



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

MAR002

Horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*)

in FAO 34

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

22 Amelia Street

London

SE17 3BZ

E: standards@marin-trust.com

T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO 34
	Country of origin of the product:	Morocco
	Stock:	Saharo-Mauritanian horse mackerel
Date	June 2024	
Report Code	MAR002	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Morocco	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Alpha Atlantique De Sahara Marocaine SA, Copelit SARL			
Country: Morocco			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF / Global Trust Certification Ltd.	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	June 2024 – June 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)
Stock	Saharo-Mauritanian horse mackerel
Fishery Location	FAO 34
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Morocco; FAO Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl, purse seine
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin trust raw material. Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) does not appear as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN’s Red List, and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Saharo-Mauritanian horse mackerel is subject to regular stock assessment by the FAO Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF). The most recent assessment was conducted in 2023, and incorporated international catches, therefore C1.1 is met. The stock assessment concluded that stock biomass is currently at the target reference point level, and so C1.2 is also met.</p> <p>Therefore, horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) in FAO 34 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified the Saharo-Mauritanian horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) in FAO 34 under category C, as the stock is subject to regular stock assessment by the FAO Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against.</p> <p>Fishery removals from the stock are considered in the stock assessment process, and the most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is considered to have a biomass above limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) in FAO 34 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.</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 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
Horse mackerel	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	Saharo-Mauritanian horse mackerel	Yes	C	Vulnerable ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198647/43157137>

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		Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</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.	Yes
	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.	Yes
			Clause outcome: Yes

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.

Saharo-Mauritanian horse mackerel is subject to regular stock assessment by the FAO Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) via the Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off Northwest Africa. Horse mackerel is assessed as a component of the wider small pelagic assemblage which also incorporates sardine, sardinella, chub mackerel, anchovy, and bonga. Catches are monitored as a key component of the stock assessment process.

Catches of all the small pelagic species are presented in the figure below:

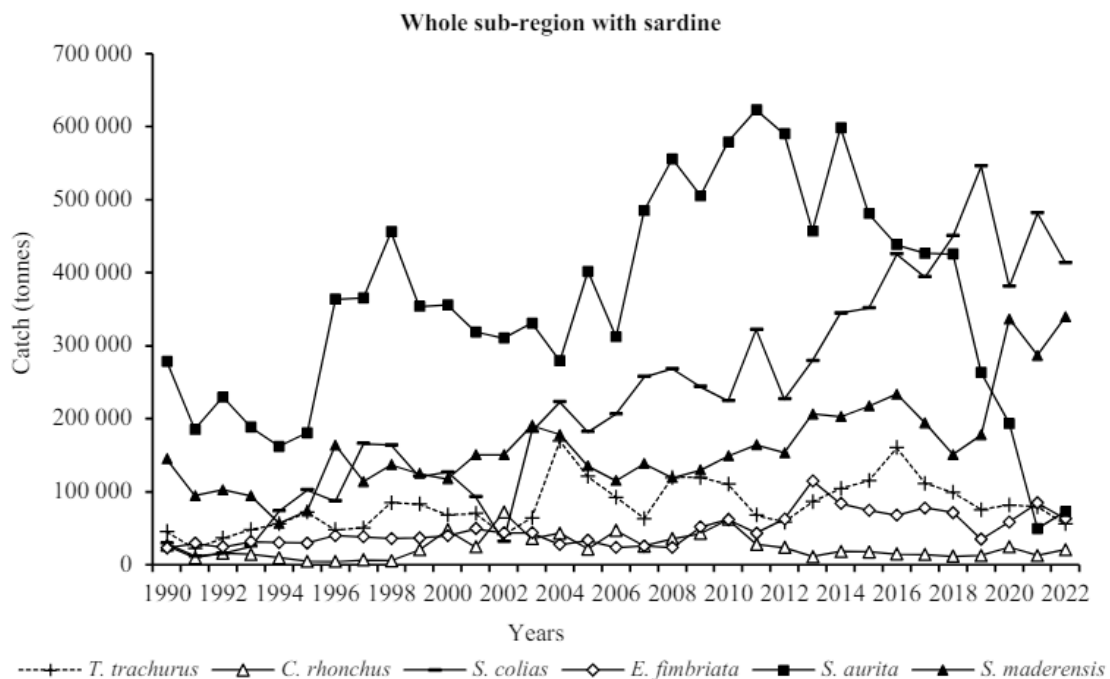


Figure 1. Total small pelagic catches in the Northwest Africa subregion. Catches of horse mackerel are shown by the dotted line with the “+” symbols (CECAF 2023)

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process and therefore the stock PASSES clause C1.1.

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.

An indication of the current status of the Saharo-Mauritanian horse mackerel stock is provided in the CECAF stock assessment summary report. The stock is managed relative to a target reference point of $B_{0.1}$, which is the value of biomass corresponding to the target fishing mortality $F_{0.1}$. The most recent stock assessment concluded that stock biomass is currently at the $B_{0.1}$ level, i.e. at the target reference point level. See the figure below for a full summary.

Stock	2022 catch in 1 000 tonnes (2018–2022 avg.)	$B_{cur}/B_{0.1}$	$F_{cur}/F_{0.1}$	Assessment	Management recommendations
Horse mackerel²					The results of the global model show that the stock of <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> and that of <i>T. trecae</i> are fully exploited . This indicates an improvement in the status of <i>Trachurus trecae</i> stocks which were overexploited in 2021. This is due to an improvement in biomass and recruitment indices in 2022, observed by the recruitment surveys. The working group recommends not to exceed 300 000 tonnes for both species during 2023, a maximum threshold for both species for three years. In addition, the working group has observed for several years a significant fishing of juveniles, which have not yet reached their first maturity, and recommends the implementation of urgent measures (e.g., spatio-temporal measures, etc.) aimed at reducing the fishing mortality exerted on this vulnerable fraction of the stock to improve its biological productivity.
<i>T. trachurus</i>	56 (78)	100%	55%	Fully exploited (<i>T. trachurus</i>)	
<i>T. trecae</i>	198 (206)	109%	52%	Fully exploited (<i>T. trecae</i>)	
Whole subregion					

Figure 2. Horse mackerel in FAO 34, summary of stock assessment outcomes and management recommendations (CECAF 2023)

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy) and it PASSES clause C1.2.

References

CECAF (2023). Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic, Summary Report of the FAO Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off Northwest Africa 2023. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/402e8343-87d0-471a-b288-4397f5e7af32/content>

Links

MarinTrust Standard clause	1.3.2.2
FAO CCRF	7.5.3
GSSI	D.3.04, D5.01