MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment

Atlantic Chub Mackerel, Mar del Plata

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Atlantic chub mackerel (*Scomber colias*)
	Geographical area:	South-West Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Argentina
	Stock:	Mar del Plata stock North of 41ºS

Date	October 2022
Report Code	ARG03
Assessor	Sam Peacock
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Argentina
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Coomarpes Ltds			
Country: Argentina			
Email address: gerenciageneral@coomarpes.com		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Kate Morris	0.25	Surveillance
Assessment Period		October 2022 – October 2023	

Scope Details	
Main Species	Atlantic chub mackerel (*Scomber colias*)
Stock	Mar del Plata stock North of 41ºS
Fishery Location	South-West Atlantic FAO 41
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Argentina
Gear Type(s)	Pelagic trawl
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Pass
Recommendation	Maintain approval

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Species note: This stock has previously been thought to be the same species as the Pacific chub mackerel, *Scomber japonicus*. However, the native range of *S. japonicus* is now known not to extend into Argentinian waters, and the management documentation for the fishery confirms the species in question is the Atlantic chub mackerel. Therefore, the species covered by this by-product assessment is the Atlantic chub mackerel, *S. colias*.

Note also that while this by-product assessment refers to the stock "North of 41°S" as per the application documentation, fishery managers in Argentina refer to the same stock as "South of 39°S", and this designation is the one used in the key references for this report.

Atlantic chub mackerel has been categorised by the IUCN Red List as Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. The stock in Argentinian waters north of 41°S is managed relative to formal reference points and was therefore assessed under Category C.

There do not appear to have been any further stock assessments conducted since those identified in the previous MT by-product assessment in 2020. Therefore, the outcome of this assessment is unchanged: fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process, and the stock biomass is considered in its most recent assessment to be above the limit reference point. The by-product continues to meet the MT 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 here is the Atlantic chub mackerel (*Scomber colias*) fishery pursued by Argentinian vessels in FAO fishing area 41. The fishery is managed by the Argentinian government. For this Marin Trust assessment, Atlantic chub mackerel is scored as a category C species because it is managed to reference points. All species scoring tables have been completed by the auditor with sufficient evidence presented to support their final determination. The peer review supports the auditor's recommendation to Pass the fishery under the Marin Trust IFFO RS v2.0 by-fishery standard for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.

Notes for On-site Auditor

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Page 7 of 9

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]
Pacific chub mackerel	*Scomber colias*	Mar del Plata North of 41°S	Yes	C	Least Concern[3]	No

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[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/170357/6767497

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		**Atlantic chub mackerel**	
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.

Regular analysis of the chub mackerel stock is conducted by the Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development, INIDEP). The assessor was not able to identify any new stock assessment conducted since the previous MT by-product assessment; however, an analysis of the catch data was conducted and published in 2022 (Orlando *et al*, 2022). This analysis provides continuing evidence that catch data are included in the stock assessment process.

The results of the previous MT by-product assessment remain relevant; specifically, that commercial catch data since 1991 are incorporated into the stock assessment; that some uncertainties in survey data have been considered by fishery managers; and that a range of other relevant fishery-dependent and -independent data sources are utilised. Fishery removals are included in the assessment process, 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.

As noted above, the assessor was unable to find evidence of further stock assessments having been conducted since those identified by the previous MT by-product assessment. The most recent stock assessment is therefore assumed to have been conducted in 2020 (Burati *et al*, 2020), and remains relevant for this by-product assessment. As noted by the 2020 by-product assessment report:

- Target and limit biomass reference points have been set at 76,800t and 50,600t respectively.
- The biomass at the time of the stock assessment was estimated to be 133,224t, substantially higher than both reference points.

Therefore, the species is considered in its most recent stock assessment to have biomass above the limit reference point and C1.2 is met.

References

Buratti, CC, Orlando, P, Garciarena, AD (2020). Estado de la población de caballa al sur de 39° s y recomendaciones de capturas biológicamente aceptables durante el año 2020

Orlando, P, Garciarena, AD, Buratti, GE, & Buratti, CC (2022). Caballa (*Scomber colias*) capturas efectuadas por la flota comercial durante el año 2021 y estimación de parámetros poblacionales de interés biológico - pesquero. Inf Tec Oficial INIDEP № 052/22,11 pp. https://marabierto.inidep.edu.ar/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/1750/INIDEP_2022_ITO_052.pdf

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			
	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	
	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.	

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Outcome:
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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