MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

THA17 – Albacore tuna in FAO Areas 51 & 57 (Indian Ocean)

MarinTrust Programme
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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 Areas 51 & 57
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, France, Japan, USA, Malaysia, Spain, South Korea, Indonesia, China
	Stock:	Indian Ocean albacore
Date	July 2024	
Report Code	THA17	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, France, Japan, USA, Malaysia, Spain, South Korea, Indonesia, China	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): South East Asian Packaging and Canning Ltd, TCF Co. Ltd, Piyo Bhokabhan Co. Ltd, Chotiwat Manufacturing Public Co. Ltd, TC Union Agrotech Co. Ltd, Sirisaengarumpee Co. Ltd, Thai Union Ingredients Co. Ltd			
Country: Thailand			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Jose Peiro Crespo	0.2	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	July 2024 – July 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)
Stock	Indian Ocean albacore
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 51 & 57
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Pass

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Albacore tuna has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Albacore in the Indian Ocean is managed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) relative to target and limit reference points, and therefore it was assessed under Category C. The most recent stock assessment remains the one conducted in 2022, which included consideration of international catch data and multiple CPUE indices. The assessment concluded that stock biomass is above the target and limit reference points. The byproduct meets the MT requirements and should remain approved for use as a raw material.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The by-product fishery under assessment is the Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) caught with longline, pole and line, purse seine and troll in FAO Areas 51 and 57 (Indian Ocean albacore tuna). The species is classified as LC by the IUCN. The stock is managed relative to biomass-based reference points and therefore it is assessed as a category C species. The most recent stock assessment for the species, conducted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) in 2022, concluded that the stock was over the target and limit reference points (not overfished and is not subject to overfishing). It passes category C. The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to pass the South Atlantic albacore tuna caught with longline, pole and line, purse seine and troll in FAO Areas 51 and 57 under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.
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*	Indian Ocean albacore	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.

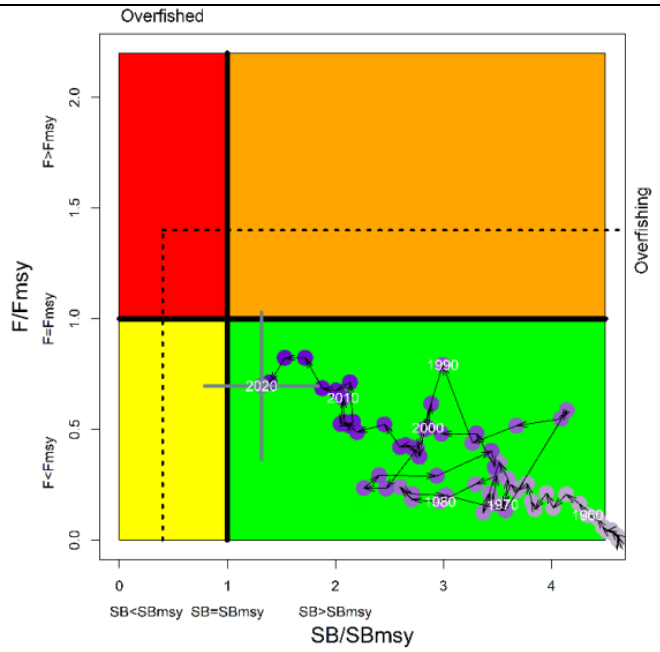
Species Name		**Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)**
C1	**Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements**	
	C1.1 Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	PASS
	C1.2 The 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

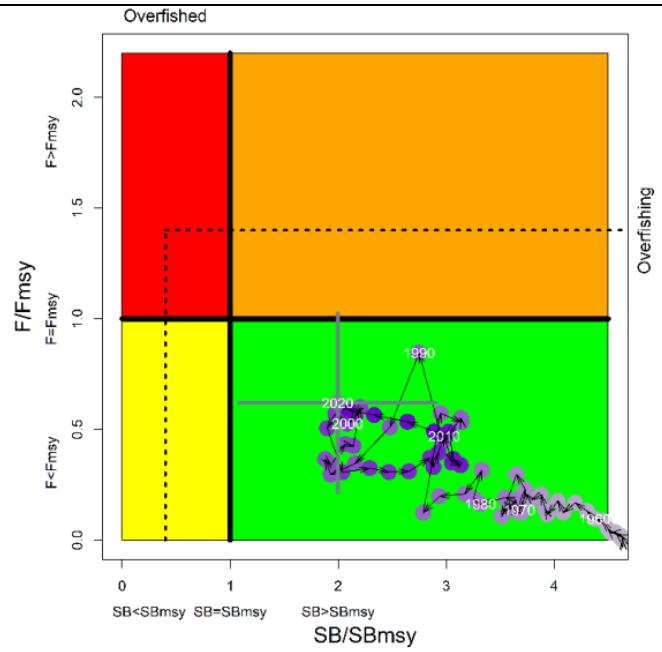
C1.1 Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.

Albacore in the Indian Ocean is subject to regular stock assessment by the ITOC. The most recent was conducted in 2022 using Stock Synthesis III, and utilised international catch and CPUE data. There are several CPUE indices available – including those for the North-Western and South-Western fisheries, and several eastern indices – which indicate trends in separate components of the Indian Ocean albacore stock. The stock assessment summary concludes that the western indices "may best represent the abundance of albacore at this time", and that "the eastern indices are affected by changes in targeting" (IOTC 2023). Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process and C1.1 is 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.

The 2022 stock assessment concluded that in relation to the IOTC's interim target reference points, the stock is "not overfished and is not subject to overfishing" (IOTC 2023). The biomass target reference point is set at $0.4*SB_{MSY}$ (i.e. 40% of the target reference point SB_{MSY}), and therefore the stock assessment also concluded that "current spawning biomass is considered to be…above the limit reference point" (IOTC 2023). Biomass is highly likely to be above the limit reference point and C1.2 is met.





Albacore tuna in the Indian Ocean: Kobe plots for two model options: on the left, the model fitted to the North-Western CPUE; on the right, the model fitted to the South-Western CPUE. Purple circles indicate the estimates of SB ratio and fishing mortality ratio for each year 1950-2020. Grey lines indicate 95% CI for the 2020 estimate. Dashed lines indicate biomass and fishing mortality limit reference points (IOTC 2023)

References

IOTC (2023). Albacore tuna stock status and advice, executive summary, 2023.
https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/content/Stock_status/2023/Albacore_ES_2023.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	n/a	
	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