

MANIFESTO FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE TUNA SECTOR



COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT OF THE TUNA SECTOR

With nearly five million tonnes fished annually, the tuna species - skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) - are one of the most important fisheries in the world. As a consumer product coming mainly in the form of cans - more than 80% of the tuna consumed in France, reaching more than 110 000 tonnes - it is difficult to imagine that the availability of the tuna resource is critical. In 2018 though, almost half of the stocks already are. Indeed, on the 4 species mainly marketed, representing a total of 19 stocks, 6 stocks are currently overexploited or on the verge of overexploitation. In particular, this is due to: the use of fishing techniques that increase the capacity of the fleets, illegal fishing and a lack of control and regulation.

Eager to meet the demand without compromising the availability of resources for future generations, we, members of the tuna sector (retailers, canneries, fleets...), commit together to put in place by 2020 the measures necessary to make the sector more sustainable. To this end, we will carefully consider the status of tuna stocks and their evolution, as well as the use of practices limiting impacts on marine ecosystems. Our actions will be directed towards achieving three main objectives:

Preserving the resource

Fighting against illegal fishing

Respecting workers' rights

As science and industry evolve, and aware that making a value chain more sustainable is a long-term work, we will continue to translate the three objectives into ambitious action plans regularly reviewed to converge towards the ambition to propose a responsible tuna on sale by 2025. We will regularly communicate our progress to stakeholders.

We recognize that rapid and brutal decisions can have significant consequences for local economic balances. We consider a gradual change, taking into account the socio-economic environment of the sector and scientific recommendations.

OUR COMMITMENTS

As members of the sector, our actions will be conducted on products of our own brands. Our priority is to find a balance between the available resources and market expectations.

In order to limit and better manage fishing pressure on tuna stocks, in line with the recommendations of the Scientific Committees of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), we commit ourselves to:

Prioritizing a supply from non-overexploited stocks¹

and, in the case of overexploited stocks, proceed to a volume reduction plan. The evolution of the stocks will be taken into account in the application of this commitment. We may consider sourcing from stocks that are currently overexploited, provided that a management plan following the recommendations of the RFMO Scientific Committees is put in place, or that the stock under consideration is involved in a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP).

Curbing the use of the most impactful fishing methods

by carrying out plans to reduce supplies from Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), by diversifying fishing techniques (pole and line fishing, free school fishing); and in the case of using FADs, by requiring non-entangling FADs.

Supplying from fleets that implement the best practices

Supply from suppliers who themselves ensure that their supplies come from fleets implementing best practices, particularly in terms of traceability of fishing methods, fight against illegal fishing and bycatch, the presence of observers on board, and respect of working conditions.

Fighting against illegal fishing

In order to fight against illegal fishing, we will ensure that the boats we supply from:

- are not on an official RFMO blacklist,
- are registered with their RFMO with a unique IMO number when their dimensions allow for it,
- do not carry out transshipments, or, if they are authorized, they must be documented.

Respect workers' rights

We will demand that the working conditions of the whole sector satisfy the fundamental conventions of the International Labor Organization.

As stakeholders in the tuna supply chain, we are aware of the key role we have to play for sustainable fisheries. Thus, we want to:

Support Initiatives

to strengthen RFMOs' management,

Encourage and support the sector

when it commits in projects aiming to improve fisheries and reduce their impacts on our seas and oceans,

Maintain an open and transparent dialogue

with the sector's stakeholders, to keep on improving or adapting our ambition to the issues of the sector,

Work with our suppliers

to implement our guidelines, in a caring and collaborative approach.

Transparency is a decisive factor in the success of this initiative, especially for consumers so that they can make informed purchasing acts.

For this, we are eventually committed to implementing verifiable traceability for each tuna can, from the boat to the plate.

To ensure the proper implementation of those commitments, we will use the tools currently available to us to perform an independent and reliable verification. In particular, we are very interested in using new technologies and innovations as well as in merging our efforts.

We expect active participation and proactivity from our suppliers in the implementation of these commitments.

¹ <https://iss-foundation.org/about-tuna/status-of-the-stocks/interactive-stock-status-tool/>.

A stock is considered non-overfished when the biomass indicator is in green.