



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) FAO Area 67 Aleutian Islands*

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Pacific cod (<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Subarea 67 Pacific Northeast
	Country of origin of the product:	Flag country not supplied by client
	Stock:	Pacific cod in FAO 67, Aleutian Islands
Date	3 August 2022	
Report Code	VNM12	
Assessor	Matthew Jew	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Flag country not supplied by client	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	NA	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Thien Quynh Co Ltd (IFFO196)			
Country: Vietnam			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Matthew Jew	Léa Lebechnech	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	Up to August 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Pacific Cod (<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>)
Stock	Pacific Cod in FAO 67, Aleutian Islands
Fishery Location	FAO Area 67 Pacific Northeast
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)
Gear Type(s)	Bottom Trawl, vertical lines, and pots
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agreed with the assessor's recommendation of approval
Recommendation	APPROVED

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as Marin trust raw material. Pacific Cod (<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>) do not appear on IUCN's Red List, neither in CITES appendices; therefore, <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i> is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Management of the Pacific Cod fishery is highly precautionary. Since 2014, there is a specific management plan for this stock and reference points are defined for the Aleutian Island Pacific Cod stock, 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, Pacific Cod in Subarea 67 (Aleutian Islands) is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.0 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The internal peer reviewer agrees with the assessor's assessment, who correctly classified Pacific Cod in Subarea 67 (Aleutian Islands) under category C, as reference points are defined to assess status of the stock relative to.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment process and the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point. Consequently, the stock PASSES Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod is APPROVED.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>Determine which flag state(s) the plant is sourcing its Pacific Cod from.</p>

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
Pacific Cod	<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>	Pacific Cod in FAO 67, Aleutian Islands	Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)	C	Not Evaluated	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

² <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>

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		Pacific Cod (<i>Gadus macrocephalus</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.	Yes
	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.	Yes
			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.			
<p>In the most recent stock assessment conducted by Alaska Fisheries Science Center, updated catch data was included for the full 2019 and 2020 fishing seasons, and through 2021 October 1. Model 19.0 uses an age-based structured model with $M=0.34$ (natural mortality) and maturity ogive derived from observer collections of maturity from Aleutian Islands cod. Long-term catch trends by gear type are used in assessment model and are presented in Figure 1.</p>			
<p>Figure 1. Long-term catch history of Aleutian Islands cod broken down by gear type from 1991 to 2021. Note that 2021 catch was through October 1. Blue dot represents the ABC for 2021 based on the Tier 5 model.</p>			
<p>Therefore, fishery removals of the stock, including from the fishery under assessment, are included in the stock assessment process. The stock passes Clause C1.1.</p>			

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 current total biomass and spawning stock biomass (SSB) is above both the SB40% and SB35% reference points (Figure 2). The Aleutian Islands cod stock is not being subjected to overfishing and fishing mortality is at or below the maximum allowable biological catch ($maxF_{ABC}$).

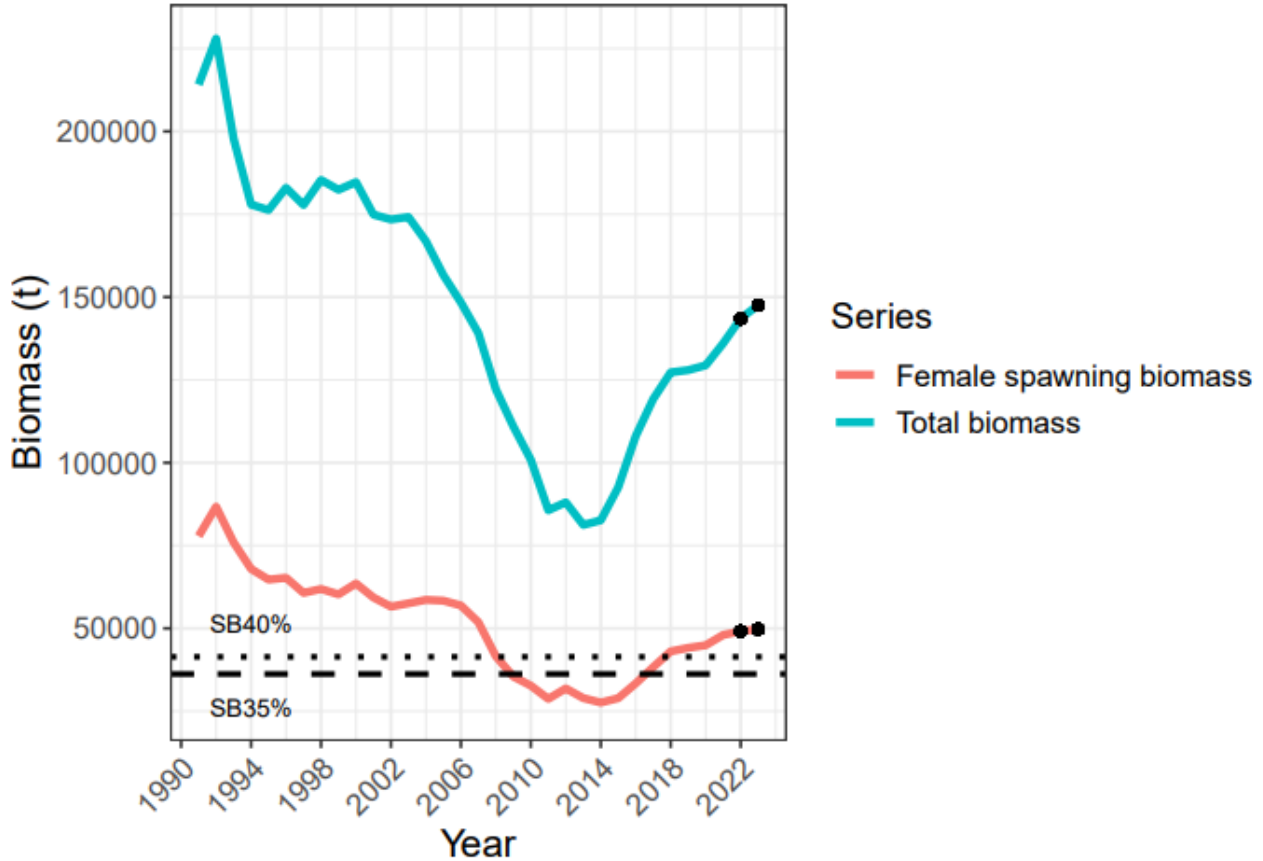


Figure 2. Estimated total (age 1+) biomass and female spawning biomass from 1991 to 2021, and projection model estimates for 2022 and 2023. Reference points SB40% and SB35% are shown as horizontal lines.

Therefore, the stock is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have biomass above the limit reference point. **The stock passes Clause C1.2.**

References

Spies, I., S. Barbeaux, J. Ianelli, I. Ortiz, W. Palsson, K. Rand, and G. G. Thompson. 2021. Assessment of the Pacific cod stock in the Aleutian Islands. 116 pp. <https://apps-afsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/refm/docs/2021/Alpcod.pdf>.
 MSC. 2021. BSAI and GOA Pacific cod - MSC Fisheries. <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/bsai-and-go-pacific-cod/@@view>

Links

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