

## Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and FishWise – Tuna Procurement Advice

SFP and FishWise recommend that tuna products (including fresh and frozen tuna and shelf-stable tuna) should adhere to one (or more) of the following options:

Option 1. The source fishery is certified to the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) (MSC) standard with supply chain traceability (Chain of Custody certification), and is implementing agreed actions to address any conditions of certification.

Option 2. The tuna is sourced from a fishery rated as a Green “Best Choice” by the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s [Seafood Watch](#) program. When Green rated product isn’t available, companies may purchase tuna from fisheries rated as a Yellow ‘Good Alternative’.

Option 3. The tuna is sourced from a fishery improvement project (FIP) that meets all criteria detailed in the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions’ [Guidelines for Supporting Fishery Improvement Projects](#). The FIP must be demonstrating adequate recent progress<sup>1</sup> and regularly reporting on progress publicly<sup>2</sup>.

### Supplementary Procurement Considerations

The [North-eastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna fishery](#) (commonly referred to as the ‘Mexican dolphin-set tuna purse seine fishery’) has 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).

[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 Western & Central Pacific skipjack tuna fishery.

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<sup>1</sup> Defined as the FIP being a ‘Stage 3 – FIP Implementation’ or higher and rated A-C using SFP’s [Standardized Tool for Evaluating FIP Progress](#)

<sup>2</sup> Using [FisheryProgress.org](#) (preferred) or other industry website.