# MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment

# VNM08

# Alaska pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) in FAO Area 67 – Gulf of Alaska

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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 67 – Gulf of Alaska |
| | Country of origin of the product: | USA |
| | Stock: | Walleye Pollock Stock in the Gulf of Alaska (GoA pollock) |
| Date | July 2024 | |
| Report Code | VNM08 | |
| Assessor | Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres | |
| Country of origin of the product - PASS | USA | |
| Country of origin of the product - FAIL | NA | |

| Application details and summary of the assessment outcome | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Company Name(s): Thien Quynh Co. Ltd | | | |
| Country: USA | | | |
| 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 | Re-approval |
| Assessment Period | July 2024 - July 2025 | | |

| Scope Details | |
|---|---|
| Main Species | Alaska pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) |
| Stock | Walleye Pollock Stock in the Gulf of Alaska (GoA pollock) |
| Fishery Location | FAO Area 67 – Gulf of Alaska |
| Management Authority (Country/ State) | North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) |
| Gear Type(s) | Bottom water trawl |
| Outcome of Assessment | |
| Peer Review Evaluation | Agree with assessor's recommendation |
| 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 MarinTrust raw material. Alaska pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, Alaska pollock is eligible for approval for use as MarinTrust by-product raw material.<br><br>There are reference points defined for this stock and it is MSC certified. The stock was assessed under Category C. Fishery removals of the stock are considered in their respective stock assessment processes such that the fishery PASSES Clause C1.1. The stock is considered to have the biomass above the limit reference point such that the fishery PASSES Clause C1.2.<br><br>Therefore, Alaska pollock in FAO Area 67 – Gulf of Alaska 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 Alaska pollock in FAO Area 67 – Gulf of Alaska as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime.<br><br>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is above target reference point. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). It passes Category C.<br><br>Alaska pollock in FAO Area 67 – Gulf of Alaska passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.3. |
| **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 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* | Walleye Pollock Stock in the Gulf of Alaska (GoA 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 (*Gadus chalcogrammus*)** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **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. In 2023, there was some changes in the input data and a transition to a new modelling platform named Template Model Builder for the stock assessment, although there was no change in the model structure. Catches are included on the stock assessment and 2022 total catch was updated and catch at age added in 2023 assessment.

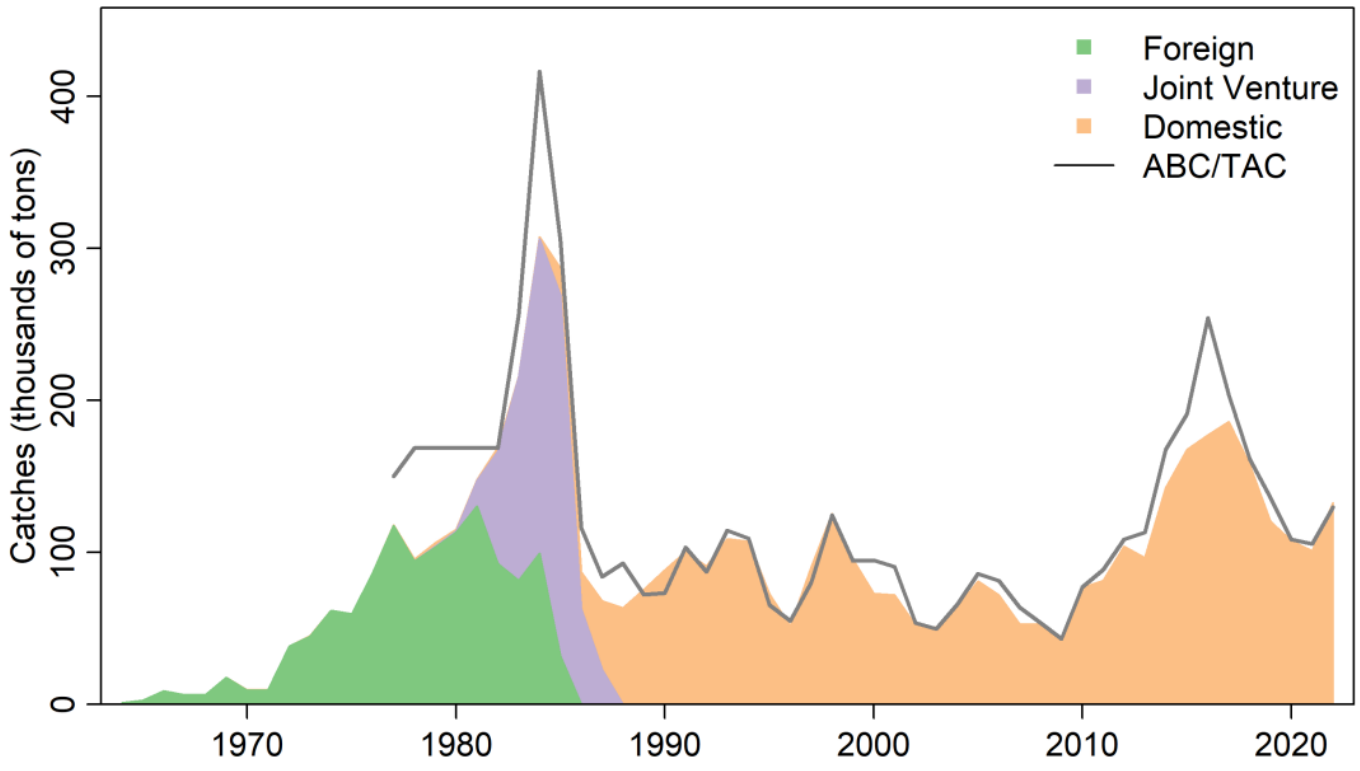


**Figure 1. Overview of historical catches by source compared to the ABC/TAC (ASFC, 2023).**

**Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. C.1.1 is met for both stocks. C.1.1 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 base model projection of female spawning biomass in 2024 is 274,141 t, which is 54.3% of unfished spawning biomass (based on average post-1977 recruitment) and above B40% (202,000 t), which is used as a target reference point for the stock. The stock is not currently overfished nor approaching an overfished condition.

**Table 3. Reference points, stock status and catch recommendations for GoA pollock (ASFC, 2023).**

| | As estimated or *specified last* year for: | | As estimated or *recommended this* year for: | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Quantity/Status** | 2023 | 2024 | 2024* | 2025* |
| M (natural mortality) | 0.300 | 0.300 | 0.300 | 0.300 |
| Tier | 3a | 3a | 3a | 3a |
| Projected total (age 3+) biomass (t) | 1,137,330 | 850,404 | 1,154,403 | 1,430,029 |
| Projected female spawning biomass (t) | 204,554 | 188,277 | 274,141 | 227,091 |
| $B_{100\%}$ | 469,000 | 469,000 | 505,000 | 505,000 |
| $B_{40\%}$ | 188,000 | 188,000 | 202,000 | 202,000 |
| $B_{35\%}$ | 164,000 | 164,000 | 177,000 | 177,000 |
| $F_{OFL}$ | 0.304 | 0.302 | 0.307 | 0.307 |
| *max*$F_{ABC}$ | 0.257 | 0.257 | 0.260 | 0.260 |
| $F_{ABC}$ | 0.257 | 0.257 | 0.260 | 0.260 |
| OFL (t) | 173,470 | 186,101 | **269,916** | 182,891 |
| *max*ABC (t) | 148,937 | 161,080 | 232,543 | 157,687 |
| ABC (t) | 148,937 | 161,080 | **232,543** | 157,687 |
| | As determined *last* year for: | | As determined *this* year for: | |
| **Status** | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Overfishing | No | n/a | No | n/a |
| Overfished | n/a | No | n/a | No |
| Approaching overfished | n/a | No | n/a | No |

*Projections are based on an estimated catch of 145,215 t for 2023 and estimates of 232,543 t and 157,687 t used in place of maximum permissible ABC for 2024 and 2025.

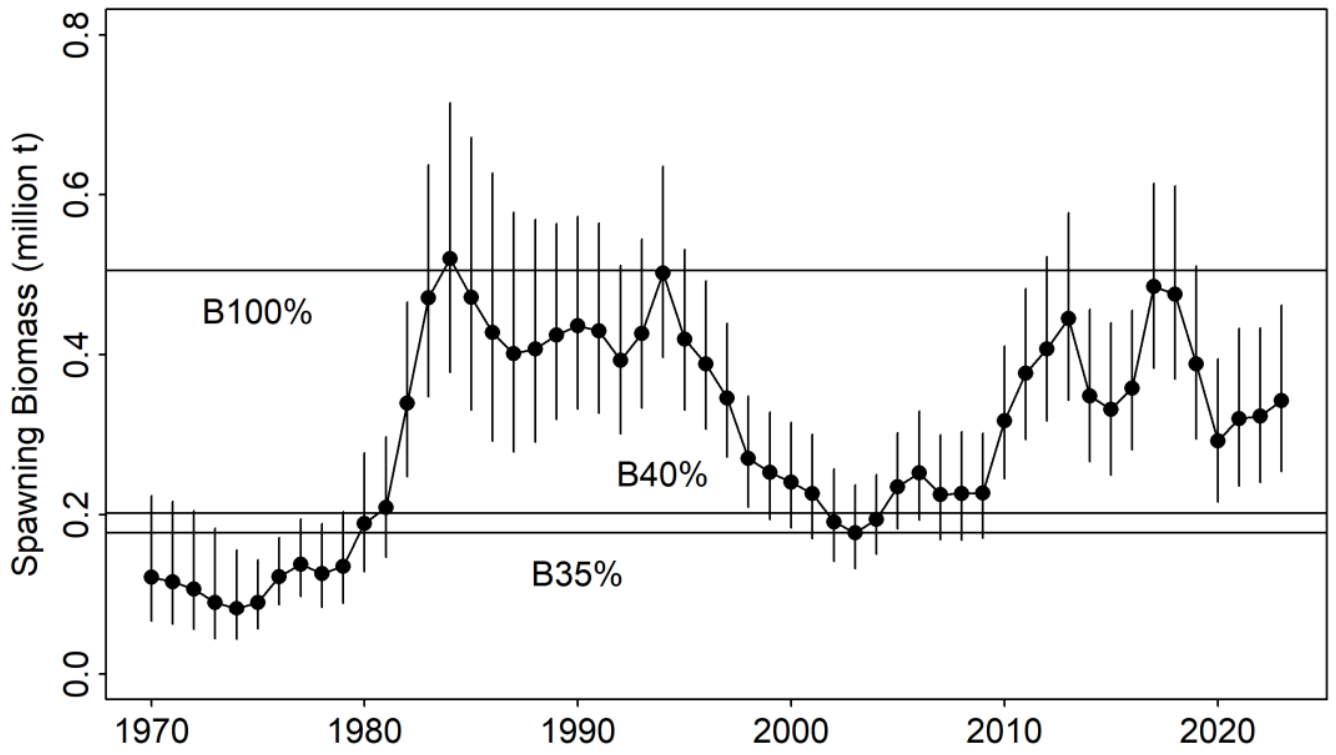


**Figure 2. Estimated time series of GOA pollock spawning biomass (top) for the base model, with horizontal line at the average from 1978-2022. Vertical bars represent two standard deviations. The B35% and B40% lines represent the current estimate of these benchmarks (ASFC, 2023).**

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

**References**

ASFC. 2023. Assessment of the Walleye Pollock Stock in the Gulf of Alaska https://apps-afsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/Plan_Team/2023/GOApollock.pdf

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