



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

USA11

Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in FAO 81 (southwest Pacific)

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 81 Southwest Pacific
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles (Flag countries: Seychelles and South Africa)
	Stock:	Southern Pacific albacore tuna
Date	September 2024	
Report Code	USA11	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Seychelles (Flag countries: Seychelles and 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			
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		September 2024 – September 2025	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Stock	Southern Pacific albacore tuna
Fishery Location	FAO 81 Southwest Pacific
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) InterAmerican Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Seychelles Fishing Authority, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (South Africa)
Gear Type(s)	Poles, handlines, and longlines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVED

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 MarinTrust 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 most recent stock assessment for southern Pacific Ocean albacore tuna was conducted in 2024 and it was a joint effort between the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).</p> <p>The assessment considers albacore tuna in the southern Pacific Ocean to be a single stock (which includes FAO Area 81), and this is the only stock under assessment. The stock is subject to a specific management regime, therefore it was assessed under Category C.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment, and it PASSES Clause C1.1. The stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point, it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) in FAO 81 Southwest Pacific is APPROVED 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 81 as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime (WCPFC/IATTC).</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 WCPFC/IATTC. 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 81 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
N/A

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 ¹	CITES Appendix 1 ²
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Southern Pacific albacore tuna	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Seychelles Fishing Authority, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (South Africa)	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 (<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>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.</p> <p>The last stock assessment of albacore tuna across the South Pacific Ocean (south of the equator) performed in 2021 assessment was the first to include both convention areas of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC-CA) and the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) modelled jointly in a spatially structured South Pacific wide assessment. A further three years of data are available since the last stock assessment and the model time period now extends from 1954–2022 (Figure 1). The 2024 assessment also includes both convention areas however, an areas-as fleets approach was implemented in each of the convention areas in lieu of the explicit regional spatial structure used in 2021 (WCPFC, 2024).</p>			

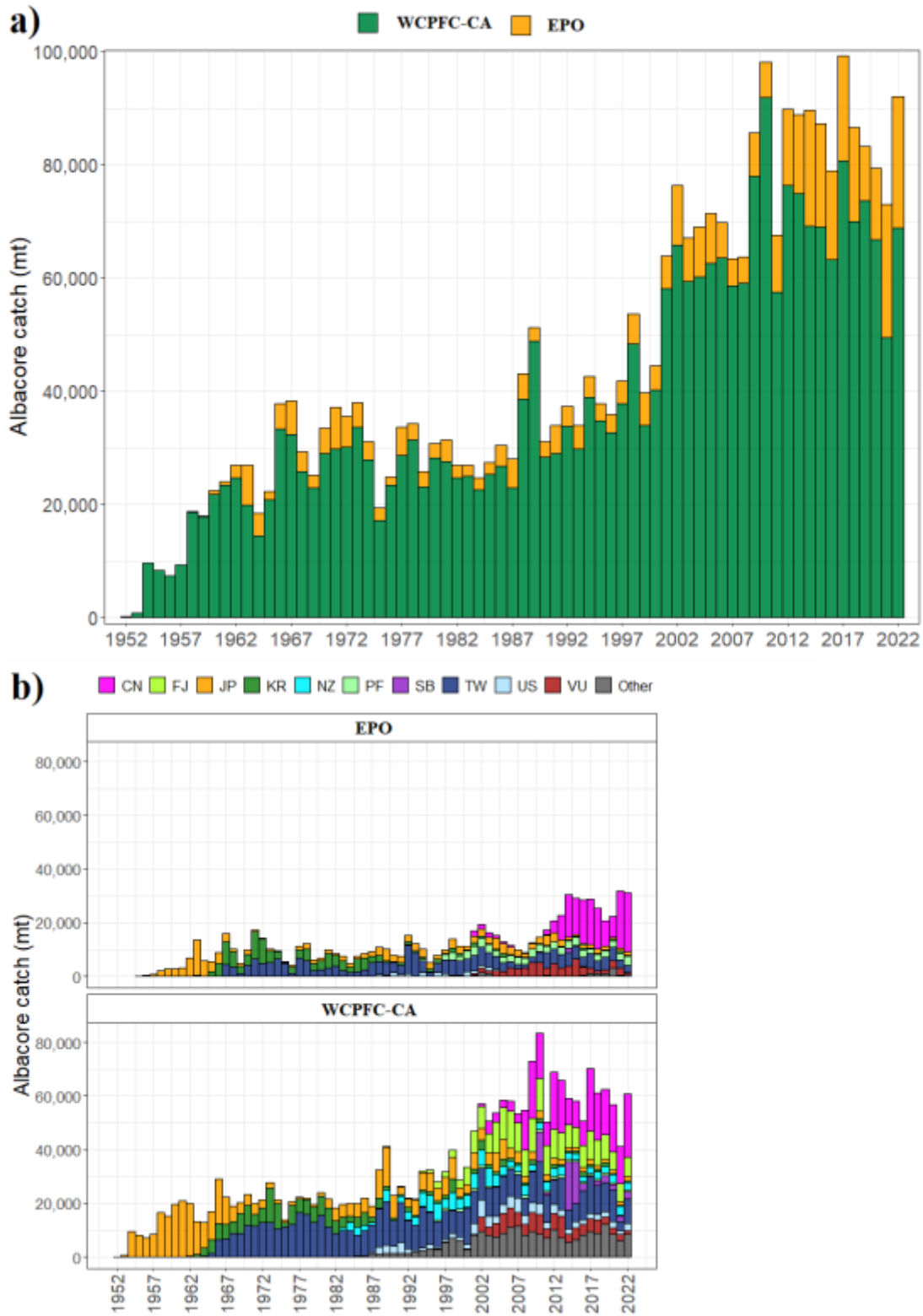


Figure 1. a) Annual catches of albacore from 1952-2022 separated by the WCPFC-CA and the IATTC (EPO) region, b) annual catches of albacore from 1952-2022 separated by flag for the WCPFC-CA and the IATTC (EPO) regions (WCPFC, 2024).

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. 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 southern albacore tuna stock is not overfished, and there was zero probability of the stock being below the adopted limit reference point of 20%SB_{F=0} (Figure 2). Estimates of SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0} (with estimation uncertainty included) were 0.48, 0.36, and 0.62 for median, 10th, and 90th percentiles, respectively. The assessment indicates that the stock was not subject to overfishing and there was zero probability of F_{recent}/F_{MSY} being above 1 with F_{recent}/F_{MSY} estimates (with estimation uncertainty included) of 0.18, 0.06, and 0.44 for median, 10th, and 90th percentiles, respectively (WCPFC, 2024).

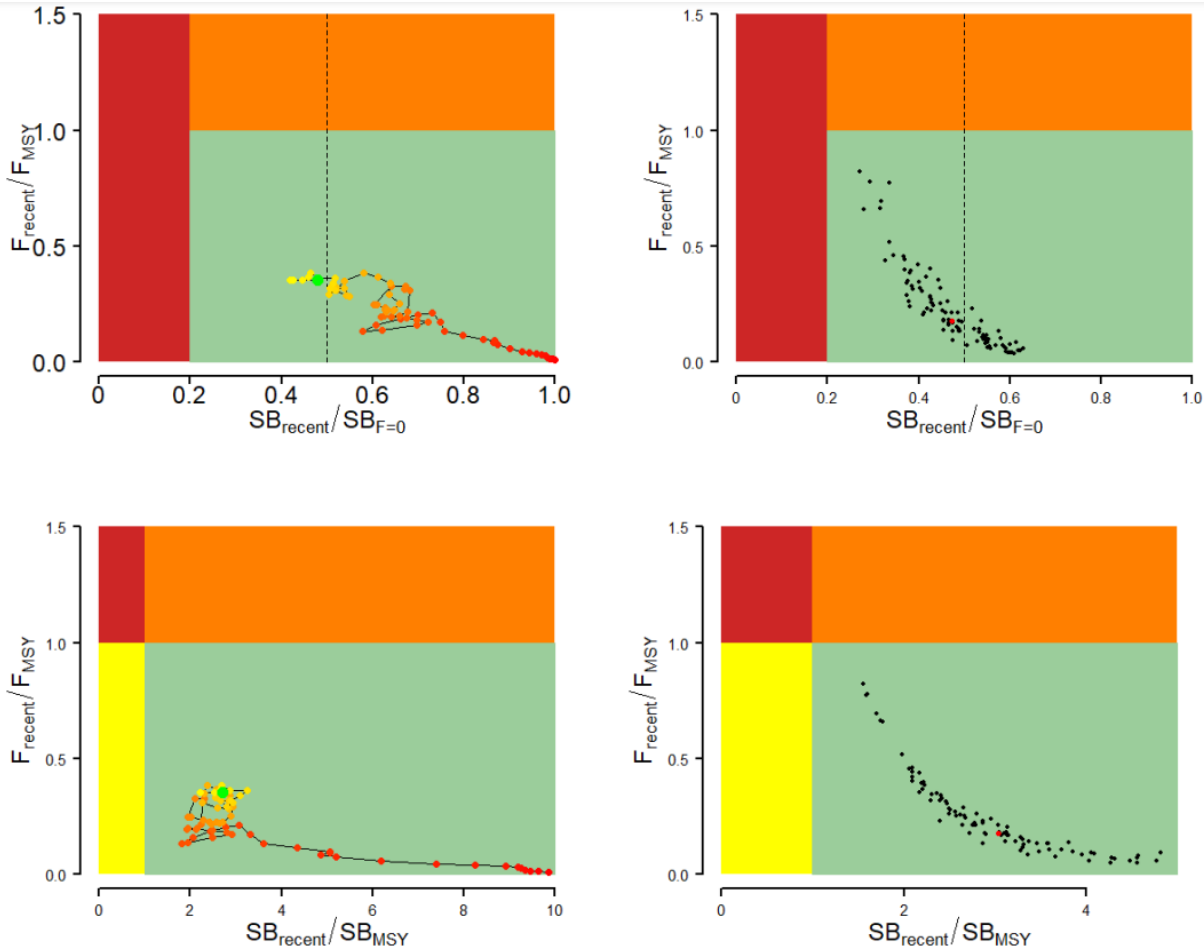


Figure 2. Majuro plots (top) and Kobe plots (bottom) summarising the results for the dynamic MSY analysis (left) and each of the models in the model ensemble for the recent period (2019–2022; right). Majuro plots include dashed line at iTRP estimate (0.5), calculated from the current assessment (Pilling *et al.*, 2024). Colors for dynamic MSY go from red to green over time. The red point in model ensemble represents the median (WCPFC, 2024).

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). C.1.2 is met.

References

WCPFC. 2024. Stock Assessment of South Pacific Albacore: 2024. WCPFC-SC20-2024/SA-WP-02-Rev 3 14 August 2024. <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/23119>

Links

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