



MarinTrust Standard V2

By-product Fishery Assessment *European Sardine, Morocco & Mauritania (Area C)*

MarinTrust Programme

Unit C, Printworks

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Table 1 Application details and summary of the assessment outcome

Fishery Under Assessment	Species:	European Sardine (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)
	Geographical area:	FAO Area 34, Eastern Central Atlantic
	Country of origin of the product:	Morocco & Mauritania
	Stock:	Northwest Africa, Zone C (Southern)
Date	June 2022	
Report Code	ZAF02	
Assessor	Sam Peacock	
Country of origin of the product - PASS	Morocco & Mauritania	
Country of origin of the product - FAIL	None	

Application details and summary of the assessment outcome			
Company Name(s): Pioneer Fishing			
Country: South Africa			
Email address:		Applicant Code:	
Certification Body Details			
Name of Certification Body:			
Assessor	Peer Reviewer	Assessment Days	Initial/Surveillance/ Re-approval
Sam Peacock	Kate Morris	0.3	Surveillance
Assessment Period	June 2022		

Scope Details	
Main Species	European Sardine (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)
Stock	Northwest Africa, Zone C (Southern)
Fishery Location	FAO Area 34, Eastern Central Atlantic
Management Authority (Country/ State)	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF); Morocco and Mauritania national authorities
Gear Type(s)	Purse seine and pelagic trawler
Outcome of Assessment	
Overall Outcome	Approve
Clauses Failed	None
Peer Review Evaluation	Re-scored under Category D
Recommendation	Approve

Table 2. Assessment Determination

Assessment Determination
<p>European sardine is categorised by the IUCN as Least Concern and does not appear in the CITES appendices. The stock under assessment is managed using reference points and was therefore assessed under Category C.</p> <p>There has been no new stock assessment since the previous MT assessment. The 2019 stock assessment incorporated landings data and concluded that the stock was under-exploited, with a biomass considerably higher than the target reference point and therefore also any possible limit reference point.</p> <p>As there have been no substantial changes in the available information since the previous MT assessment, the byproduct should remain approved for use as a raw material.</p> <p>Comment after internal peer review: The peer reviewer recommendation that the byproduct be re-assessed under Category D is noted. However, Category C represents a more conservative assessment, and where a raw material is able to pass under that category it is more appropriate to apply it. This also reflects the initial assessment, which applied Category C to this byproduct.</p>
Fishery Assessment Peer Review Comments
<p>The by-product fishery under assessment here is the European Sardine (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>) fishery, targeted in Morocco & Mauritania FAO Area 34. The Northwest Africa sardine stock, Zone C (Southern) is managed unilaterally across the target fleets countries, and there is no species-specific management plan in place in both countries. The most recent stock assessment is multi-species and no management advice is given. Sardine is incorrectly classified by the auditor as category C species and should be scored as a category D species.</p>
Notes for On-site Auditor
<p>There is nothing to highlight to the onsite auditor at this stage.</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
European Sardine	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Northwest Africa, Zone C (Southern)	Yes	C	Least Concern ³	No

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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

³ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/198580/15542481>

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		European Sardine (<i>Sardina pilchardus</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
<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>The most recent stock assessment conducted for sardine in Area C remains the one carried out in 2019 and used as the basis for the previous MT assessment. The Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) working group was not able to conduct an assessment in 2020 “due to the absence of an appropriate abundance index” (CECAF 2021), and any stock assessment conducted in 2021 does not appear to have yet been published.</p> <p>The 2019 assessment utilised catch and length composition data for the period 2007-2018 to apply a production model and a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) model. Average total catch between 2016 and 2020 was 795,000t. Catch in 2020 was estimated to be 824,000t (CECAF 2021).</p> <p>Fishery removals are recorded and incorporated into the stock assessment, therefore C1.1 is met.</p>			
<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.</p> <p>As noted above, there has been no new stock assessment published since the previous MT assessment. The 2019 assessment concluded that the stock is underexploited but did not recommend a specific catch level which would be appropriate for the stock, noting that the stock is “strongly influenced by environmental factors and exhibits fluctuations in biomass independent of fishing” (CECAF 2021).</p> <p>The target reference point established for the stock is $B_{0.1}$, although B_{MSY} has also been determined. The 2019 stock assessment estimated that stock biomass was around 137% of $B_{0.1}$ and 151% of B_{MSY}. Fishing mortality was estimated to be slightly over half the MSY level (FAO 2020). Taken together these findings indicate that the stock biomass was significantly above the target reference point level, and therefore also above any possible limit reference point.</p> <p>A management plan has been in place for the entire small pelagic fishery in this zone since 2010 (MCS 2020). A species-specific quota has not yet been put in place but the stock is currently under-exploited and catch is below the recommended level.</p> <p>Stock biomass was estimated to be above any possible limit reference point at the time of the previous stock assessment, therefore C1.2 is met.</p>			
<p>References</p> <p>CECAF (2021). Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic, Summary Report: FAO Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off Northwest Africa, 2021. https://ldac.eu/images/2021_WGSPN_summary_EN.pdf</p>			

FAO (2020). Report of the Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish of Northwest Africa Casablanca, Morocco, 8–13 July 2019. <https://www.fao.org/3/ca9562b/CA9562B.pdf>

MCS UK (2020). Sardine in Northwest Africa: Zone C (Southern). <https://www.mcsuk.org/goodfishguide/ratings/wild-capture/1060/>

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