MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

USA08

Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)

in FAO 41 and 47

(Southern Atlantic Ocean)

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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 41 and 47 - Southern Atlantic Ocean
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles Flag countries: Seychelles, South Africa
	Stock:	South Atlantic albacore stock
Date	August 2024	
Report Code	USA08	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Seychelles Flag countries: Seychelles, South Africa	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Indian Ocean Tuna Ltd			
Country: Seychelles Flag countries: Seychelles, South Africa			
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	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Surveillance 2
Assessment Period	August 2024 – August 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)
Stock	South Atlantic albacore stock
Fishery Location	FAO 41 and 47 - Southern Atlantic Ocean
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Gear Type(s)	Longline, pole and line, purse seine, troll
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
Recommendation	**Approved**

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
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 (*Thunnus alalunga*) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material. For assessment and management purposes, one discrete stock of albacore tuna is recognised in Southern Atlantic Ocean, when fished within Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO fishing area FAO 41 and 47 - Southern Atlantic Ocean. The last stock assessment was completed in 2020 using data up to 2018, thus no changes were applied from last year MarinTrust assessment. The next stock assessment is scheduled for 2026. Fishery removals of the stock are considered in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas – ICCAT stock assessment process, and the latest assessment of stock status considers the stock being above the limit reference points, so the stock PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2. Therefore, albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in FAO 41 and 47 – Southern Atlantic is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The assessor correctly classified albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in FAO 41 and 47 – Southern Atlantic Ocean under category C, as the stock is managed and reference points are defined to assess the stock status against. As last year's report, 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 well above the limit reference point. Consequently, the fishery passes both clauses C1.1 and C1.2. Therefore, albacore tuna in FAO 41 and 47 (Southern Atlantic Ocean) is **APPROVED** for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust V2.3 by-products standards.
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*	South Atlantic albacore stock	Yes	C	LC[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

Note: this report is based on the same stock assessment as last year's report.

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.

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process via the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) processes. The last stock assessment was completed in 2020 using data up to 2018. The next stock assessment is scheduled for 2026.

The last Assessment showed probabilities based on Bayesian surplus production models that the stock mortality is below the fishing pressure that gives the maximum sustainable yield in the long term - F_{MSY} and biomass is above the biomass at which MSY is achieved - B_{MSY} for constant catch levels between 16,000 t and 34,000 t (ICCAT, 2020, 2022)

Southern albacore had an annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 24,000 t from 2017-2021. Catches have been well below this TAC since 2002, except for 2011 and 2021. The TAC for the period 2023-2026 is 28,000 t (ICCAT, 2022). The stock it is in very good condition, it is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

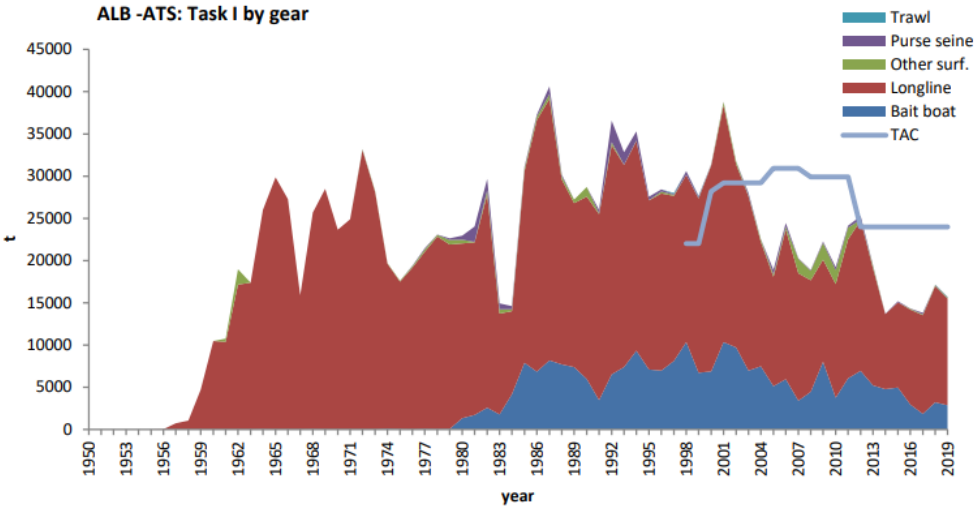
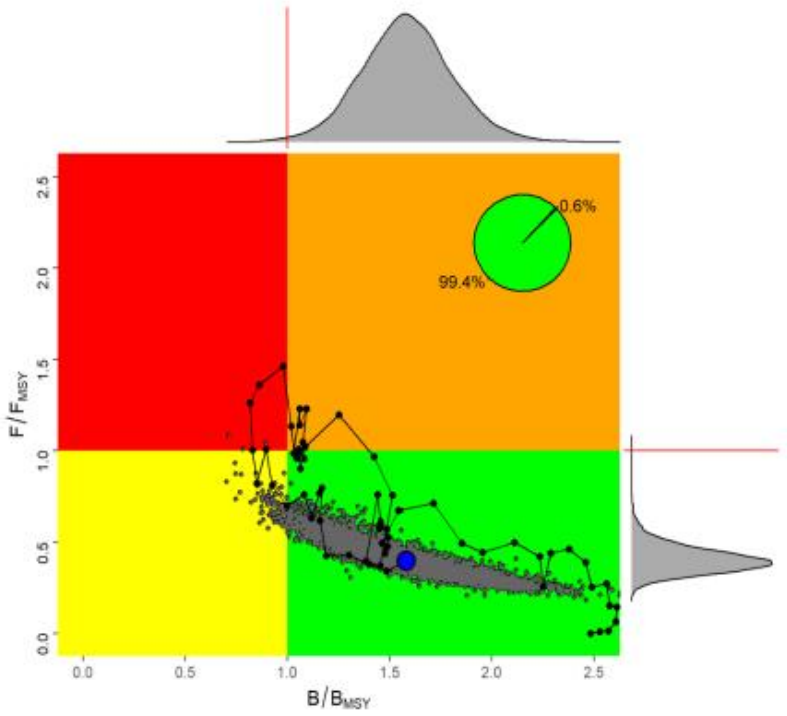


Figure 1. Long-term catches for albacore tuna in the southern Atlantic Ocean from 1950 to 2019 (ICCAT, 2020).

Fishery removals 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.

According to ICCAT (2020): "Currently there is a 99.4% probability that the South Atlantic albacore stock is neither overfished nor subject to overfishing, with only 0.6% probability for the stock to be overfished. The median MSY value was 27,264 t (ranging between 23,734 t and 31,567 t), the median estimate of current B_{2018}/B_{MSY} was 1.58 (ranging between 1.14 and 2.05) and the median estimate of current F_{2018}/F_{MSY} was 0.40 (ranging between 0.28 and 0.59)" [Figure 2].
Taken together these outcomes provide strong evidence that the stock is above the target reference point, and therefore above any possible limit reference point.



ALB-Figure 6. South Atlantic albacore (Kobe plot). Stock status trajectories of B/B_{MSY} and F/F_{MSY} over time (1956-2018), as well as uncertainty (grey dots) around the current (2018) estimate (blue point) based on Bayesian surplus production model with probability of being overfished and overfishing (red, 0%), of being neither overfished nor overfishing (green, 99.4%), and of being overfished (yellow, 0.6%).

Figure 2. Source: ICCAT (2020).

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. 2020. of the 2020 ICCAT Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Meeting. 29 June to 8 July 2022. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB_ENG.pdf

ICCAT. 2022. Report for biennial period, 2022-23. PART I (2022) - Vol. 1. Proceedings of the 23rd special meeting of the commission. 13-21 November 2022. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_22-23_I-1.pdf

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