



## MarinTrust Standard V2

### By-product Fishery Assessment

### THA18

### Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)

### in FAO 21, 27, 31, 34

### (North and Central Atlantic)

**MarinTrust Programme**

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

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Albacore tuna ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO 21, 27, 31, 34 (North and Central Atlantic)
	Country of origin of the product:	Thailand Flag countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Taiwan
	Stock:	North Atlantic albacore
Date	May 2024	
Report Code	THA18	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Thailand Flag countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Taiwan	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): TCF Co. Ltd, Chotiwat Manufacturing Public Co. Ltd, Thai Union Ingredients Co. Ltd			
Country: Thailand Flag countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Taiwan			
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
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Matthew Jew	0.5	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period		May 2024 – May 2025	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )
Stock	North Atlantic albacore
Fishery Location	FAO 21, 27, 31, 34 (North and Central Atlantic)
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and Contracting (State) Parties
Gear Type(s)	Trawl, Troll, Purse Seine, Longline, Bait boat
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 Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin Trust raw material. Albacore tuna - <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, albacore tuna - <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The stock is subject to regular stock assessment by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Fishery removals were considered in the stock assessment, achieving a PASS against Clause C1.1. Spawning biomass is above the limit reference point, thus the stock PASS against C1.2.</p> <p>Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) in Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO fishing areas 21, 27, 31, 34 (North and Central Atlantic) is <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The assessor correctly classified albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) in FAO 21, 27, 31, and 34 as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime (ICCAT).</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is not considered overfished by ICCAT. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy).</p> <p>Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) in FAO 21, 27, 31, and 34 passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.3</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>N/A</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 a 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>
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	North Atlantic albacore	Yes	C	LC <sup>3</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/es/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 ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</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
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>In 2023, a review of North Atlantic Task 1 was conducted, focusing on size and age data, along with updating catch rates with new information for northern albacore fisheries up to and including data from 2021. The stock assessment utilized two model formulations varying in complexity: surplus production model integral to the Management Procedure (MP) and a Stock Synthesis model. The Stock Synthesis model, being more intricate, facilitated the inclusion of detailed data and alternative hypotheses compared to the surplus production model. Both models yielded comparable results, leading the Committee to opt for the Stock Synthesis model to characterize stock status and ensure consistency between catch projections and the advice provided by the MP.</p>			

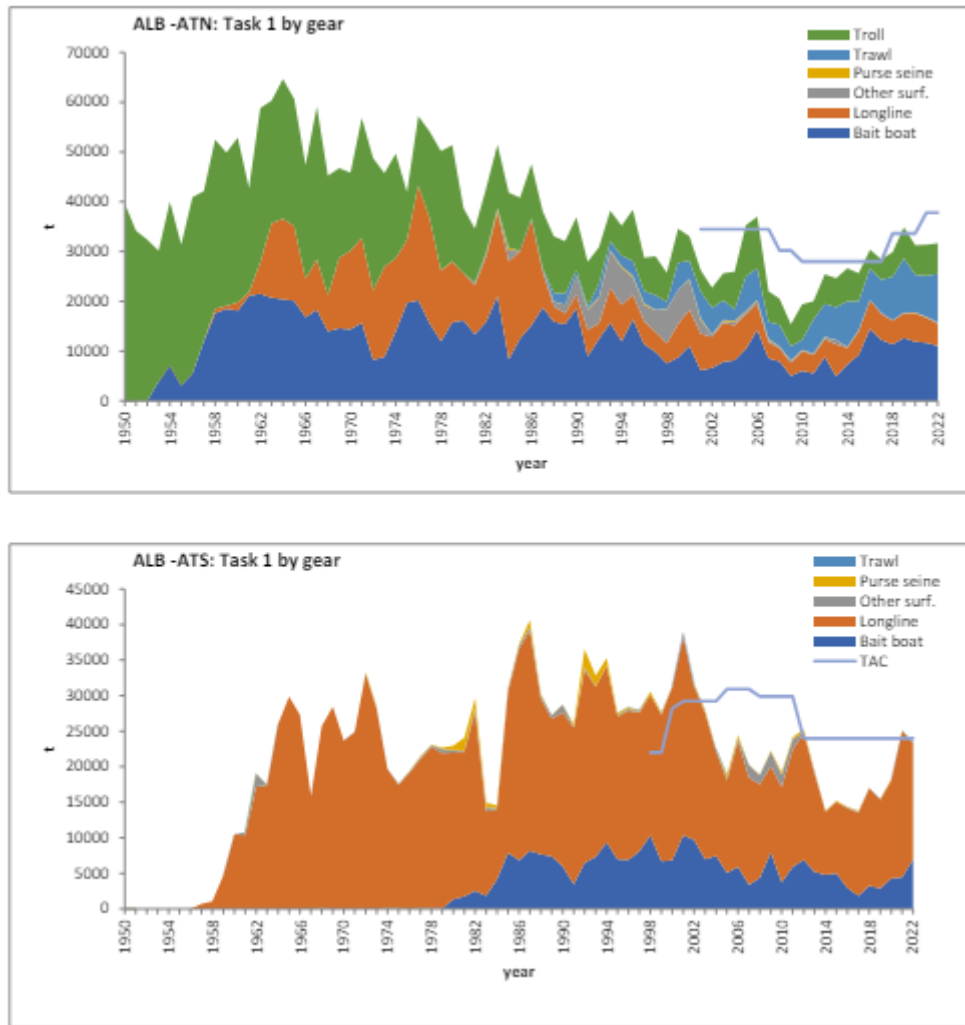


Figure 1. Total albacore catches reported to ICCAT (Task 1) by gear for the northern (top) and southern (bottom) Atlantic stocks including Total Allowable Catch – TAC (ICCAT, 2023).

Fishery removals of albacore tuna are incorporated into the stock assessment process and therefore 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 current biomass is well above the Biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield - BMSY ( $B_{2021}/BMSY = 2.19$ ) and  $F_{2021}/FMSY$  ratio is 0.45. The likelihood of the stock presently falling within the green zone of the Kobe plot, signifying it's not overfished and not experiencing overfishing (where  $F < FMSY$  and  $B > BMSY$ ), is 99.6%. Conversely, the chance of it being within the yellow zone (indicating overfishing, where  $B < BMSY$ ) is 0.4%. Importantly, there's a 0% probability of it being in the red zone (signifying both overfished and undergoing overfishing, where  $F > FMSY$  and  $B < BMSY$ ).

Under the current management procedure, a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 47,251 t has been set for the period 2024-2026. This marks a 25% increase compared to the previous TAC, aligning with the positive stock status identified in the 2023 assessment. It's noteworthy that this TAC for 2024-2026 surpasses the MSY estimate for this stock (41,995 t). This divergence is attributed to the current biomass significantly exceeding the BMSY indicating that this catch level can be sustained in the short term. Projections from the stock Synthesis model also support the viability of this catch level in the immediate future.

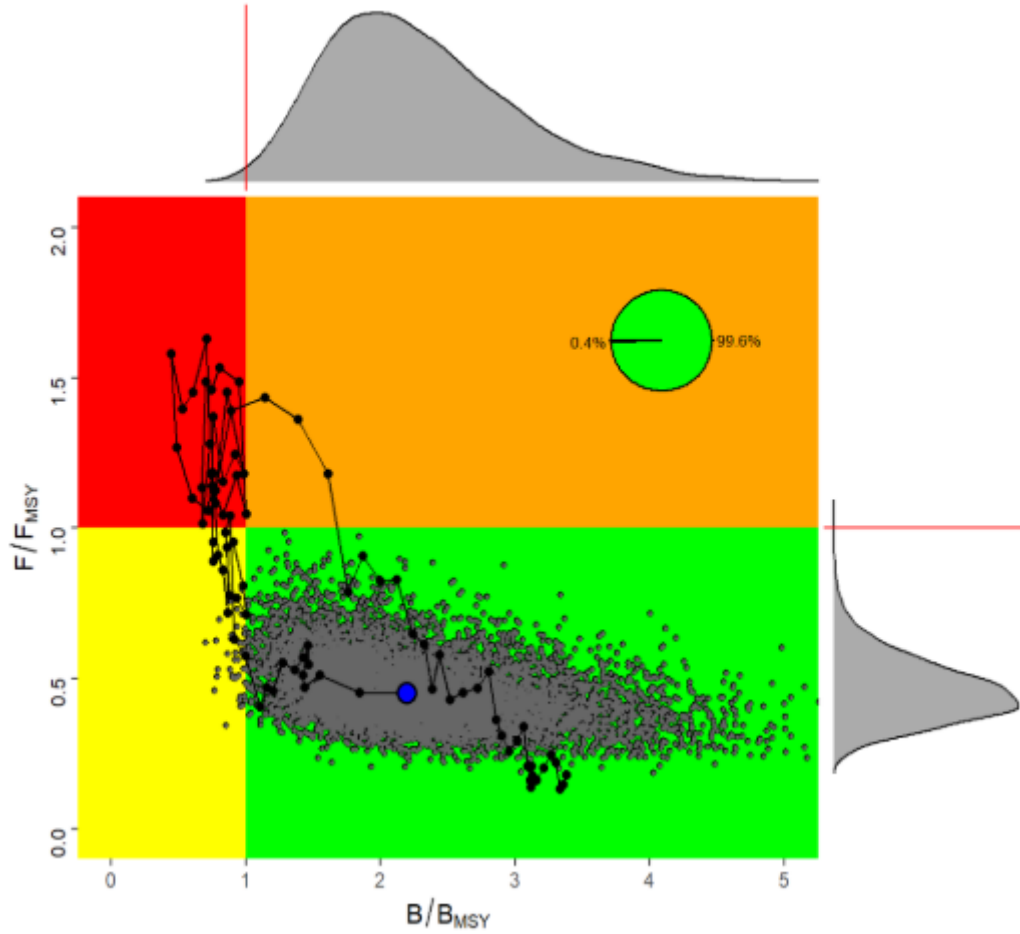


Figure 2. North Atlantic albacore (Kobe plot). Stock status trajectories of  $B/B_{MSY}$  and  $F/F_{MSY}$  over time (1930-2021), as well as uncertainty (grey dots) around the current ( $F_{2021}/F_{MSY}$ ,  $B_{2021}/B_{MSY}$ ) estimate (blue point) based on Stock Synthesis model with probability of being overfished and overfishing (red, 0%), of being neither overfished nor overfishing (green, 99.6%), and of being overfished (yellow, 0.4%) [ICCAT, 2023].

ATLANTIC ALBACORE SUMMARY		
	North Atlantic <sup>1</sup>	South Atlantic
Maximum Sustainable Yield	41,995 t (38,860 - 45,130) <sup>2</sup>	27,264 t (23,734 - 31,567) <sup>2</sup>
Current (2022) Yield	31,654 t	23,544 t
Yield <sub>current</sub> in last year of assessment <sup>3</sup>	31,393 t	17,098 t
SSB <sub>MSY</sub>	93,202 t (51,136 - 135,269) <sup>2</sup>	124,453 t (79,611 - 223,424) <sup>2</sup>
F <sub>MSY</sub>	0.115 (0.092 - 0.141) <sup>3</sup>	0.219 (0.116 - 0.356) <sup>2</sup>
B <sub>2021</sub>	519,799 t (462,465 - 608,819) <sup>3</sup>	
SSB <sub>2021</sub> /SSB <sub>MSY</sub>	2.19 (1.21 - 4.01) <sup>2</sup>	
B <sub>2018</sub> /B <sub>MSY</sub>		1.58 (1.14 - 2.05) <sup>2</sup>
F <sub>current</sub> /F <sub>MSY</sub> <sup>4</sup>	0.45 (0.29 - 0.71)	0.40 (0.28 - 0.59)
Stock Status	Overfished: NO Overfishing: NO	Overfished: NO Overfishing: NO
Management measures in effect:	Rec. 98-08: Limit number of vessels to 1993-1995 average. Rec. 21-04: TAC of 37,801 t for 2022-2023, according to MP. Management objective is to keep the stock in (or rebuild it to) the green area of the Kobe plot with at least 60% probability, while maximizing catch and reducing variability of TAC.	Rec. 22-06: TAC of 28,000 t for 2023-2026
Recommended TAC for the period 2024-2026 as estimated following the MP adopted in Rec. 21-04 <sup>5</sup>	47,251 t	

<sup>1</sup> All values from the Stock Synthesis model, except for B<sub>2021</sub> and F<sub>MSY</sub>, which are used for TAC calculation, where values from the production model are shown.  
<sup>2</sup> Mean (North Atlantic) or median (South Atlantic) and 95% CI for the reference/base case.  
<sup>3</sup> Median and 95% CI for the production model used for the MP iteration (Rec. 21-04).  
<sup>4</sup> Current year (the last year in the assessment) is 2021 for North Atlantic and 2018 for South Atlantic.  
<sup>5</sup> The recommended TAC is capped by the maximum allowed increase of 25%, since the TAC obtained when applying the MP equation resulted in a higher value (F<sub>TAC</sub>\*B<sub>2021</sub> = 47,673.9 t).

Figure 3. Atlantic albacore assessment summary (ICCAT, 2023).

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), C1.2 is met.

**References**

ICCAT (2023). ICCAT REPORT 2022-2023 (II). [https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB_ENG.pdf)

**Links**

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