



## MarinTrust Standard V2

# By-product Fishery Assessment USA10 – Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in FAO 71 & 77

### MarinTrust Programme

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**Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome**

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	Albacore tuna ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )
	Geographical area:	FAO Areas 71 & 77
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles
	Stock:	Northern Pacific albacore tuna; Southern Pacific albacore tuna
Date	February 2024	
Report Code	USA10	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Seychelles	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Indian Ocean Tuna Ltd			
Country: Seychelles			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		Global Trust Certification Ltd. / NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Léa Lebechnech	0.2	Surveillance
Assessment Period	February 2024 – February 2025		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )
Stock	Northern Pacific albacore tuna; Southern Pacific albacore tuna
Fishery Location	FAO Areas 71 & 77
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) & Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Gear Type(s)	All gear types
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with the assessor's determination
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. Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) has been categorised by the IUCN as a species of Least Concern, and it does not appear in the CITES appendices. Therefore, albacore tuna is eligible for approval for use as Marin trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>Albacore tuna in the Pacific Ocean is thought to consist of two separate stocks, both of which are present in the FAO Areas covered by this assessment. Northern Pacific Albacore and Southern Pacific Albacore are both managed relative to established reference points, and were therefore assessed under Category C.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment conducted for Southern Pacific Albacore was published in 2021. The stock assessment used international landings data and concluded that the stock was not subject to overfishing. Current biomass was estimated to be between 1.45 and 4.28 times greater than the MSY level.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment conducted for Northern Pacific Albacore was conducted in 2020. The stock assessment used international landings data and concluded that the stock was not subject to overfishing relative to the limit reference point.</p> <p>Both Pacific albacore stocks meet the requirements of C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) in FAO Areas 71 and 77 is <b>APPROVED</b> for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The internal peer reviewer agrees with the assessor’s determination, who correctly classified the stocks of North and South Pacific Ocean albacore tuna under Category C, as the stocks are subject to a specific management regime in place and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and both stocks have biomass above reference point, so they pass Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, albacore tuna in FAO subareas 71 &amp; 77 (North Pacific Ocean), is approved for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.0 by-products standards.</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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES Appendix 1 <sup>2</sup>
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Northern & Southern Pacific albacore tuna	Yes	C	Least Concern <sup>3</sup>	No

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/21856/46911332>

## 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.	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.**

The most recent available stock assessment for the northern Pacific albacore stock was conducted in 2020 and utilised all available data from 1994 – 2018. Catch and size composition data were used to inform a length-based, age- and sex-structured Stock Synthesis model. No concerns were raised in the reporting documentation as to the completeness of the catch data (WCPFC 2021). Catches can be seen in Figure 1.

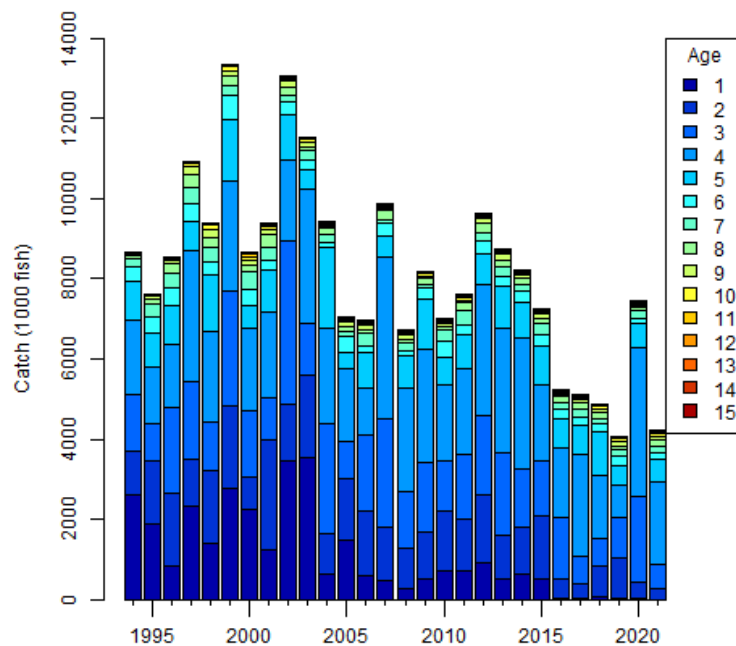


Figure 1. Historical catch-at-age of north Pacific albacore (WCPFC 2021).

**Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. C1.1 is met by the Northern stock.**

The most recent stock assessment for albacore tuna in the south Pacific was conducted in 2021, using data up to 2019, and was the first to attempt a region-wide assessment (i.e., covering the entire stock across both the WCPFC and IATTC areas). The assessment used catch data including international catches by fishing gear. The published stock assessment report (WCPFC 2021a) does not appear to include any concerns relating to the availability of catch data. Catches can be seen in Figure 2.

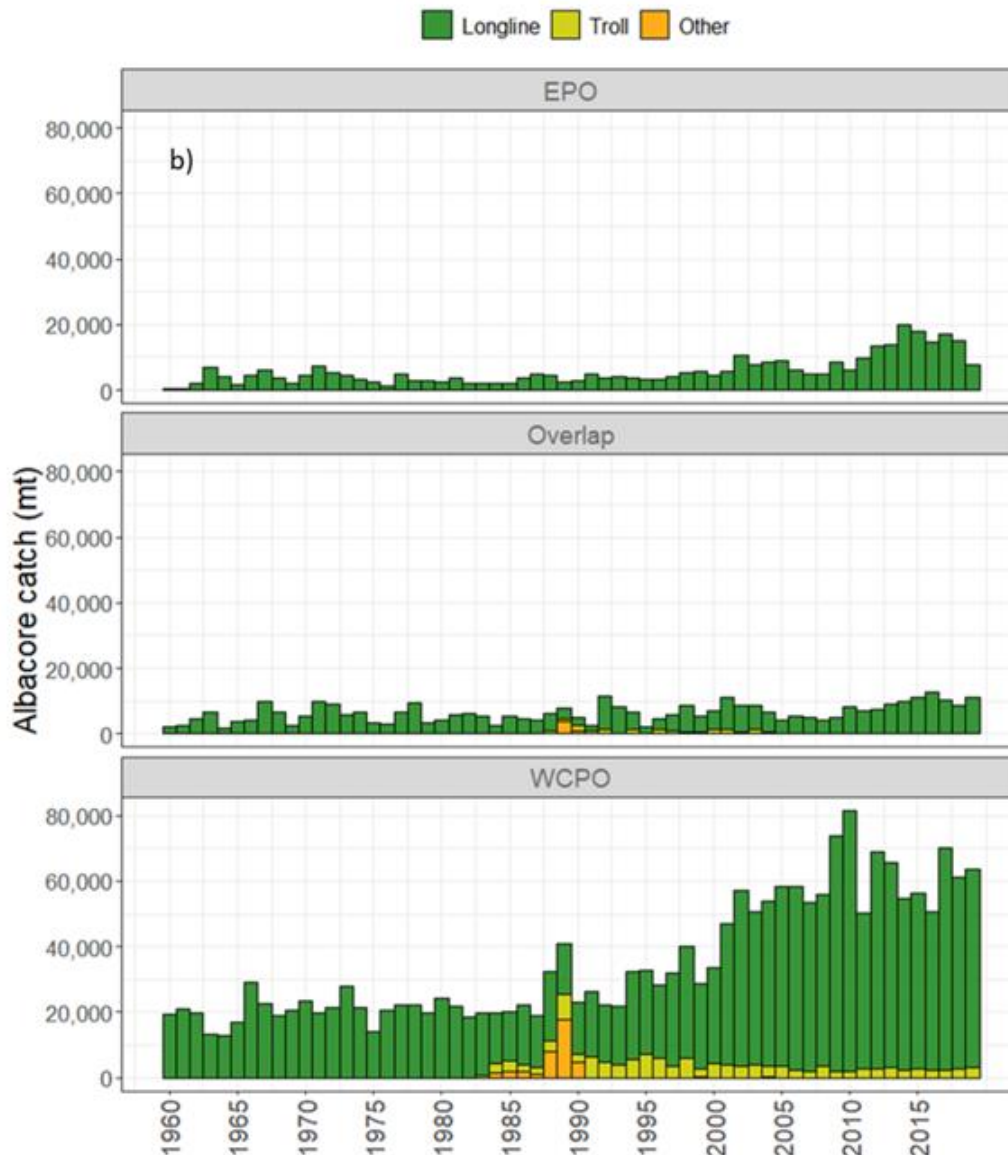
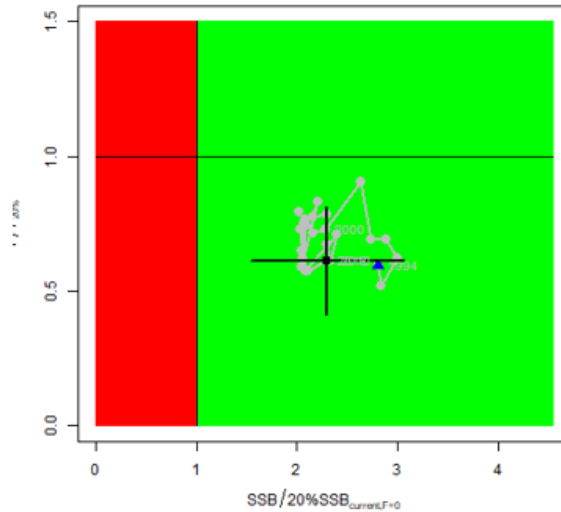


Figure 2. Historical catches of albacore across the stock assessment model region by gear type (WCPFC 2021b).

Therefore, fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. C1.1 is met by the Southern stock.

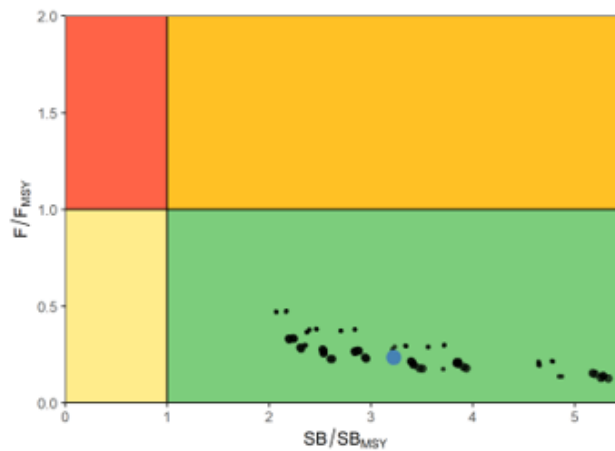
**C1.2 The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy), OR removals by the fishery under assessment are considered by scientific authorities to be negligible.**

A limit reference point is established for the Northern Pacific albacore stock, and is based on dynamic biomass estimates and therefore fluctuates according to changes in recruitment. The limit reference point  $20\%SSB_{current, F=0}$  is calculated as 20% of the unfished dynamic female spawning biomass in the terminal year of the assessment (WCPFC 2021). SSB in the most recent stock assessment, conducted in 2020 and providing an indication of stock status in 2018, was estimated to be 58,858t, considerably above the limit reference point which was estimated to be 25,573t. The conclusion reached at the time of the stock assessment was that the stock is likely not overfished relative to the limit reference point (See figure 3), and **therefore C1.2 is met by the Northern stock.**



**Figure 3.** Kobe plot showing the status of Northern Pacific albacore relative to the biomass-based reference point  $20\%SSB_{current, F=0}$ . Blue triangle indicates the start year (1994) and black circle with 95% CI indicates the terminal year (2018) (WCPFC 2021).

The Southern stock is assessed relative to a range of potential reference points (WCPFC 2021b), with the key reference point used to determine whether the stock is overfished being  $20\%SB_{F=0}$ . The 2021 stock assessment concluded that “the stock is not overfished, and there was zero estimated risk of the stock being below  $20\%SB_{F=0}$ ” (WCPFC 2021a).  $SB_{latest}/SB_{MSY}$  at the time of the assessment was estimated to be between 1.45 and 4.28, providing strong evidence that the stock biomass was above the MSY level (See figure 4). The most recent stock assessment concluded that the stock biomass is currently above the target and limit reference points, and **therefore C1.2 is met by the Southern stock.**



**Figure 4.** Kobe plot for Southern Pacific albacore tuna summarising the Pacific-wide results for each of the models used in the 2021 stock assessment. The blue point is the median value based on the weighted grid models (WCPFC 2021b).

**References**

- WCPFC (2021). North Pacific albacore tuna, current stock status and advice, February 2021. <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/05/north-pacific-albacore-tuna>
- WCPFC (2021a). Stock assessment of South Pacific albacore tuna. <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12551>
- WCPFC (2021b). Stock status and advice key documents, South Pacific albacore tuna. <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/04/south-pacific-albacore-tuna>

**Links**

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