



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

#### MLT01

### Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*)

### in FAO Areas 27 & 37

**MarinTrust Programme**

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**Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Bluefin tuna ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO Areas 27 & 37
	Country of origin of the product:	Malta
	Stock:	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna
Date	July 2024	
Report Code	MLT01	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Malta	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Aquaculture Resources Ltd			
Country: Malta			
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	Matthew Jew	0.2	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period		July 2024 – July 2025	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Bluefin tuna, <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>
Stock	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 27 & 37
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Gear Type(s)	Not provided
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	<b>APPROVED</b>

## 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. Globally, bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Therefore, <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) relative to target reference points and was therefore assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The stock was most recently assessed in 2022 using data up to 2022. The stock assessment outputs are considered reliable, and therefore C1.1 is met. The stock assessment concluded that SSB is above the target reference point level. For this reason, C1.2 is met.</p> <p>Therefore, bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) in FAO Areas 27 &amp; 37 is <b>APPROVED</b> 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 bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) in FAO Areas 27 &amp; 37 under category C, as the stock is managed 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 the limit reference point: the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, the bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) in FAO Areas 27 &amp; 37 is <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>Determine which gear is being used to harvest eastern bluefin tuna</p>

## 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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna	Yes	C	Least Concern (Global) <sup>3</sup> Endangered (Mediterranean) <sup>4</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/21860/46913402>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21860/9330380>

## 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.

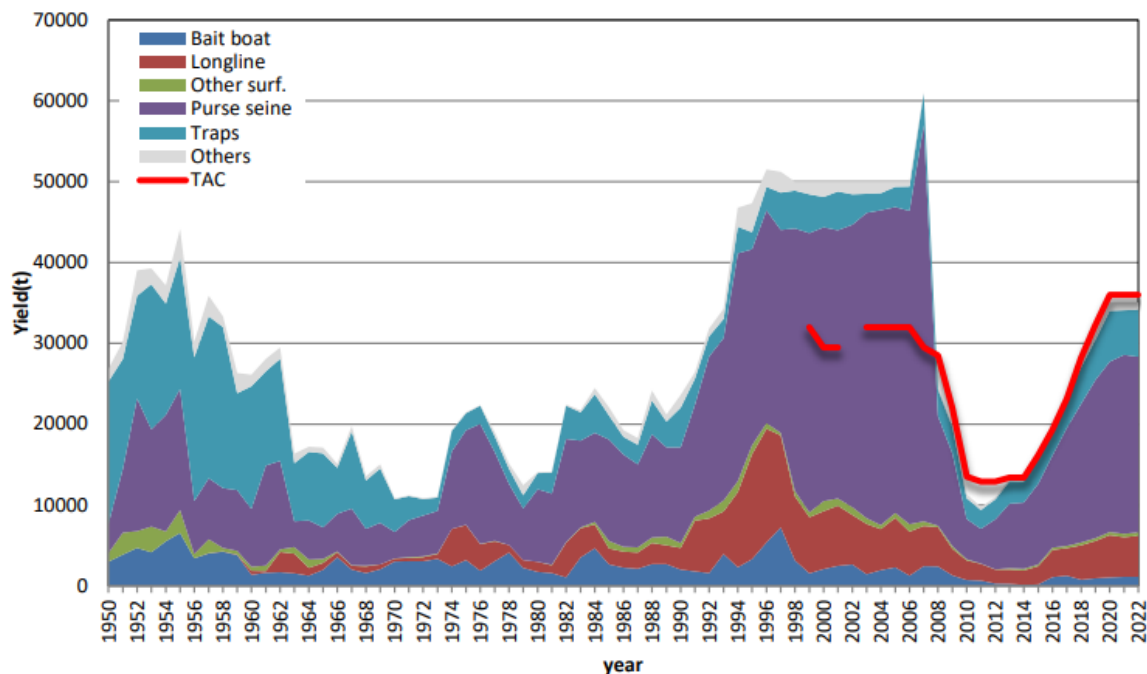
Clause C1 should be completed for each Category C species. If there are no Category C species in the fishery under assessment, this section can be deleted. Where a species fails this Clause, it should be assessed as a Category D species instead.

Species Name		Bluefin tuna ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</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.	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 stock assessment conducted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) takes all fishery removals into account. The most recent assessment remains the one identified in the previous MT assessment, and was conducted in 2022. The stock assessment applied a Virtual Population Analysis, and incorporated all international landings data.

Catches are shown below in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna, catches by gear type, 1950 – 2022. Red line indicates the TAC since 1998. (ICCAT 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.

The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2022 using data up to 2022, as reported in a 2023 stock status executive summary published by the ICCAT (ICCAT 2023). This stock assessment does not refer to biomass-based reference points; however, the 2017 stock assessment established a value for  $B_{MSY}$  of 270,000t. The 2022 stock assessment concludes that SSB is likely around 750,000t, therefore the stock is considered to have a biomass above the limit reference point in its most recent stock assessment (see Figure 2).

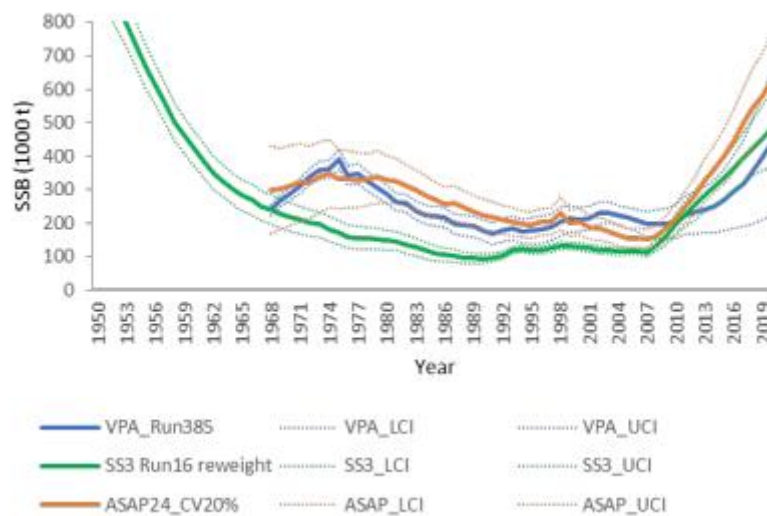


Figure 2. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna, trends in estimated SSB as estimated by the different stock assessment model platforms (ICCAT 2023)

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**

ICCAT (2017). Report of the 2017 ICCAT bluefin stock assessment meeting.  
[https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/DetRep/BFT\\_SA\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/DetRep/BFT_SA_ENG.pdf)

ICCAT (2023). Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna stock assessment executive summary.  
[https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/BFT\\_E\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/BFT_E_ENG.pdf)

**Links**

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