MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment, ESP29- *Albacore tuna (Thunnus alalunga), FAO 37- Mediterranean.*

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)
	Geographical area:	FAO 37 – Mediterranean and Black Sea
	Country of origin of the product:	Spain, Portugal
	Stock:	Mediterranean
Date	September 2023	
Report Code	ESP29	
Assessor	Blanca Gonzalez	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Spain, Portugal	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Sarval Bio-industries Noroeste, S.A.U: Arteixo			
Country: Spain			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		LRQA	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Blanca Gonzalez	Sam Peacock	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	September 2023 – September 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna (Thunnus alalunga)
Stock	Mediterranean
Fishery Location	FAO 37 – Mediterranean and Black Sea
Management Authority (Country/ State)	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Gear Type(s)	Longlines and seines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with recommendation
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) is a Least Concern species by the IUCN and it is not in included in any CITES Appendixes. The Mediterranean stock is usually managed relative to reference points; however, the last assessment was carried out in 2017 and results were not robust enough to generate stock predictions. Given the limited quantitative information available to conduct a robust stock assessment, and the lack of a more recent assessment it was decided to assess the stock under Category D (See Species Categorisation section for details). In the Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA) albacore tuna was awarded an average productivity score of 1.71 and an average susceptibility score of 3, and it passed against Table D3, indicating that albacore tuna is not vulnerable to this fishery. The albacore tuna byproduct meets the Marin Trust requirements; therefore, its approval is recommended for use as a raw material.
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
The peer reviewer agrees with the decision to assess the stock under Category D, and adequate justification for this decision has been provided. The PSA has been conducted correctly and the PR agrees that the outcome indicates that the byproduct should remain approved for use as a raw material.
Notes for On-site Auditor
There are no concerns that requires attention from the on-site assessor.

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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]
Albacore tuna / Atún blanco	*Thunnus alalunga*	Mediterranean	No*	D	Least Concern[3]	No

* **Note on Management:** The Mediterranean albacore tuna stock is usually managed relative to defined target and limit reference points, and would therefore be assessed under Category C. However, the stock has not been assessed since 2017, and in this assessment, report is stated that "due to the limited quantitative information available the sensitivity of the stock assessment to different sources of information, and the limited prediction skill of the assessment model, the projections for this stock were not conducted. As a result, future stock status in response to constant catch levels could not be quantified"[4]. Considering the limited quantitative information available to conduct a robust stock assessment, and the lack of a more recent assessment, the decision of assessing this stock under Category D was made.

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[1] https://www.iucnredlist.org/
[2] https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php
[3] https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21856/46911332
[4] ICCAT. (2020). 2020 Advice to the Commission. https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB_ENG.pdf

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	NA		
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.	
	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.	
		Clause outcome:	

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.

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.

References	
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	Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)	
	Productivity Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Average age at maturity (years)	4.5	1
	Average maximum age (years)	22.2	2
	Fecundity (eggs/spawning)	2,449,490	1
	Average maximum size (cm)	140	2
	Average size at maturity (cm)	79.3	2
	Reproductive strategy	Broadcast spawner	1
	Mean trophic level	4.3	3
		Average Productivity Score	**1.71**
	Susceptibility Attribute	**Value**	**Score**
	Availability (area overlap)	>30% overlap	3
	Encounterability (the position of the stock/species within the water column relative to the fishing gear)	High overlap with fishing gear	3
	Selectivity of gear type	Individual < size at maturity are frequently caught	3
	Post-capture mortality	Retained	3
		Average Susceptibility Score	**3**
		PSA Risk Rating (From Table D3)	**PASS**
		Compliance rating	**PASS**
	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 https://www.fishbase.se/summary/Thunnus-alalunga.html		
	Standard clauses 1.3.2.2		

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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	NA	
	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