MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

THA20 – Albacore tuna in FAO Areas 77, 81 & 87 (Southern Pacific albacore)

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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 77, 81, 87
	Country of origin of the product:	Vanuatu, China, Taiwan
	Stock:	Southern Pacific albacore tuna
Date	July 2024	
Report Code	THA20	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Vanuatu, China, Taiwan	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): TCF Co. Ltd, Chotiwat Manufacturing Public Co. Ltd, Thai Union Ingredients Co. Ltd, TC Union Agrotech 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	Southern Pacific albacore tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 77, 81, 87
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) & Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Albacore tuna has been categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern and does not appear in the CITES appendices. The Southern Pacific albacore stock is managed relative to a range of reference points and therefore was assessed under Category C. The most recent stock assessment conducted for the by-product remains the one identified in previous MT assessments, and was published in 2021. The stock assessment used international landings data and concluded that the stock was not subject to overfishing. Current biomass was estimated to be between 1.45 and 4.28 times greater than the MSY level. The by-product meets the Category C requirements and should remain approved for use as a raw material in MT-certified marine ingredients.
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 77, 81 and 87 (South Pacific 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 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in 2021, concluded that the stock was above the target reference point. It passes category C. The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to pass the South Pacific albacore tuna caught with longline, pole and line, purse seine and troll in FAO Areas 77, 81 and 87 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*	Southern Pacific albacore tuna	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.

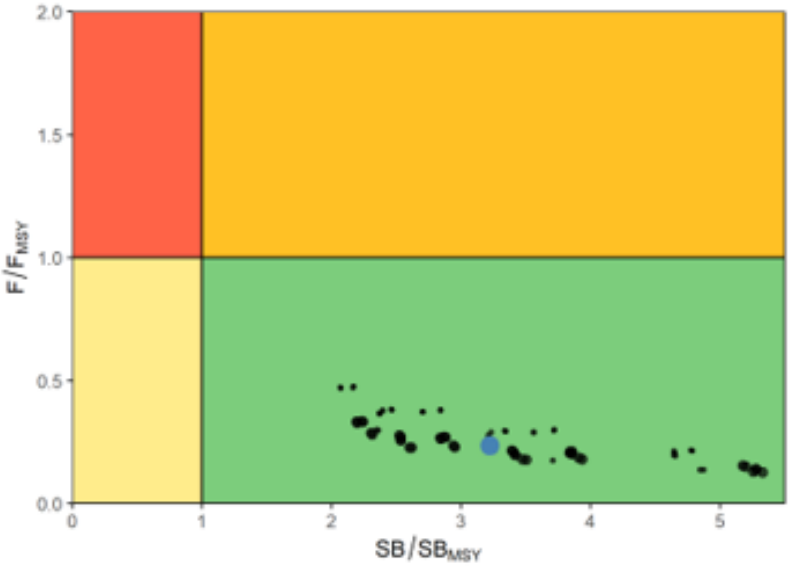
Species Name		**Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)**	
C1	**Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements**		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	PASS
	C1.2	The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

The most recent stock assessment for albacore tuna in the south Pacific was conducted in 2021, using data up to 2019, and was the first to attempt a region-wide assessment (i.e., covering the entire stock across both the WCPFC and IATTC areas). The assessment used catch data including international catches by fishing gear. The published stock assessment report (WCPFC 2021) does not appear to include any concerns relating to the availability of catch data. Fishery removals are incorporated into the stock assessment, 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 stock is assessed relative to a range of potential reference points (WCPFC 2021a), with the key reference point used to determine whether the stock was overfished being $20\%SB_{F=0}$. The 2021 stock assessment concluded that "the stock is not overfished, and there was zero estimated risk of the stock being below $20\%SB_{F=0}$" (WCPFC 2021). SB_{latest}/SB_{MSY} at the time of the assessment was estimated to be between 1.45 and 4.28, providing strong evidence that the stock biomass was above the MSY level. The most recent stock assessment concluded that the stock biomass is currently above the target and limit reference points, and therefore C1.2 is met.



Kobe plot for Southern Pacific albacore tuna summarising the Pacific-wide results for each of the models used in the 2021 stock assessment. The blue point is the median value based on the weighted grid models (WCPFC 2022).

References

WCPFC (2021). Stock assessment of South Pacific albacore tuna. https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12551

WCPFC (2022). Stock status and advice key documents, South Pacific albacore tuna. https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/04/south-pacific-albacore-tuna

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