively, 01/01-31/03.

[1] Median and 95% credibility intervals for the Bayesian surplus production model.

References

ICCAT (2023). Albacore – Mediterranean. Executive summary. ICCAT REPORT 2022-2023. 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