



Sustainable Fisheries Partnership – Tuna Procurement Advice October 2017

SFP recommends that canned tuna products (not including albacore) should adhere to one of these options:

Option 1. The source fishery is certified to the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) standard^{1,2} and implementing agreed actions to address any conditions of certification.

Option 2. The tuna is sourced from a fishery rated “best choice” or Green by the [Seafood Watch](#) program of Monterey Bay Aquarium. When “best choice”-rated product isn’t available, companies may purchase product rated “good alternative” or Yellow.

Option 3. The tuna is sourced from a fishery that is engaged in an improvement project (FIP) that meets the definition of “**comprehensive**” as agreed by the [Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions](#) and is demonstrating adequate progress.³ Details of the FIP should be recorded on [FisheryProgress.org](#).

SFP recommends that fresh/frozen yellowfin or bigeye tuna products and canned albacore should adhere to one of these options:

Option 1. The source fishery is certified to the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) standard and implementing agreed actions to address any conditions of certification.

Option 2. The tuna is sourced from a fishery rated “best choice” or Green by the [Seafood Watch](#) program of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. When “best choice”-rated product isn’t available, companies may purchase product rated “good alternative” or Yellow.

Option 3. The tuna is sourced from a fishery that is engaged in an improvement project that meets the definition of “**comprehensive**” or “**basic**” as agreed by the [Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions](#) and is demonstrating adequate progress.³ Details of the FIP should be recorded on [FisheryProgress.org](#).

All product, for both purse seine and line-caught tuna, should be fully traceable⁴ to the vessel and date of capture.

SFP supports a ban on transshipment at sea because of the value in reducing the risk of IUU fishing and labor rights abuses. If it is not practicable to avoid transshipment within a supply chain, we recommend that buyers require 100% third-party, independent observer coverage of all transshipment operations. Such observers should also be trained to identify labor abuses should they occur.

Notes

¹The Northeastern Tropical Pacific purse seine yellowfin and skipjack tuna fishery (commonly referred to as the Mexican dolphin-set tuna purse seine fishery) has recently received MSC certification but involves the deliberate setting of nets on dolphins. Sourcing from this fishery may pose reputational risks for companies and may not be easily reconciled with other corporate policy commitments (for instance, the commitment to “dolphin safe” tuna or commitments to animal welfare in general).

²[Concerns](#) have been raised by several NGOs and other industry stakeholders regarding the “compartmentalization” of MSC-certified purse seine fisheries for tuna. This involves a vessel, on a single trip, catching some uncertified fish with the aid of FADs (fish aggregating devices) and some certified fish without the aid of FADs. This concern explicitly relates to the PNA (Parties to the Nauru Agreement) Western & Central Pacific skipjack tuna fishery.

³Adequate progress is defined as the FIP being rated A–C using SFP’s [Standardized Tool for Evaluating FIP Progress](#). This information is presented on [FisheryProgress.org](#)

⁴ Recognizing the need for aggregated vessel and trip information from small-scale tuna fisheries.