MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

VNM04 – Alaska pollock in FAO Area 61

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Alaska pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 61 – Sea of Okhotsk
	Country of origin of the product:	Russia
	Stock:	North Okhotsk Sea & East Sakhalin pollock
Date	July 2024	
Report Code	VNM04	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Russia	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	n/a	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Thien Quynh Co Ltd			
Country: Vietnam			
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	Alaska pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*)
Stock	North Okhotsk Sea & East Sakhalin pollock
Fishery Location	FAO Area 61 – Sea of Okhotsk
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Russia
Gear Type(s)	Mid-water trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Alaska pollock has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as Near Threatened, and does not appear in the CITES appendices. Pollock in the Sea of Okhotsk is considered to belong to two main stocks: North Okhotsk Sea pollock, and East Sakhalin pollock. The fishery is currently MSC certified. This MT assessment covers both stocks. Both stocks are managed relative to reference points, and were therefore assessed under Category C. The most recent stock assessments conducted on both stocks appear to still be those identified in the previous MT assessment, and were carried out in 2022. In both cases, biomass was estimated to be above the target and limit reference points. Byproducts from this fishery continue to meet 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 Alaska pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) caught with mid-water trawl in FAO area 61 (Two stocks included: North Okhotsk Sea & East Sakhalin pollock). The species is classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN. The species is managed relative to biomass-based reference points and therefore it is assessed under category C. The most recent stock assessment conducted on both stocks by the the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO) in 2022 indicated that SSB was above the target and limit reference points. Therefore, both stocks pass category C. The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to pass the Alaska pollock caught with mid-water trawls in FAO area 61 (North Okhotsk Sea & East Sakhalin) 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]
Alaska pollock	*Gadus chalcogrammus*	North Okhotsk Sea & East Sakhalin pollock	Yes	C	Near Threatened[3]	No

[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18258863/45097315

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.

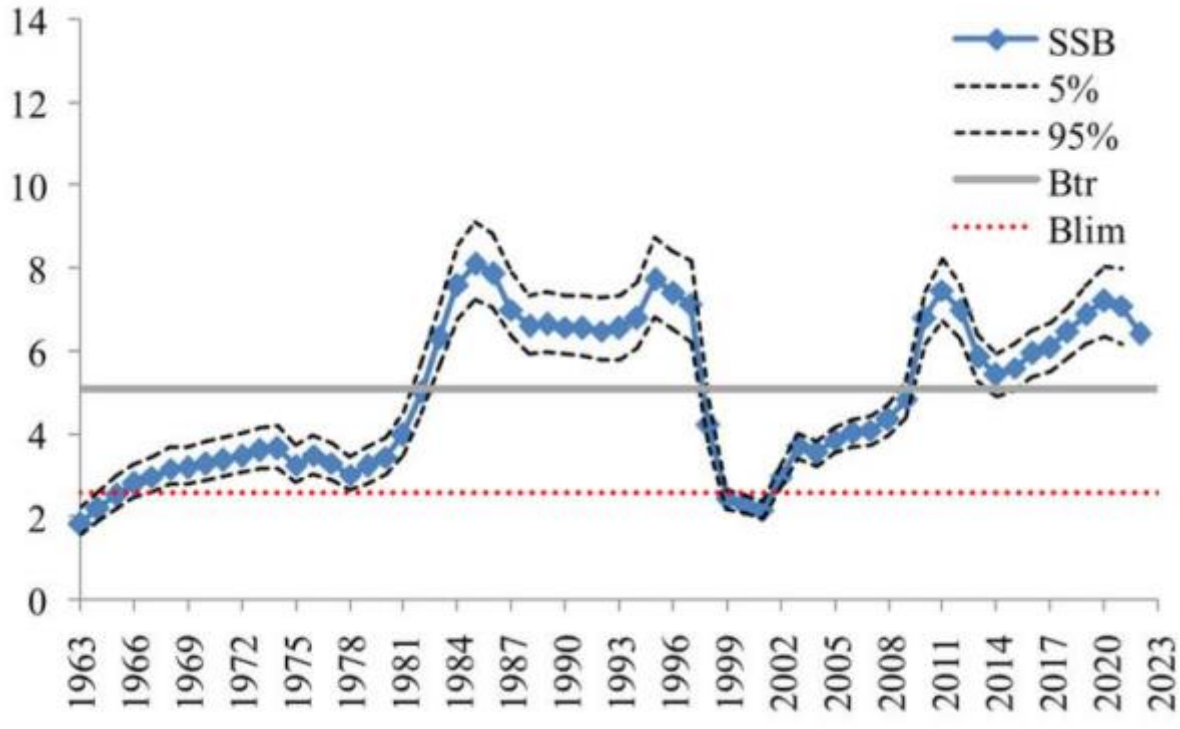
Species Name		**Alaska pollock**	
C1	**Category C Stock Status - Minimum Requirements**		
	C1.1	Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, OR are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.	PASS
	C1.2	The species is considered,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

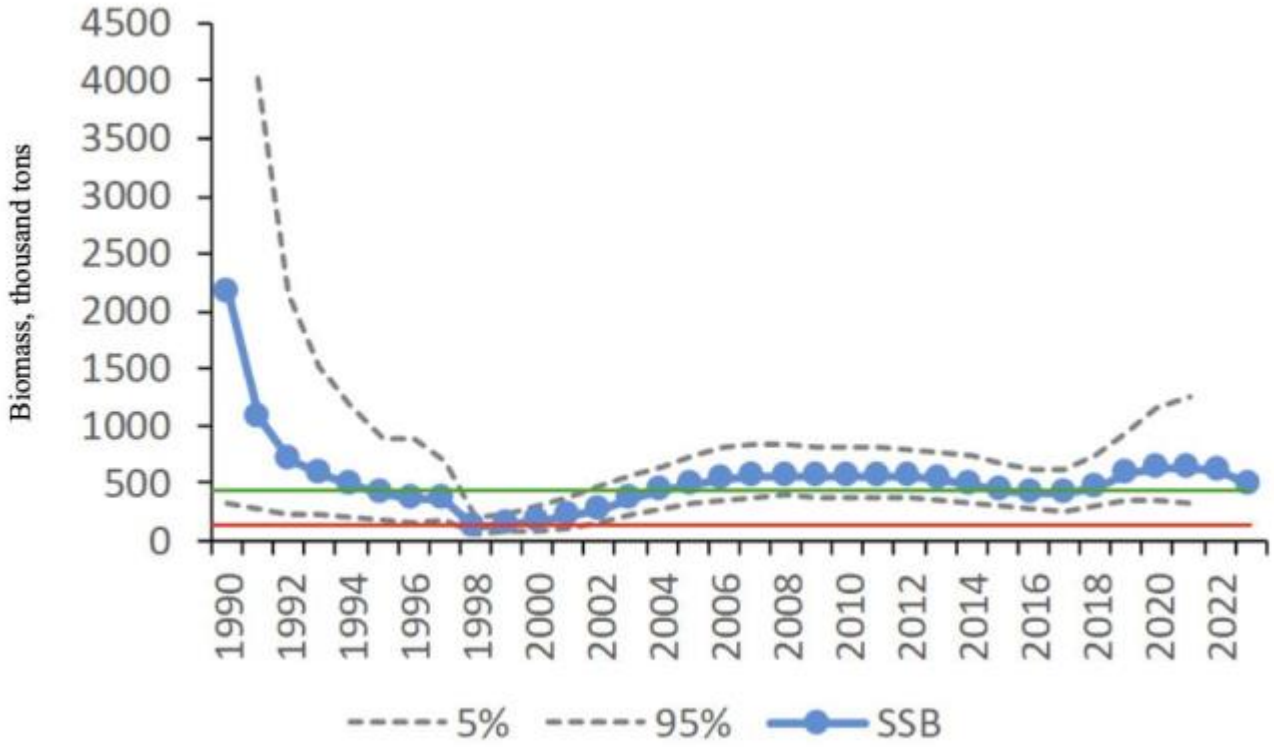
This fishery is currently MSC certified, with the most recent full re-assessment report published in December 2023 (UCSL 2023). Stock assessments for both stocks are conducted annually by the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), the most recent of which was carried out in 2022. The assessment utilised all catch and discard data, plus length and age samples, plankton, trawl and acoustic survey indices. The assessment is considered to be reliable 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 produced estimates of the current status of the stock relative to established reference points. The 2023 ACDR for the MSC certification indicates that the biomass of both stocks is above the target reference points level (see graphs below), meaning C1.2 is met.



North Okhotsk Sea pollock, estimated SSB relative to current reference points (UCSL 2023)



East Sakhalin pollock, estimated biomass relative to target (green line, SSB_{tr}) and limit (red line, SSB_{lim}) reference points (UCSL 2023)

References

UCSL (2023). Russia Sea of Okhotsk pollock, Public Certification Report. 19 December 2023. https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/russia-sea-of-okhotsk-pollock/@@assessments

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