



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *Albacore tuna (Thunnus alalunga) in FAO 21, 27, 31, 34*

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

22 Amelia Street

London

SE17 3BZ

E: standards@marin-trust.com

T: +44 2039 780 819

Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Fishery Under Assessment | Species: | Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) |
| | Geographical area: | FAO 21, 27, 31, 34 North and Central Atlantic |
| | Country of origin of the product: | Thailand (Flag countries: Taiwan, Ivory Coast) |
| | Stock: | North Atlantic albacore tuna in FAO Areas 21, 27, 31, 34 |
| Date | 23 May 2023 | |
| Report Code | THA18 | |
| Assessor | Léa Lebechnech | |
| Country of origin of the product - PASS | Thailand (Flag countries: Taiwan, Ivory Coast) | |
| Country of origin of the product - FAIL | NA | |

| Application details and summary of the assessment outcome | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Company Name(s): Chotiwat Manufacturing Public Co., Ltd, TCF Co., Ltd | | | |
| Country: Thailand | | | |
| Email address: | | Applicant Code: | |
| Certification Body Details | | | |
| Name of Certification Body: | | Global Trust Certification | |
| Assessor | Peer Reviewer | Assessment Days | Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval |
| Léa Lebechnech | Matthew Jew | 0.5 | Surveillance 1 |
| Assessment Period | To May 2023 | | |

| Scope Details | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Main Species | Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) |
| Stock | North Atlantic albacore tuna |
| Fishery Location | FAO 21, 27, 31, 34 North and Central Atlantic |
| Management Authority (Country/ State) | International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and Contracting (State) Parties |
| Gear Type(s) | Trawl, Troll, Purse Seine, Longline, Baitboat |
| Outcome of Assessment | |
| Peer Review Evaluation | Agree with assessor's recommendation |
| Recommendation | APPROVED |

Table 2. Assessment Determination

| Assessment Determination |
|---|
| <p>If a 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 MarinTrust RS raw material.</p> <p>Albacore Tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) is listed on the IUCN Red List as globally Near Threatened (NT) and Least Concern (LC) in Europe and is not listed in CITES; therefore, by-products derived for this stock are eligible for approval for use as MarinTrust RS by-product raw material.</p> <p>On the basis of currently available information, three albacore stocks are assumed to exist in the Atlantic:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Northern Atlantic stock (North of 5°N) 2. Southern Atlantic stock (South of 5°N) 3. Mediterranean stock. <p>This assessment will only include the Northern Atlantic Albacore Tuna stock, which occurs in FAO Areas 21, 27, 31, and 34. The most recent assessment for this stock dates from 2020 and consequently, it is the same as the previous by-product assessment report.</p> <p>Fishery removals of this stock are considered in the stock assessment processes so it PASSES Clause C1.1. The latest assessment of stock status biomass for this stock is considered to be above the corresponding limit reference, so it PASSES Clause C1.2.</p> <p>Consequently, albacore tuna in FAO 21, 27, 31 and 34 is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust RS v 2.2 by-product standard</p> |
| Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments |
| <p>The assessor correctly classified albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) in FAO 21, 27, 31 and 34 as Category C, the stock is subject to a specific management regime and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are considered in the stock assessment process. The most recent stock assessment shows that the stock is not overfished, nor is it subject to overfishing. Therefore, the stock is considered to have biomass above the limit reference point.</p> <p>Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) in FAO 21, 27, 31 and 34 passes both clauses (C1.1 and C1.2) and therefore should be approved under the MarinTrust Standard v.2.</p> |
| 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 |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Albacore tuna | <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> | Northern Atlantic albacore tuna stock | ICCAT and Contracting (State) Parties | C | Globally: Near Threatened (NT) | 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 | | Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</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.

The most recent assessment dates from 2020 and consequently, it is the same as the previous assessment report.

Fishery removals of the Northern Atlantic Albacore Tuna stock in the fishery under assessment are included in the ICCAT stock assessment process (Figure 1). Thailand is not directly responsible for any landings from the relevant stock with product instead being exported to Thailand for processing.

Catches are presented below:

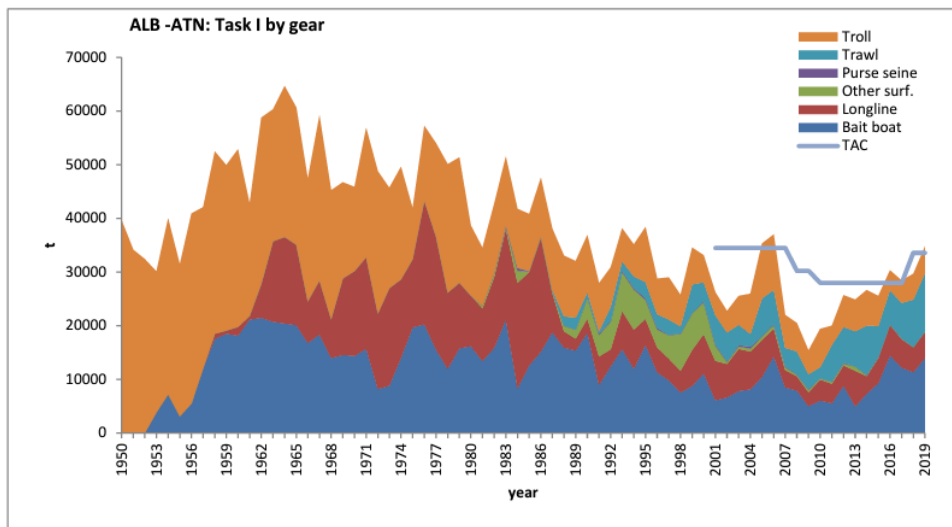


Figure 1. Total albacore catches reported to ICCAT (task I) by gear for the northern Atlantic stock. Source: ICCAT, 2020.

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process, so it PASSES Clause C1.1.

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 2020 Atlantic Albacore tuna biomass dynamic model implemented by ICCAT resulting in the Kobe plot shown below suggests a biomass drop between 1930 and the 1990s and a recovery since then, while fishing mortality decreases. Relative to MSY

benchmarks, the base case scenario estimates that the stock remained slightly overfished with B below B_{MSY} between the late 1970s and the 2000s, but has now recovered to levels well above B_{MSY} (Figure). Peak relative fishing mortality levels in the order of 1.66 were observed in the early 1980s but overfishing stopped in the early 2000s, with the current F_{2018}/F_{MSY} ratio being 0.62. The uncertainty around the current stock status has a clear shape determined by the strong correlation between parameters estimated by the production model. The probability of the stock currently being in the green area of the Kobe plot (not overfished and not undergoing overfishing, $F < F_{MSY}$ and $B > B_{MSY}$) is 98.4% while the probability of being in the yellow area (overfished, $B < B_{MSY}$) is 1.66%. The probability of being in the red area (overfished and undergoing overfishing, $F > F_{MSY}$ and $B < B_{MSY}$) is 0%. (Figure 2).

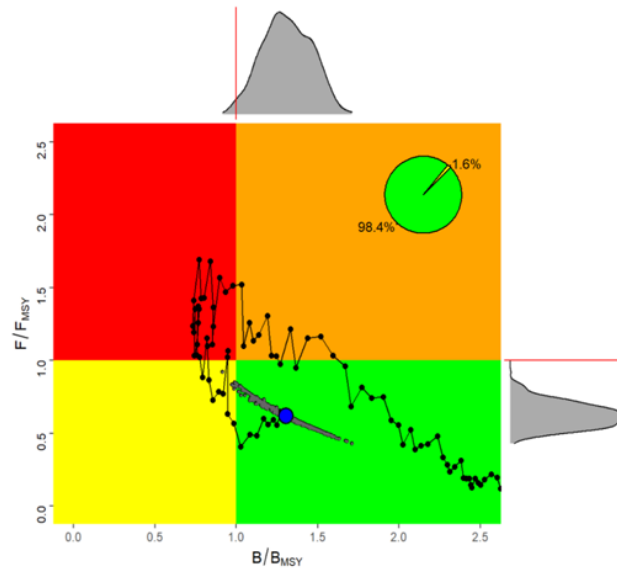


Figure 2. North Atlantic albacore (Kobe plot). Stock status trajectories of B/B_{MSY} and F/F_{MSY} over time (1930-2018), as well as uncertainty (grey dots) around the current (F_{2018}/F_{MSY} , B_{2018}/B_{MSY}) estimate (blue point) based on surplus production model with probability of being overfished and overfishing (red, 0%), of being neither overfished nor overfishing (green, 98.4%), and of being overfished (yellow, 1.6%).
Source: ICCAT, 2020.

With respect to the status of the stock with respect to its limit reference point (or proxy), an official limit reference point is not defined, but with $B_{current}$ comfortably above B_{MSY} , the stock can be considered in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above any limit reference point (or proxy).

Therefore, the species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point, so it PASSES Clause C1.2.

References

ICCAT, 2020. Summary of the Report of the 2020 ICCAT North and South Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Meeting: https://iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/ExecSum/ALB_ENG.pdf

Links

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