



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in FAO 81 southwest Pacific

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 81 Southwest Pacific
	Country of origin of the product:	Seychelles (Flag countries: Seychelles and South Africa)
	Stock:	Southern Pacific albacore tuna
Date	27 th September 2023	
Report Code	USA11	
Assessor	Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Seychelles (Flag countries: Seychelles and South Africa)	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	N/A	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): The Scoular Company: ID preserve site Indian Ocean Tuna Ltd			
Country: USA			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:		NSF	
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres	Matthew Jew	0.5	Surveillance 1
Assessment Period	October 2023 – October 2024		

Scope Details	
Main Species	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Stock	Southern Pacific albacore tuna
Fishery Location	FAO 81 Southwest Pacific
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) InterAmerican Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Seychelles Fishing Authority, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (South Africa)
Gear Type(s)	Poles, handlines, and longlines
Outcome of Assessment	
Peer Review Evaluation	Agree with assessor's recommendation
Recommendation	APPROVE

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>If any species is categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN's Red List, or if it appears in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES appendices, it cannot be approved for use as MarinTrust raw material. Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) is not categorised as Endangered or Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List and does not appear in CITES appendices; therefore, albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) is eligible for approval for use as Marin Trust by-product raw material.</p> <p>The most recent stock assessment for southern Pacific Ocean albacore tuna was conducted in 2021 and was a joint effort between the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).</p> <p>The assessment considers albacore tuna in the southern Pacific Ocean to be a single stock (which includes FAO Area 81), and this is the only stock under assessment. The stock is subject to a specific management regime, 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, albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) in FAO 81 Southwest Pacific is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v2.3 by-products standard.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The internal peer reviewer agrees with the assessor's determination, who correctly classified the stock of south Pacific Ocean albacore tuna under Category C, as the stock is subject to a specific management regime in place and reference points are defined.</p> <p>Fishery removals are included in the stock assessment and the stock has its biomass above reference point, so it passes Clauses C1.1 and C1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, albacore tuna in FAO 81 southwest Pacific, is APPROVED for the production of fishmeal and fish oil under the current MarinTrust v 2.3 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 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
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Southern Pacific albacore tuna	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Seychelles Fishing Authority, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (South Africa)	C	LC	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
<p>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> <p>This stock assessment uses a M2-SEAPODYM movement hypothesis, that uses catches (including commercial landings) in the model and in the forecast (WCPFC, 2022). Long-term catch data are presented in Figure 1 and areas covered by the stock assessment are represented in Figure 2.</p>			

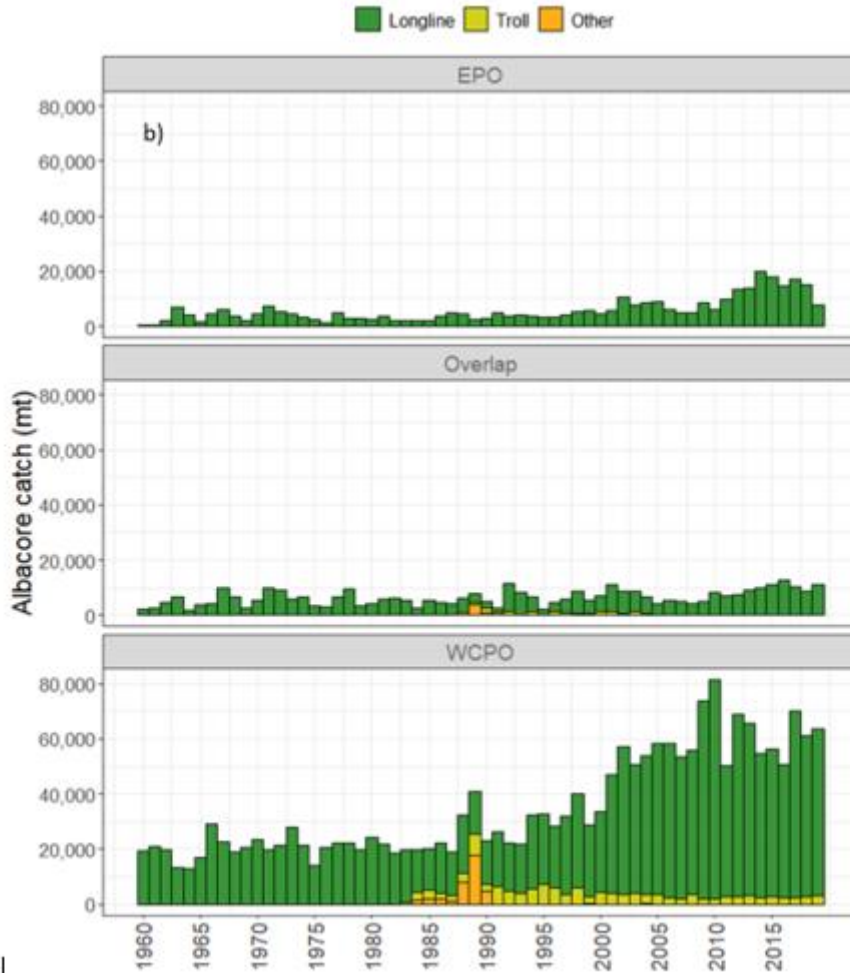


Figure SPA-02. a) Spatial pattern of albacore catch by gear type over the last decade, and b) historical catches of albacore across the model region from 1952-2019 by gear type.

Figure 1. Source: WCPFC (2022).

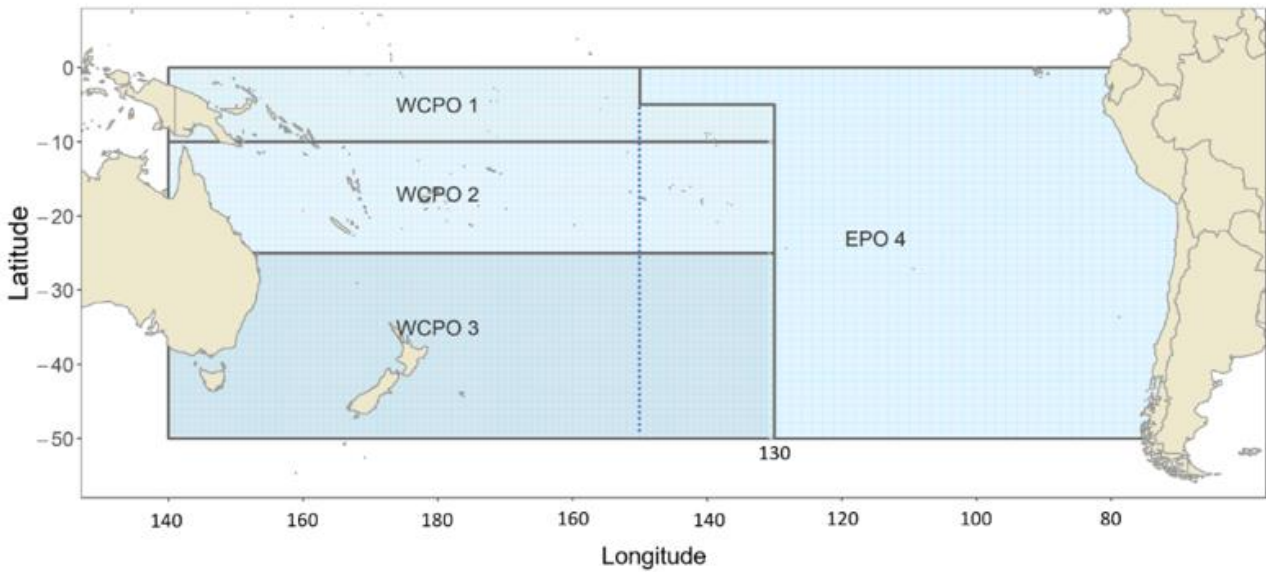


Figure SPA-01. The geographical area covered by the stock assessment and the boundaries of the four model regions used for South Pacific-wide 2021 albacore assessment. The overlap region between the WCPFC and IATTC convention areas is the area between 130° - 150° west demarcated by the dashed line. The catch from the ‘overlap’ area is included within the WCPFC-CA for this assessment.

Figure 2. Source: WCPFC (2022).

Fishery removals of the species in the fishery under assessment are included in the stock assessment process. 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.

The most recent analysis of the status of the southern Pacific albacore tuna stock was conducted in 2021. The southern stock has defined reference points and Scientific Committee 17 (SC17) noted that there was a 0% probability (0 out of 72 models) that the recent (2016-2019) spawning biomass had breached the adopted limit reference point of $20\%SB_{F=0}$ (WCPFC, 2022). Furthermore, SC17 noted that there was a 0% probability (0 out of 72 models) that the recent (2015-2018) fishing mortality was above F_{MSY} (WCPFC, 2022; Figure 3).

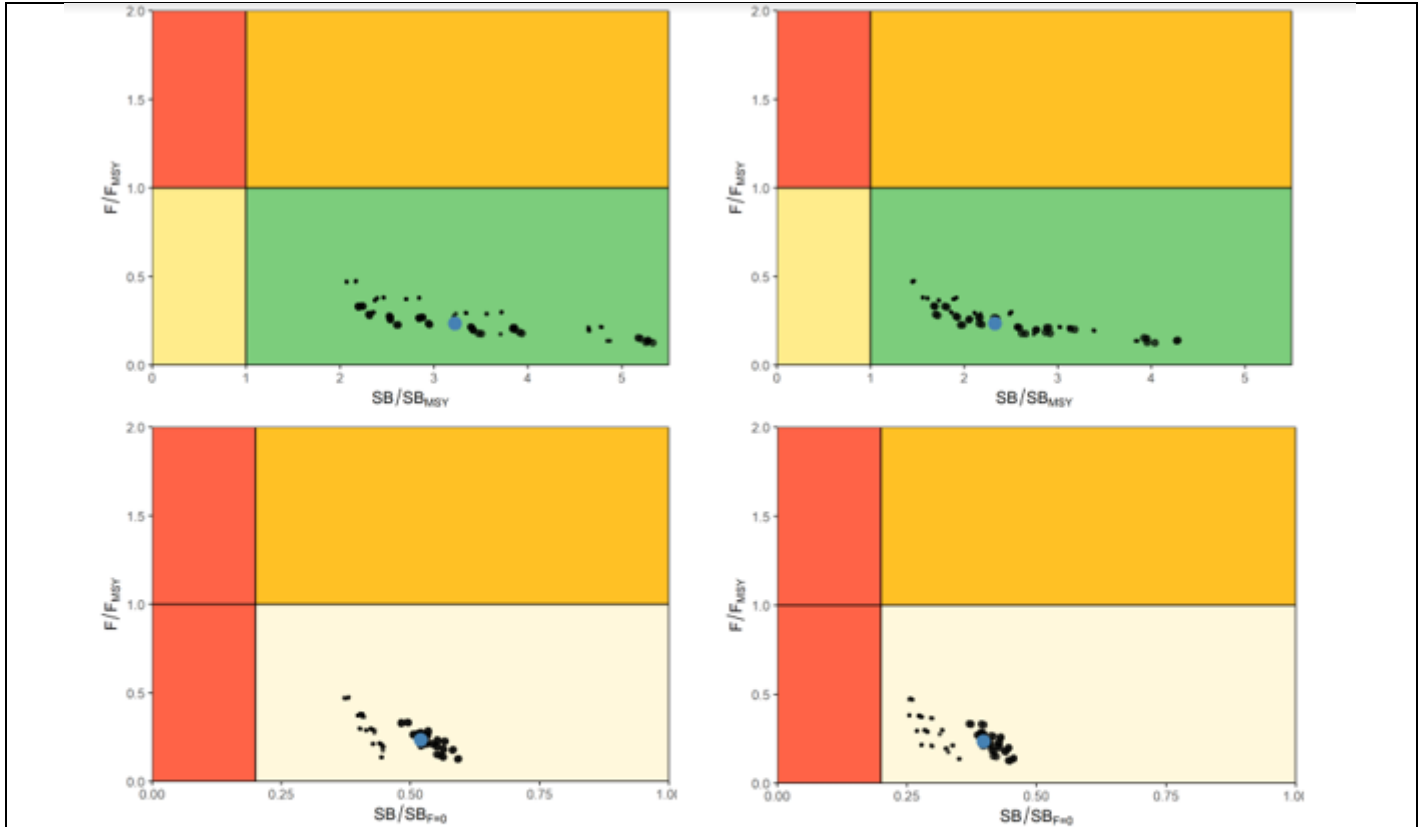


Figure SPA-08. Majuro (bottom) and Kobe (top) plots summarizing the Pacific-wide results for each of the models in the structural uncertainty grid for the ‘recent’ (2016-2019) period. The blue point is the median value based on the weighted grid models, with the more heavily weight models indicated by the larger black dots.

Figure SPA-09. Majuro (bottom) and Kobe (top) plots summarizing the Pacific-wide results for each of the models in the structural uncertainty grid for the ‘latest’ (2019) period. The blue point is the median value based on the weighted grid models, with the more heavily weighted models indicated by the larger black dots.

Figure 3. Source: WCPFC (2022).

The species is considered, in its most recent stock assessment, to have a biomass above the limit reference point (or proxy). C.1.2 is met.

References

WCPFC. 2022. South Pacific Albacore Tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*). Stock status and management advice. <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