



Working together  
to support more  
sustainable fishing  
and our oceans.



# WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT MORE SUSTAINABLE FISHING AND OUR OCEANS.

The background features several stylized illustrations of fish and seaweed. Three fish are depicted in various orientations, and several seaweed plants with long, thin blades are scattered throughout the scene. Small white circles, representing bubbles, are also present.

**WWF  
& BOLTON**

**PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT 2021  
YEAR 5**

**BOLTON, IN COLLABORATION WITH WWF, CONTRIBUTES TO SAFEGUARDING A HEALTHY OCEAN AND THE LIVELIHOOD OF COMMUNITIES THAT DEPEND ON IT BY INCREASING THE VALUE OF CANNED SEAFOOD AND SOURCING EXCLUSIVELY FROM SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, WHICH ENSURE THE LONG-TERM RESILIENCE OF TUNA AND OTHER SPECIES IN HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS, AND ARE CONDUCTED IN AN ETHICAL, LEGAL, TRANSPARENT AND FULLY TRACEABLE MANNER.**

THE REPORT CONCERNS THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WWF ITALIA ONLUS, WWF INTERNATIONAL AND BOLTON FOOD S.P.A. AND THE RESULTS ACHIEVED FROM JANUARY 2021 TO MARCH 2022. BOLTON FOOD S.P.A. IS THE FOOD BUSINESS UNIT OF BOLTON GROUP, DEDICATED TO THE FOOD SECTOR AND INCLUDES BOLTON FOOD SPA, SAUPIQUET SA AND GRUPO CONSERVAS GARAVILLA S.L.

**WWF  
& BOLTON**

**PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT 2021**

**YEAR 5**



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# FOREWORD



**LUCA ALEMANNO**

**Ceo Food Business Unit of Bolton Group**

Every year I am pleased to introduce this partnership report, and this time even more so, as 2021 is the year in which we have decided to renew and expand our ongoing partnership with WWF, in light of the valuable results we achieved in the past. 2021 has been for us a complicated year due to the persistence of the pandemic's unprecedented effects, but it has also been a period to open up to new possibilities and efforts. We strengthened our commitments and responsibilities with the WWF, with a clear goal in our minds: to become the most sustainable tuna company for the world.

In Bolton Food, food business unit of Bolton Group, we firmly believe in the responsibility of economic institutions to bring positive environmental and social impact. I am particularly proud to mention that our efforts towards responsible fishing have been ongoing for over a decade now, setting new sustainability standards for the seafood sector. We owe it to the world in which we work and operate. It is our duty to lead and set an example.

We are strongly convinced that working together is the best way to make concrete progress, especially when supported by high-level experts. That is the value behind our motto "Partnership is our leadership". With this partnership's renewal, we decided to expand our areas of work and to focus on the broad concept of Ocean Stewardship, rather than on fishing activities only. This allowed us to develop new stimulating projects and to begin a process of valorization of the powerful ecosystem that supports our business: the Ocean.

**"We are strongly convinced that working together is the best way to make concrete progress, especially when supported by high-level experts."**



**ALESSANDRA PRAMPOLINI**

**WWF Italy Director General**

In a constantly evolving market, consumers are becoming more conscious of the industry's impacts on the environment and of their proactive role as responsible purchasers and companies play a central role in this game. The first four years of the partnership with Bolton have been successful and full of key learnings.

From 2021, Bolton and WWF identified the need to raise the company's sustainability commitments through the adoption of a holistic seascape approach for tuna management and sourcing, working together on a transformational partnership to help safeguard our oceans and marine life.

Our renewed partnership aims at raising awareness on ocean health, showing the need of taking care of the ocean by safeguarding marine biodiversity and the livelihood of communities that depend on it.

Our expectations for these next four years keep on ocean conservation. Enlarging our partnership vision will lead the company to a profound effort to ensure its sourcing comes from more sustainable sources, meaning healthy stocks and responsibly managed fisheries. For doing this, we also expect the company to practice their leadership and power among stakeholders to really move the entire sector towards the right direction, moreover in those international contexts where decisions and impacts are collectively shared.

The goals are also to inspire people to advocate in reaching healthy oceans, working towards a cultural change on tuna perception, to increase its perceived value. We trustfully look forward to these next three years of partnership as a unique opportunity to change the industry sector approach towards responsible fishing.

**"The goals are also to inspire people to advocate in reaching healthy oceans, working towards a cultural change on tuna perception, to increase its perceived value."**

# INTRODUCTION: OUR VISION

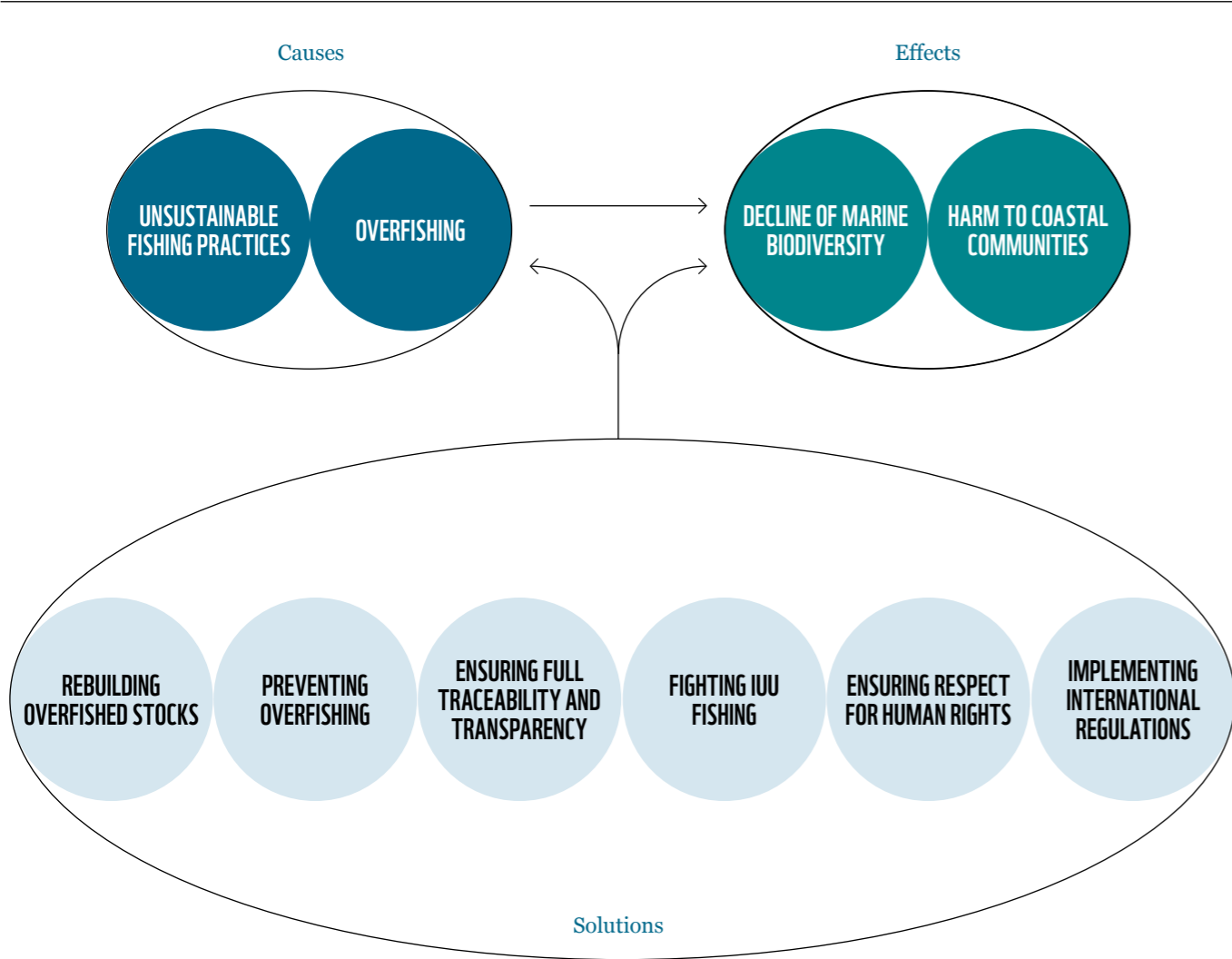
We know that one organization alone cannot bring about the changes required to ensure nature conservation. The changes that we would like to see globally can only be achieved through the efforts of numerous players, specifically including those who have the greatest potential to reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth, and find solutions to conservation challenges.

Today, ocean ecosystems are endangered by several factors, including overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices, as some of the main menaces threatening the hundreds of millions of people whose livelihoods depend on seafood as a resource for food or revenue.

Tunas are essential for a healthy ocean ecosystem. They are also vital to food security for coastal communities and a fundamental item in the basket of consumers all over the world.

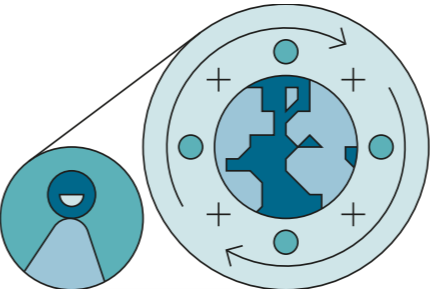
However, tuna species and others are under a lot of pressure from overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices and this is one of the main causes of the decline of marine biodiversity.

For our partnership, this means working towards a more sustainable supply chain that takes into account the health of the stocks from which the company sources and other important challenges, including advocating for the adoption of new measures by the tuna Regional Fisheries Management



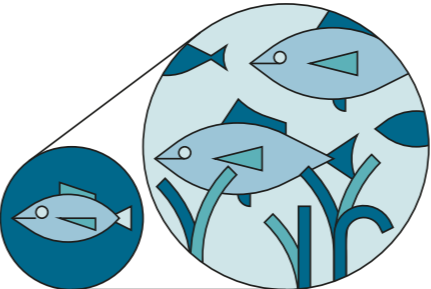
Organizations (RFMOs) with the goal of helping rebuilding overfished stocks and preventing overfishing in the future, fighting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, ensuring respect for human rights and labour standards across the supply chain, especially in developing countries, implementing international regulations and guaranteeing traceable, transparent sourcing, from boat to plate.

Therefore renewed partnership aims to improve our vision:



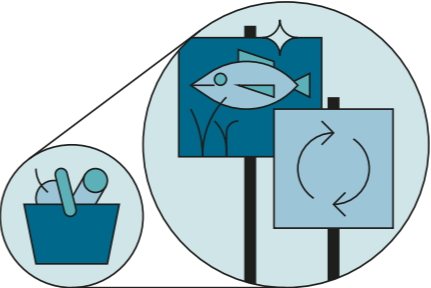
## From corporate responsibility to advocating for a shared responsibility

Attainment of the partnership's objectives can only be achieved with the engagement of multiple stakeholders. In order to generate the necessary changes in fishery management, particularly on an international level, advocacy engagement assumes a new central role in the partnership.



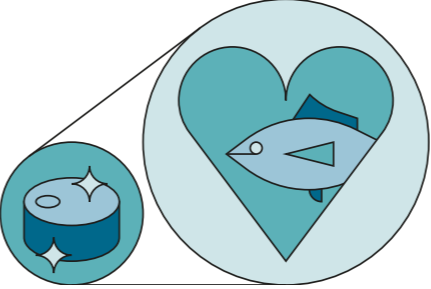
## From sustainable fisheries to healthy stocks

Moving sustainability targets towards a focus on stock status and health, and higher stock spawning biomass levels to keep thriving tuna populations in the ocean, where they perform vital ecosystem services.



## From consumer awareness to consumer participation

Consumers are increasingly aware of the issues related to the oceans and the role that they, as stakeholders, can play in protecting marine ecosystems. Consumers can become ambassadors for the oceans, by embracing the partnership mission and campaigning for better management of natural resources.



## From the value of products to the value of tuna

Tuna is an essential component of food safety and nutrition. It is a driver of employment and economic development, as well as a source of recreation and cultural identity. Tuna plays a pivotal ecological role in the ocean, including bringing nutrients from the depths of the ocean to the surface, where they are accessible to plankton. The partnership wants to pass on this message to the public, and celebrate tuna as a resource of significant value.

# WORKING TOGETHER: WWF & BOLTON

2021 was the year of the renewal of the partnership between WWF Italy, WWF International and Bolton, with expanded goals and commitments compared to the first 4 years of partnership. By joining forces, this important international canned fish producer and the world's leading conservation organization aim at delivering large scale impacts to ensure that our oceans are more sustainable and better managed both for present and future generations.

## WWF'S WORK WITH BUSINESS

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which people are able to live in harmony with nature.

But the challenges the global environment is facing today are too big, too interconnected and too urgent for any single organization to solve alone. We need strong partnerships with business, as well as a variety of other stakeholders, to tackle the growing menace of nature loss. Therefore, WWF seeks to work with those who have the greatest potential to reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth. Together we can find solutions to conservation challenges - including the ones menacing the Oceans, such as overfishing - because the corporate sector drives much of the global economy, and it is in their best interest to ensure that the natural resources and ecosystems that underpin their business are used sustainably.

## WWF HISTORY AND MILESTONES

**+1300**

CONSERVATION  
PROJECTS SINCE 1961

**100**

COUNTRIES  
WWF IS ACTIVE IN

**5**

WORKING IN ALL  
THE 5 CONTINENTS

**1961**

WWF WAS FOUNDED

**+5 million**

SUPPORTERS

## BOLTON'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Bolton's mission is to create value for today and for the future, through responsible actions by providing every day high-quality, innovative and sustainable products.

Bolton Group is an Italian, family-owned, multinational company with a 2.8bln turnover, more than 11.000 employees and present in over 150 countries, that has been producing and distributing fast moving consumer goods for more than 70 years. Its largest Business Unit is the Food Business Unit, a leader in the canned tuna industry, supplying over 60 countries throughout the world with its 11 brands. Sustainable sourcing, responsible resources' use and respect for the people are the three pillars of Bolton Group's approach to sustainability. The goal is to develop a supply chain which operates in favor of people and the planet. This approach has been formalized in the Group's Sustainable Development Plans, which is fully integrated in the Food Business Unit's sustainability strategy.

## FOOD BUSINESS UNIT AREAS OF WORK

Every areas of work is in synergy and aim at reaching the partnership goals.



The Food Business Unit took a first concrete step in its journey towards sustainable development in 2009, by being a founding member to the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), a global multi stakeholder initiative aimed at scientific research for sustainable tuna stocks management. Two years later, the first Food's Corporate Social Responsibility plan was launched, under the name "Responsible Quality", setting specific goals and targets across the pillars fishing, production, people and nutrition. Sustainability has been progressively integrated in the Business Unit's strategy, with the goal of transforming the entire supply chain, from catch to consumer. This change in Bolton's strategic direction has become even more concrete and credible thanks to its multiple transformative partnerships with global NGOs, such as WWF and Oxfam. These associations have enabled the company to become a leader when it comes to sustainable development, a reference point in the seafood industry.

The work carried out within the supply chain and the different stakeholders has led Bolton's sustainability strategy to be very focused and close to the most material topics for its business. For this reason, the Sustainable Development strategy is currently articulated over six workstreams, i.e.:

- Sustainable Fishing and Healthy Oceans
- Advocacy, Policy and Compliance
- Human Rights and Communities
- Sustainable Production
- Health, Science and Nutrition
- Awareness and Education

## BOLTON GROUP'S FOOD BUSINESS UNIT IMPACT AND NUMBERS

**+70**

YEARS  
OF ACTIVITY

**+150**

COUNTRIES

**+4.000**

EMPLOYEES AROUND  
THE WORLD

**10%**

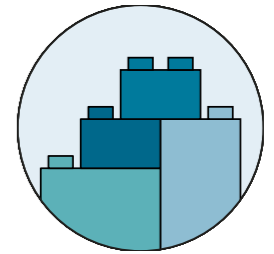
GLOBAL MARKET SHARE IN CANNED TUNA



# PARTNERSHIP GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Working to transform a sector towards sustainability is not always an easy task, and one that encompasses an in depth learning process. Over the first four years of collaboration, the partnership has had to deal with several challenges including the occasional mismanagement of tuna stocks, the shortcomings identified in some MSC certified fisheries, the evolution of knowledge, science and technology, a constantly evolving market and the COVID pandemic. By following WWF'S global tuna strategy, WWF and Bolton have agreed to renew their partnership with the objective to go beyond a fishery-by-fishery approach and individual certifications, and to adopt a more holistic approach that ensures fish stock health and marine ecosystem conservation.

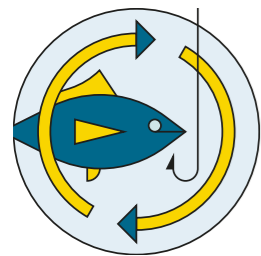
“To go beyond a fishery-by-fishery approach and individual certifications, and to adopt a more holistic approach that ensures fish stock health and marine ecosystem conservation.”



The partnership also covers the following aspect:

## AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

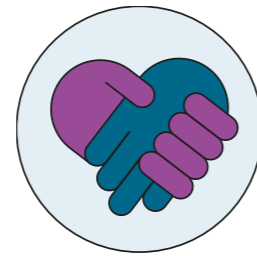
The partnership is working also to raise awareness among consumers and other market stakeholders about the need to source and consume sustainable seafood, educating consumers on the role of oceans and its ecosystems, with the aim of increasing the perceived value of tuna, and engaging them in taking action to proactively safeguard our seas.



### GOAL 1

#### More Sustainable Sourcing

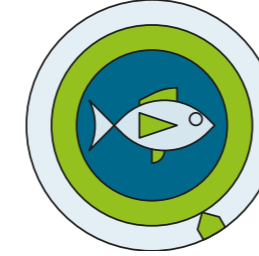
The Partnership's objective is to increase the company's sustainable sourcing, meaning from tuna stocks in good health, and achieving 100% of its Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna from MSC-certified fisheries or from Credible & Comprehensive Fishery Improvement Projects by 2024. A similar commitment has been made for the other fish species that the company markets, including salmon, mackerel and sardines.



### GOAL 2

#### Advocacy And Policy Change

In order to move the whole sector towards sustainability and to generate positive change across global supply chains, Bolton has committed to advocate to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, together with WWF, for a more responsible management. Advocacy commitments also cover other aspects such as traceability and transparency and conservation of the marine environment.



### GOAL 3

#### Traceability And Transparency

The company has agreed to increase the traceability and transparency of its tuna products, by guaranteeing that 100% of its supply vessels are tracked and listed publicly and that 100% of the tracking data of its company-owned vessels will be transparently shared online. The same traceability and transparency systems developed for tuna will be applied to all the other species marketed by the company by the end of 2024.

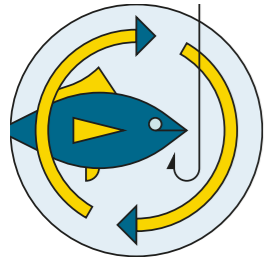


### GOAL 4

#### Social And Labor Standards

Bolton is partnering with Oxfam to strengthen its Human Rights policies, assess risks in its own supply chains and commit to an increasingly equitable supply chain.



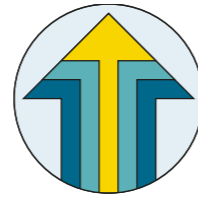


## GOAL 1 MORE SUSTAINABLE SOURCING

Working to ensure that marine resources are respected and managed sustainably, so that our oceans are protected and productive for future generations, is a shared responsibility. There is an urgent need to restore ocean health, including rebuilding tuna stocks to a level where the important role played by them in the marine environment can be guaranteed. Transforming a complex international seafood business is not an easy task, particularly when dealing with migratory species, like tuna. Bolton and WWF worked together to:



- agree on a roadmap to improve the sustainability of the company's sourcing, evaluating the health of the stocks, setting priorities and identifying MSC certified fisheries and existing or potential Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) for sourcing purposes;



- contribute to the improvements required "at sea," within the different projects, with the objective of reducing the environmental impacts of fisheries.

To ensure progress towards these objectives, Bolton published its Tuna Sourcing Policy, which all its suppliers were asked to sign. This document contains specific commitments regarding the increase in sourcing from MSC-certified fisheries and improvements in FAD management measures, including a requirement for supply vessels to use only non-entangling FADs that are made primarily with biodegradable materials by 2024.



“However, Bolton is aware of the some fisheries, particularly yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean, and is committed to ensuring that its actions contribute to improving the health of fish stocks that are currently under pressure.”

As part of its path towards a more sustainable tuna sourcing, Bolton has steadily increased its procurement from fisheries that are MSC-certified or managed under Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) designated to be Credible and Comprehensive, reaching a 72% from these sources in the period January 2021 – March 2022.

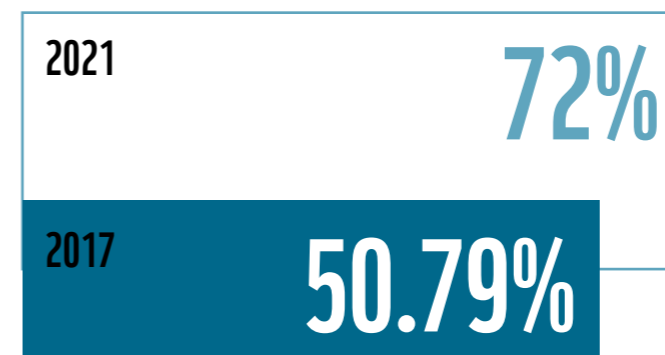
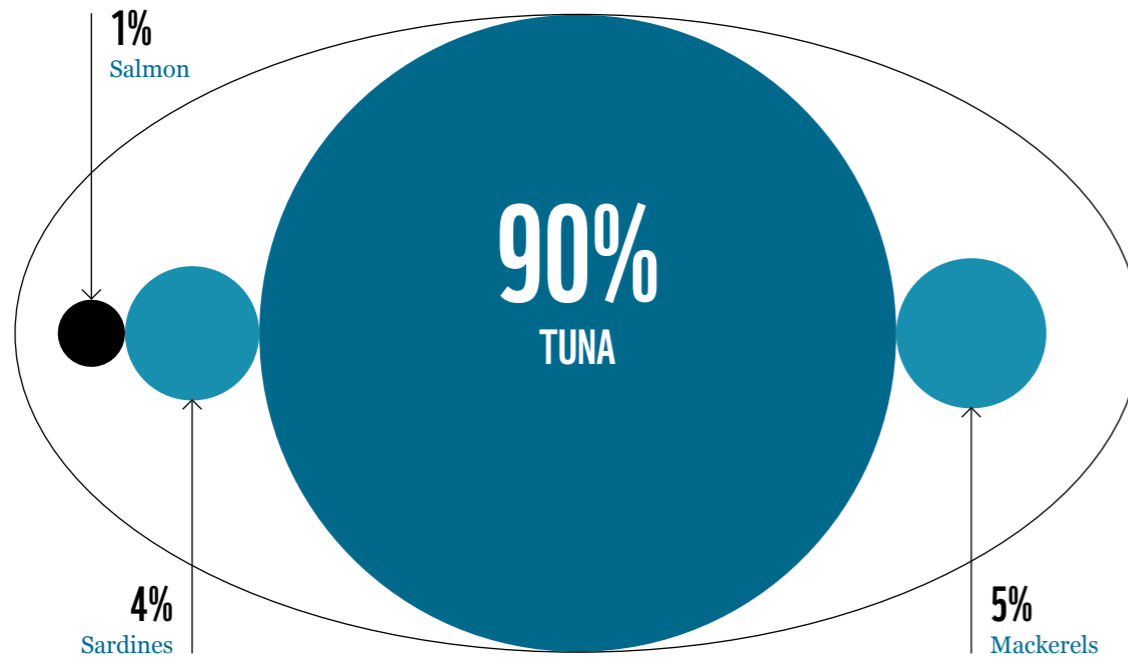
However, Bolton is aware of the critical state of some fisheries, particularly yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean, and is committed to ensuring that its actions contribute to improving the health of fish stocks that are currently under pressure.

In the case of Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna, a new stock assessment carried out in 2021 determined that the stock continues to be overfished and suffering overfishing. This stock can only be effectively recovered if significant reductions in

catches are immediately implemented. The lack of effective agreement within the IOTC prevents the efforts of the FIPs from leading to yellowfin tuna stock recovery. In 2021 Bolton has committed to reducing sourcing of yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean by 20% from 2017-2019 average volumes by 2024. Moreover, Bolton is tightening its stance on the supply of yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean in 2022-2023 by further reducing its sourcing, following the most recent scientific advice while firmly advocating for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to deliver on its responsibility to sustainably manage yellowfin tuna and the other tropical tuna stocks, together with its partners.

### BOLTON SOURCING

Almost all the fish supplied is of the tuna species, other species, such as salmon, sardines and mackerel, are a very small percentage of the supply.



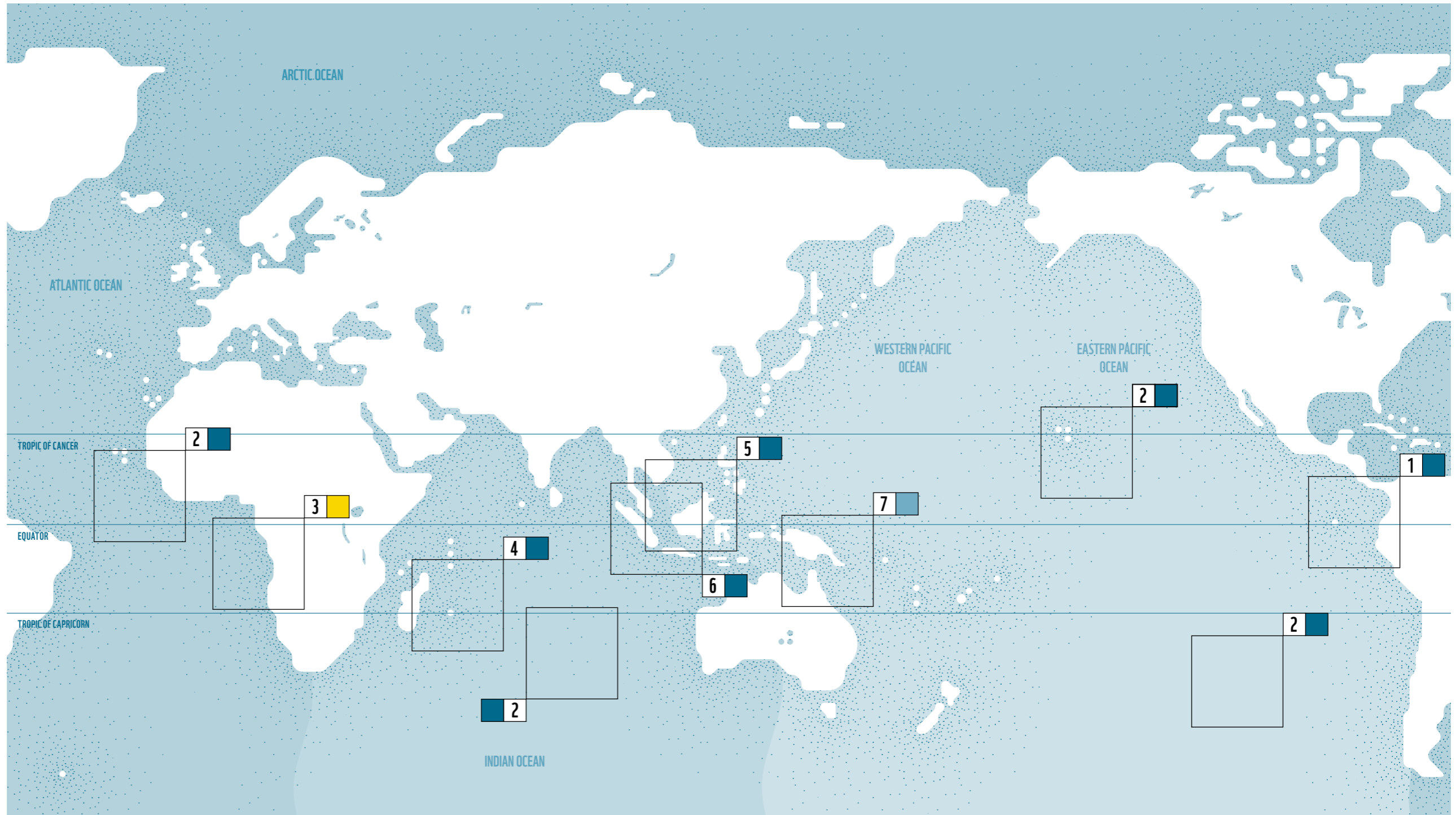
### BOLTON RESPONSIBLE TUNA SOURCING

# FISHERIES ROADMAP

A FIP (Fishery Improvement Project) is a multi-stakeholder, stepwise initiative that utilizes the power of the private sector, community fishery groups, NGOs and the government to create incentives for positive changes and improve fishing practices and management. In general, the ultimate aim of a FIP is to create measurable change to meet the MSC standard without conditions. As part of the partnership framework, Bolton developed a roadmap to direct its sourcing towards Credible & Comprehensive FIPs and MSC certified fisheries. The credibility of a FIP is a requirement by WWF, to ensure that the project is well managed and progressing.

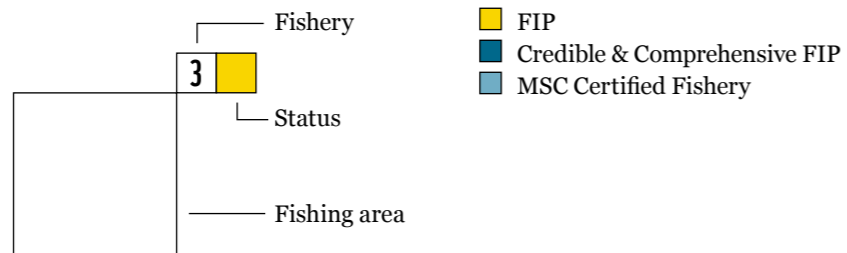
During its years of collaboration with WWF, the company divided its sourcing amongst different fisheries, with the aim of incentivizing them to improve their fishing practices and reduce their impact on the marine environment. During this period, these projects showed a marked progression on their path towards sustainability.

The company also operated towards its commitment of sourcing from healthy stocks, and reducing demand from stocks that are under pressure or that are not perfectly assessed in terms of biomass. This reflected into the commitment of reducing its sourcing of Yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean by 20% by 2024 and strongly advocate for a science based assessment of the Skipjack tuna stock in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.



## FISHERIES MAP

### HOW TO READ THE MAP



### GLOSSARY

**FIP, Fishery Improvement Projects**  
Multi-stakeholder, stepwise initiative that utilizes the power of the private sector, community fishery groups, NGOs and the government to create incentives for positive changes and improve fishing practices and management. The aim of a FIP is to reach an unconditional pass against the MSC standard.

**Credible & Comprehensive FIP**  
[www.fisheryprogress.org](http://www.fisheryprogress.org) definition on page 38.

## FISHERIES

1 TUNACONS	Eastern Pacific Ocean, FAO AREA: 87-77 supply through Bolton Group owned company Tri Marine
2 OPAGAC	All Oceans, FAO AREA: 71-77, 87, 31-34, 51-57 supply through Bolton Group owned company Tri Marine
3 EASTI	Eastern Atlantic Ocean, FAO AREA: 34-47 supply through Bolton Group owned company Tri Marine
4 SIOTI	Indian Ocean FAO AREA: 51-57 supply through Bolton supplier Princes Ltd.
5 YELLOWFIN TUNA POLE & LINE HANDLINE	Western-Central Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean, FAO AREA 71, 57 supply through Bolton Group owned company Tri Marine
6 SULAWESI	Western-Central Pacific Ocean, FAO AREA: 71 supply through Bolton Group owned company Tri Marine
7 SOLOMON ISLANDS	Western-Central Pacific Ocean, FAO AREA: 71 supply through Bolton Group owned company Tri Marine

# 1 TUNACONS — Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine

FISHERY	Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna caught by purse seine vessels.
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	Eastern Pacific Ocean
STATUS	The fishery is undergoing full MSC assessment to obtain MSC certification

## Main achievements in 2021

### Foundation

- After entering the MSC full assessment, the fishery is no longer a FIP, Tunacons became a foundation this year, with a “Surveillance Board” with the role to continue to monitor and control the project, and its improvements which does not end with obtaining MSC certification.

### Client Action Plan

- In response to the first round of assessment done with the aim of obtaining the MSC certification, the fishery developed a “Client Action Plan” with the objective of addressing those issues that potentially will obtain “conditions” during the certification process.

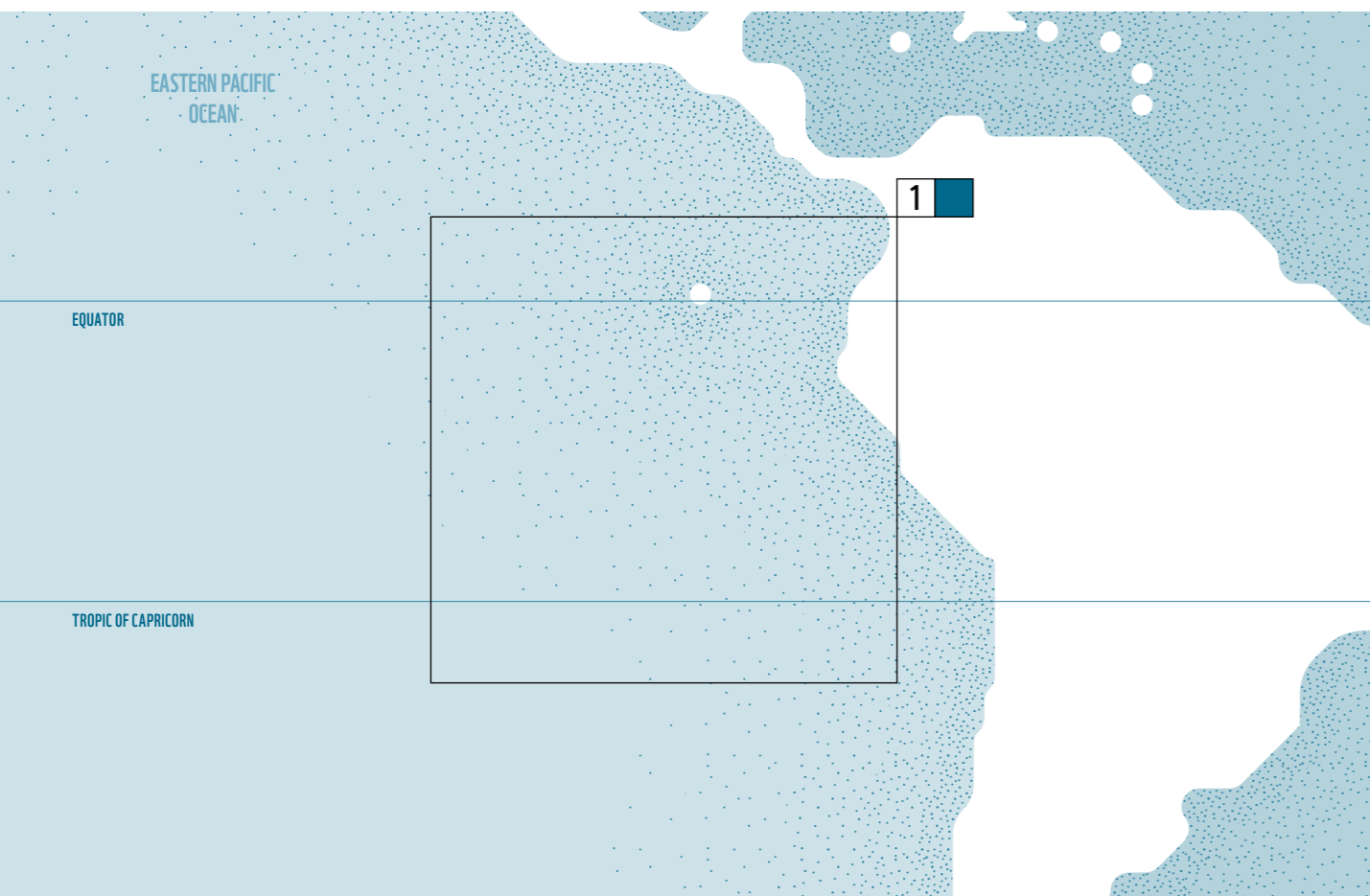
### Work on FADs

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed during the Ecuador Fishing Summit 2021 by Foundation for Sustainable Tuna Fishing TUNACONS, Corporation of Artisanal Fishermen of Galapagos CORPAG, Federation of Artisanal Fishing Cooperatives and Organizations of Ecuador FENACOPEC, National Chamber of Fisheries CNP, and Asociación de Armadores del Ecuador ATUNEC to jointly work on reducing to zero the presence of Fishing Aggregator Devices (FADs) within the Galapagos Islands Marine Protected Area.

### 3 Main Axes

The initiative’s action plan contemplates 3 main axes,

- 1 Collection of FADs to avoid affecting the coastal areas of the islands.
- 2 Collection of garbage on the seabed.
- 3 Development of fishery improvement projects (FIPs) in artisanal fisheries in Galapagos.



# 2 OPAGAC — Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores

FISHERY	Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by purse seine vessels.
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	Western Central Pacific Ocean, Eastern Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean The fishery is well managed but it insist also on the Indian Ocean Yellowfin tuna stock, that is overfished and in overfishing; Bolton is committed to reduce its sourcing of Yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean by 20% by 2024, to diminish the pressure on this overexploited stock.
STATUS	Four fisheries certified with the MSC standard in the Pacific Ocean (YFT in the EPO in 08/12/2021 and the 3 stocks of tropical tuna in the WCPO in 16/03/2022).

## Main achievements in 2021

### Target species

- Verification of compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 19-02, IOTC Resolution 19/02, IATTC Resolution C-20-06 and WCPFC CMM-18-01: the number of active FAD buoys per vessel is verified by an authorized third party (AZTI) for the whole fleet.
- Contribution to stock assessments: the association has an ongoing research project with AZTI to support RFMO stock assessments. The fishery is contributing to abundance indices development, both fishery dependent and independent, by providing FAD data. For fishery dependent indices this includes catch and effort, sizes, and FAD density; and for fishery independent indices the acoustic records of beacons’ echo sounders is provided. Additionally, to contribute to a more comprehensive study, a temporal data series was made available (from 2010 until the present). This voluntarily launched initiative by AGAC has already resulted in indices being presented at RFMO meetings, such as the IOTC Working Party on Tropical Tunas and the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics. This is an ongoing project for all the oceans, and for the Pacific Ocean the data is also shared with the IATTC Secretariat.
- Testing the “ecological trap” hypothesis: the fishery is

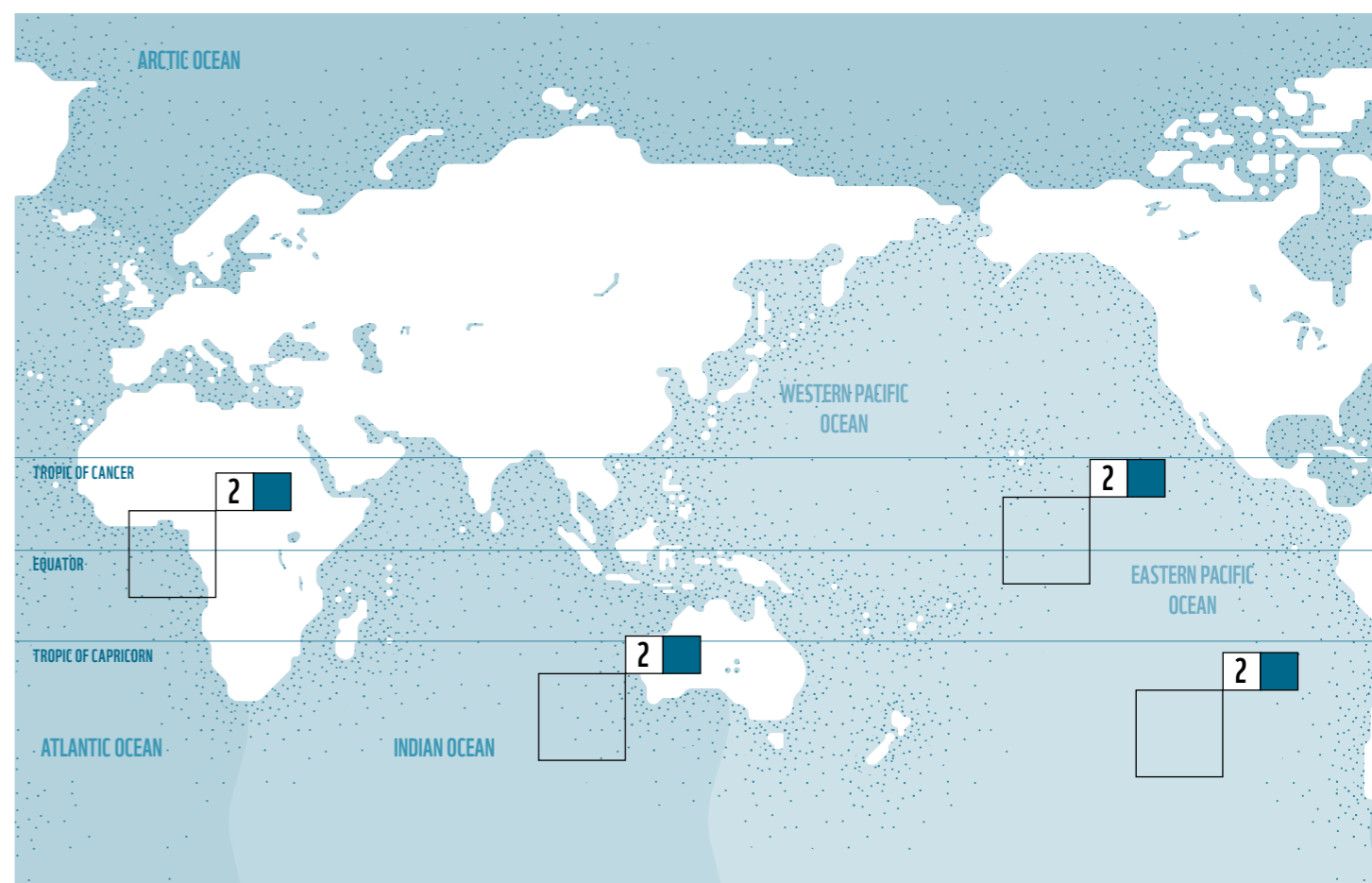
currently working with Satlink and the University of Cádiz to evaluate the nature of tuna schools’ associations with drifting FADs - the most recent findings have been presented at the last IOTC WPTT, applying a Machine Learning model recently published in a peer-reviewed journal.

### Bycatch release / best handling

- Manta tagging program in the Atlantic Ocean: tag 10 mobulids and analyze its post release survival and behaviour.
- Independent verification of the application of the Code of Good Practices

### Reduction / mitigation of ecosystem impacts

- in mid-2021, the fishery launched a biodegradable FAD project in the Atlantic Ocean, in which the main objectives are to test different materials, deploy ~350 bioFADs with the jelly-FAD design and test their efficiency, until the end of 2022
- the fleet is testing new hopper designs, with a new model about to be piloted in the Indian Ocean



### 3 EASTI FIP — Eastern Atlantic tuna - purse seine

FISHERY	Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna caught by purse seine vessels.
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	Eastern Atlantic Ocean
STATUS (Jan 2018 - Feb 2023)	The FIP entered its 5th year of implementation in January 2022 and in February 2022 the rating on fishery progress.org was upgraded from C to A.

#### Main achievements in 2021

- Rating is upgraded from previous C to A on fisheryprogress.org (February 22)
- **FADs:** FIP sponsors a jelly FAD workshop in Ghana (early September) - FAD report in development (management options of FAD and impacts, EASTI members FADs structure in use, BP for the construction, BP for deployment and tracking, reducing FADs impacts)
- **Electronic Monitoring (EM):** FIP supports the cost of installation of EM equipment on vessels
- **Research:** satellite tagging and manta ray grids on purse seines vessels in cooperation with AZTI (bycatch mitigation)
- **Data submission:** additional information supporting SKJ stock assessment in ICCAT (buoys data and ownership, Ghanian bait boats catches)
- **MSC certification:** Pre assessment and scoping document (draft) to rate Eastern Atlantic PS fishery against MSC

### 4 SIOTI FIP — Indian Ocean tuna - purse seine

FISHERY	Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by purse seine vessels.
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	Indian Ocean
STATUS (Apr 2017 - Jun 2022)	The fishery is well managed but it insist on the Indian Ocean Yellowfin tuna stock, that is overfished and in overfishing; Bolton is committed to reduce its sourcing of Yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean by 20% by 2024, to diminish the pressure on this overexploited stock.

The FIP entered its 4th year of implementation in April 2021 and is A rated on fisheryprogress.org.

### 5 INDONESIA POLE & LINE - HAND LINE FISHERIES — Indonesia Pole & Line and Handline yellowfin tuna

FISHERY	Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by PL and HL vessels.
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	Western Central Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean
STATUS (Apr 2017 - Jun 2023)	The FIP entered its 4yh year of implementation in April 2021 and is A rated on fisheryprogress.org

### 6 INDONESIA SULAWESI PURSE SEINE FIP Indonesia Southeast Sulawesi yellowfin tuna

FISHERY	The first Indonesian FIP for Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by small purse seine vessels.
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	Western Central Pacific Ocean
STATUS (Jan 2018 - Feb 2023)	The FIP entered its 4th year of implementation in December 2021 and is A rated on fisheryprogress.org.

#### Main achievements in 2021

The FIP independent review that was finalized in April 2022 found that despite all the good progressive work conducted to date, the overall MSC scores did not alter from that of the 2018 pre-assessment or the first-year review. This is due to a number of key deliverables not being finalized and/or implemented into the fishery.

The FIP has four areas that need improvement in order to reach its potential, these are:

- Finalization of the harvest strategy and harvest control rules development and implementation, with emphasis on implementation;
- Improving data for primary, secondary and ETP species through greater compliance/verification of e-logbooks and increased observer coverage and data quality/consistency;
- Significantly improving observer coverage and data quality/consistency; and
- Greater implementation and consistency of compliance and enforcement tools, measures, and sanctions

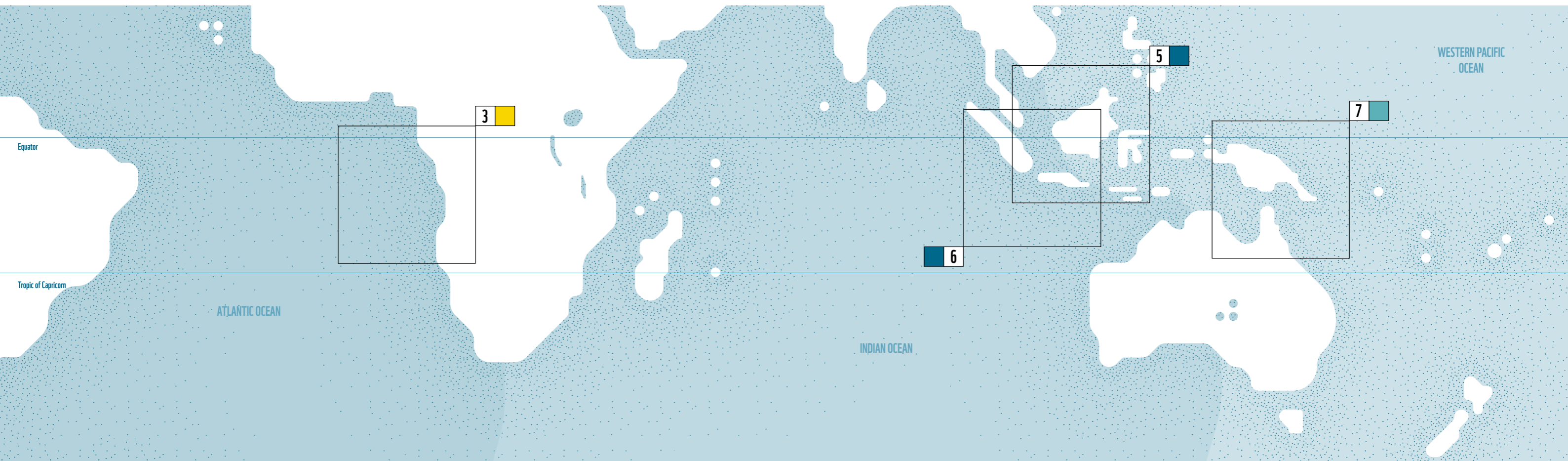
### 7 SOLOMON ISLANDS FISHERY

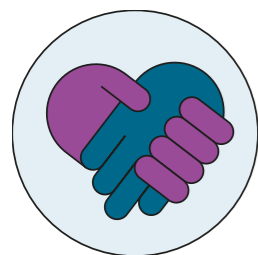
#### Solomon Islands yellowfin tuna - purse seine

FISHERY	Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by purse seine vessels.
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	Western Central Pacific Ocean
STATUS	MSC certified and Fairtrade certified

During their various stages of development, all FIPs are available for public consultation on the Fishery Progress website: fisheryprogress.org  
Fisheryprogress.org is a website that gathers and keeps track of information regarding the progress of global fishery improvement projects. Starting with the information shared and uploaded by the FIP itself, it also rates FIPs on an A to E scale using:

- A indicates Advanced Progress
- B indicates Good Progress
- C indicates Some Recent Progress
- D indicates Some Past Progress
- E indicates Negligible Progress





## GOAL 2 ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGE

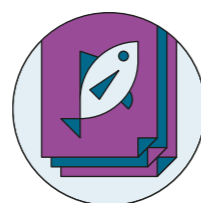
Achieving the partnership's objectives requires introducing changes, particularly in fisheries management, that can effectively safeguard the health of the ocean and the livelihood of the communities that depend on it. The ambitious objectives of this partnership cannot be achieved through the action of a single stakeholder, but require the engagement of multiple stakeholders, including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), corporations, and civil society. The objective of this advocacy process is to influence market incentives and policy development. The ultimate goal of these actions is to generate a positive change within the sector and the development of new areas of policy to protect our environment and marine ecosystems.

Bolton, with support from WWF, worked during 2021 to strengthen its approach, involvement and visibility in advocacy activities, to play an important role in advocating international decision makers towards a more sustainable management of fisheries and stocks.

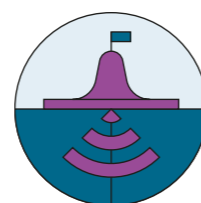
This includes objectives such as:



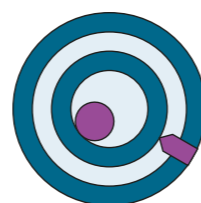
Stocks recovery, develop or improve harvest strategies and harvest control rules.



The conclusion of updated and reliable stock assessments.



The strengthening of FAD (Fish Aggregating Device) management measures.



The requirement of 100% observer coverage (human or electronic) on fishing vessels, and others.

In 2021 Bolton created a dedicated internal Advocacy Team, including the participation of its main supplier, Tri Marine, with the objective of setting priorities to guide advocacy efforts, particularly at RFMOs, according to the current existing situation of different tuna fisheries and stocks. At the same time, a schedule of meetings has been established between Bolton and WWF to share information on the status of fisheries, to align advocacy actions as much as possible and study the possibility of launching joint actions.

In this framework, in 2021 Bolton strengthened its cooperation with other like-minded stakeholders; initiated direct engagement in advocacy activities, particularly at RFMOs; and worked to increase its advocacy-related media presence and communication.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



### Bolton advocacy activities through ISSF

Bolton is one of the founding members of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), a global, non-profit organization whose participating companies and partners include several of the world's most eminent scientists, seafood companies and various NGOs, including WWF. The organization's objectives include long-term tuna stock sustainability, promotion of the protection and health of the marine ecosystem, and the reduction of bycatch. Bolton participates, both directly and indirectly, in ISSF's advocacy activities for RFMOs and strongly advocates that RFMO members adopt and implement science-based management measures to ensure that tuna stocks and their ecosystems are managed comprehensively and sustainably. Advocacy activities are also directed at other stakeholders, including large-scale retail trade, with the aim of increasing the sustainability of the offer at retail level.

An area of particular engagement in this first phase of advocacy outreach concerned the status of the Yellowfin tuna stock in the Indian Ocean which, according to scientific research, has been overfished since 2015. The worrying state of this stock led Bolton to publicly committing in 2021, for the first time, to reducing its sourcing of Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna by 20% with respect to the 2017-2019 average by 2024 in the event that the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), responsible for the management of yellowfin tuna, were unable to implement a credible rebuilding program based on scientific advice.

### Bolton participation in other advocacy groups

In 2021 Bolton coordinated with seafood retailers and processors associations such as the Tuna Protection Alliance (TUPA) and the Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) and initiated engagement with European retailers by participating as an observer in initiatives in favor of stronger traceability in the seafood supply chain as part of the reform of the EU Control Regulation.

In February 2022, Bolton applied to become a member of the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC), an advocacy body established by the European Union representing stakeholders and groups of interest in the fishing sector. Its mission is to provide advice to EU institutions and Member States to promote the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of fishing resources.

In the same period, Bolton has become an official member of the NAPA (North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy) group. This advocacy group includes more than 50 global retailers, food service companies, and suppliers who share the goal of supplying a growing demand for sustainable and eco labeled fish products. Specifically, NAPA aims at restoring the MSC certification for three iconic pelagic stocks - Northeast Atlantic mackerel, Atlanto-Scandian herring, and Northeast Atlantic blue whiting - through an unprecedented coalition of key business leverage. The activity of this advocacy group is of particular importance for Bolton as the North Atlantic Ocean is the main area of sourcing for the company's mackerels.

In March 2022, the Global Sustainable Development Director Food, Luciano Pirovano, was elected as chairman of the Sustainability Working Group of AIPCE CEP, the European Association that brings together national associations from the entire fisheries sector - fresh, frozen, processed and preserved fish. The Association has a strong voice in the European institutional framework where it plays a strategic role as a member of the main EU bodies through lobbying and advocacy activities. As chairman of the Sustainability Working Group, Luciano Pirovano will contribute to the development of the sustainability strategy for the entire fisheries sector in Europe, with the mission of giving a strong boost to the global problems of supply chain traceability and environmental and social responsibility.

# -20%

## COMMITMENT TO REDUCE YELLOWFIN TUNA SOURCING FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN BY 2024 COMPARED TO THE 2017-2019 AVERAGE

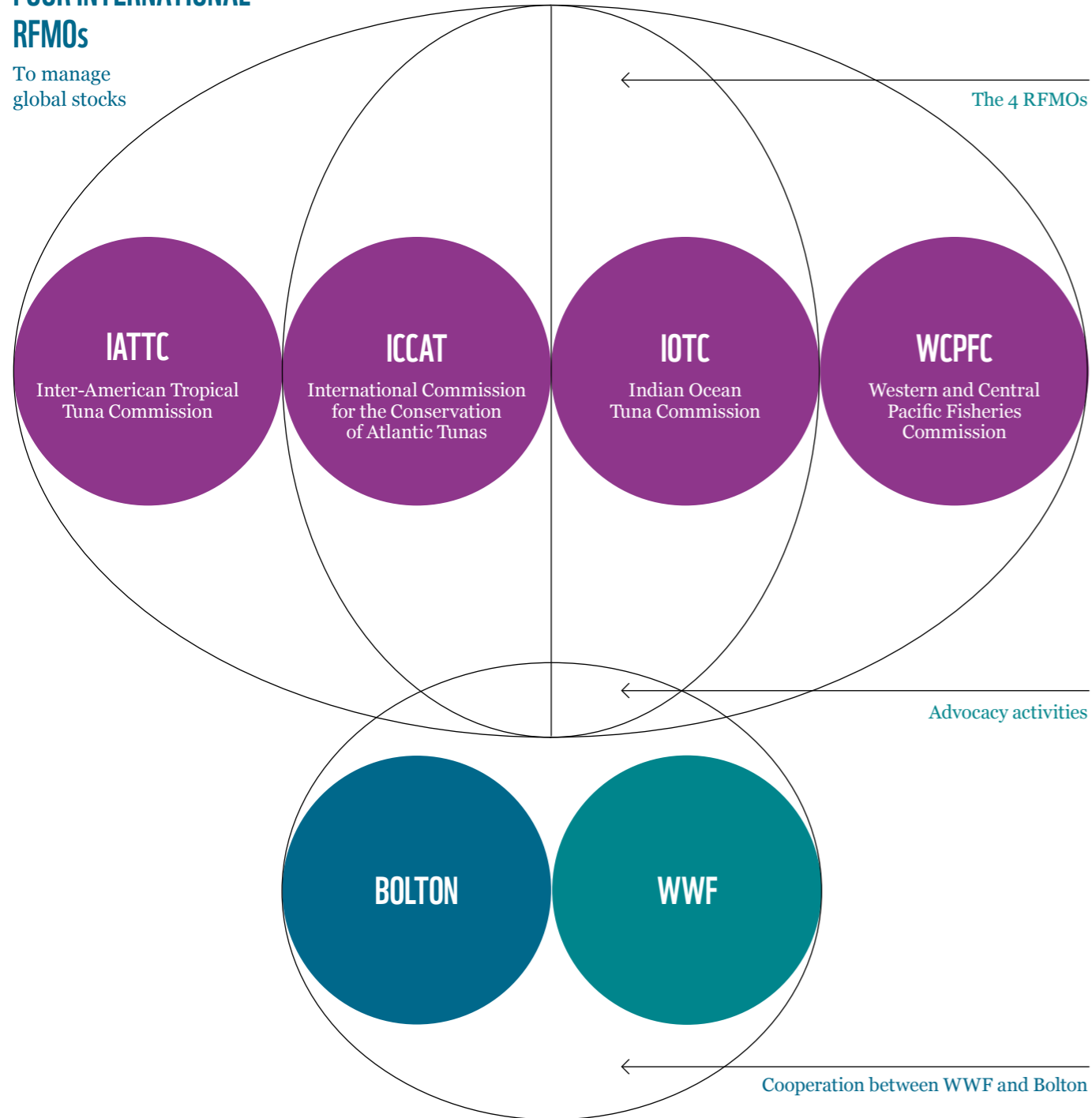
## ADVOCACY AT RFMOS

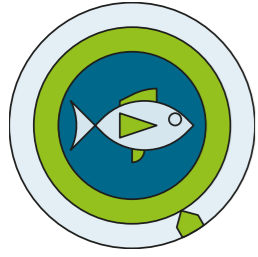
Bolton started in 2021 its direct or indirect involvement in advocacy activities directed at the four key RFMOs responsible for the management of tuna fisheries in four different regions of the world: the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC); the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). In addition to its involvement as part of ISSF, Bolton issued individual advocacy statements prior to the annual meetings of IATTC and IOTC, reached out to its partners and other relevant industry stakeholders prior and during RFMO meetings, and engaged through its participation in Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs), such

as through the EASTI FIP for the Atlantic in preparation of the ICCAT meeting. Bolton participated as an observer at the annual meetings of IATTC, IOTC and WCPFC directly and/or in coordination with Tri Marine. Bolton participated in the IOTC meeting as part of the European Union delegation.

### FOUR INTERNATIONAL RFMOs

To manage global stocks





### GOAL 3 INCREASING TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

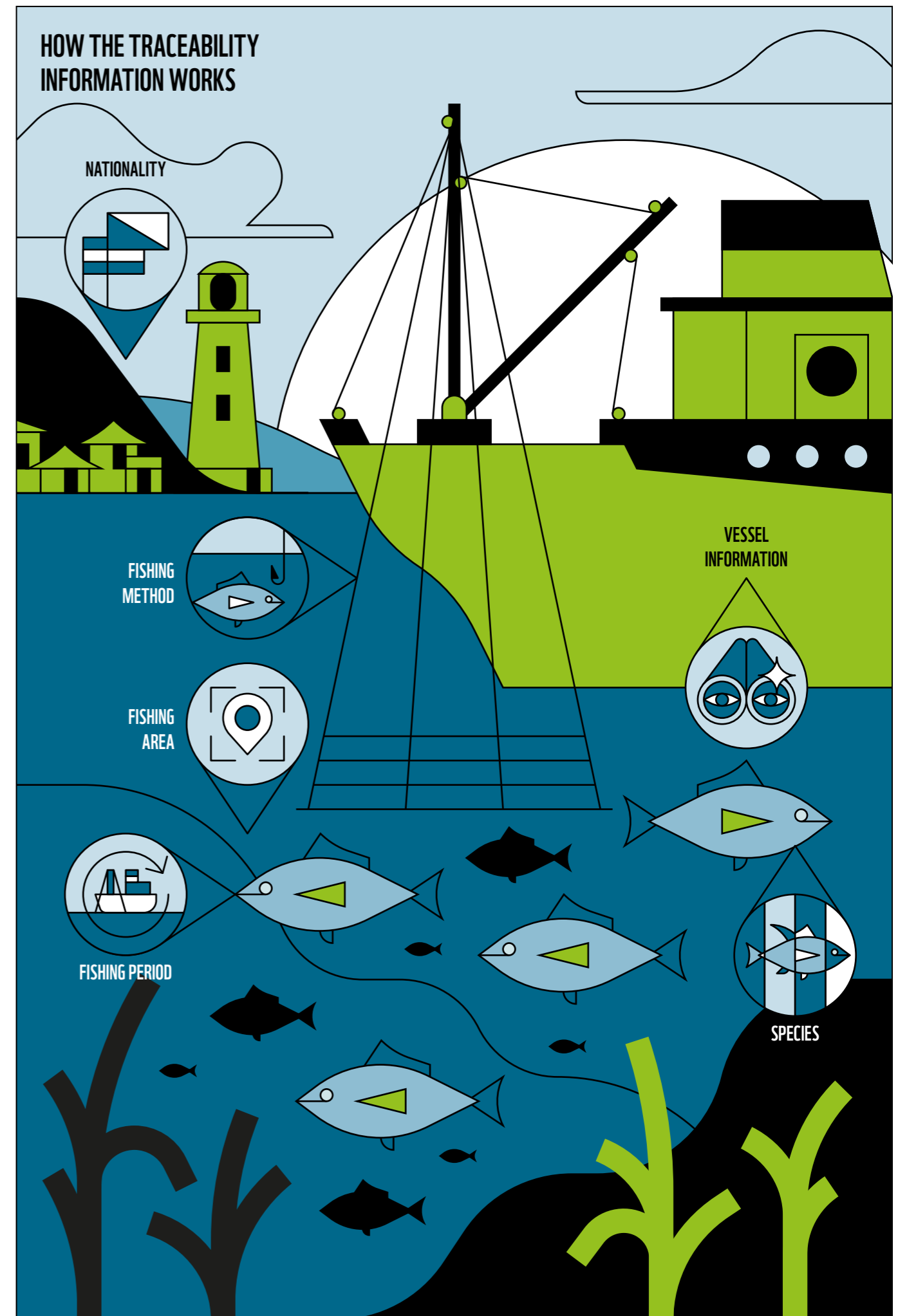
The partnership aims at improving the traceability and the transparency of the activities related to the seafood supply chain and its products.

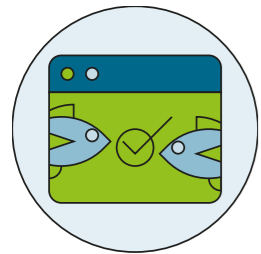
This is an important workstream as:

- Greater transparency helps to fight fraud, food waste, illegal fishing, human rights abuses and environmental degradation in supply chains
- Transparency is about bringing a positive transformation to ocean stewardship and delivering significant advantages to industry
- There is a growing demand by consumers and supply chain partners to have access to reliable information about the origins of their products
- International obligations and national law increasingly require greater transparency in fishing operations and supply chains.

Adopting good traceability practices requires the collection of tracking data for every vessel and sourcing activity -- from the open sea to the harbor. This is a challenging process, involving ongoing research, innovation and development for technological solutions such as GPS (Global Positioning System), AIS (Automatic Identification System) and VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) to support and improve vessel monitoring. Transparent information sharing allows both consumers and markets to verify all actions undertaken during a product's journey and make informed decisions. These activities are also fundamental in tackling the problem of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. This is one of the biggest threats to sustainable fishing practices, which also impacts the health of the marine environment, the respect of human rights and labour standards and the keeping of a fair seafood market system.

As part of our renewed partnership commitments, the company has strengthened its commitments on transparency and traceability.





## Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability

Bolton has been a member of the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) since 2018 and has continued its engagement with this working group. The GDST is an international platform, promoted by WWF, of seafood industry players and experts that was established to develop a framework for interoperable seafood traceability and to enhance the level and quality of traceability in the seafood sector. It organizes meetings and webinars within various working groups. In March 2020, thanks to the joint work of all its participants, it launched the first GDST Standards and Guidelines for Interoperable Seafood Traceability Systems. Bolton representatives have actively participated and provided input to the initiative by sharing the data of the company's traceability system, thus allowing for the development and completion of a pilot project on interoperability between a company and a retailer.

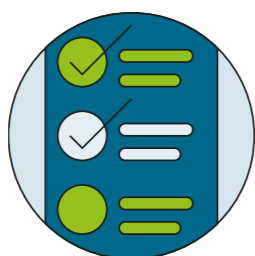
As of November 2021, Bolton is an endorser of the GDST standard and it has started working for the development of a pilot project on the adoption of the standard on one of its product lines.



## Certifications

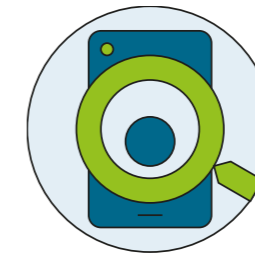
Bolton was one of the first companies in the world to develop an advanced traceability system certified by DNV and by AENOR, independent certification bodies, in accordance with the ISO 22005:2008 standard. This system allows Bolton to trace every single can of tuna produced by the company from the moment the tuna is caught to the table of the end consumer.

**All Bolton's plants producing MSC certified products are covered by the MSC Chain of Custody certification, which ensures full traceability and separation from non-certified products.**



## IUU Risk Assessment

Supported by its objectives to enhance transparency of activities throughout its supply chain, and building on the IUU Risk Assessments conducted in the first phase of the partnership, WWF initiated in 2021 the development of a general IUU Risk Assessment that can provide the basis for any further risk assessment analysis.



## Transparency 4.0

In September 2020, in order to increase transparency and enhance consumer communication, Bolton launched a new, online, real time traceability tool. The information provided includes the fishing method used, the ocean and FAO area of origin, the name of the vessel and the production plant for each single Rio Mare and Saupiquet tuna product in the market. Consumers can connect from any device – a smartphone, tablet or PC - and enter the code found on the product in order to obtain all the relevant information, including data about topics related to human rights and sustainable fishing. This project has evolved over many years of collaboration between IBM and Bolton, resulting in the increased efficiency, control and automation of processes. The platform is active in 21 countries where Bolton's products are marketed. It has a global reach and is one of the first in the world to have been integrated into a complex supply chain, enabling Bolton, which sources its procurements from different oceans, to guarantee the origin of its sourcing, by keeping track of all the stages that tuna goes through across the production chain to guarantee consumers the utmost quality and safety.

Between the tool's activation and December 2021, the transparency platform dealt with a total of 5868 requests from consumers. Less than 1% of the total requests resulted in a negative outcome because of a system's malfunctioning, which is why we are currently working on the improvement of the user-friendliness of the tool's interface. The strong majority of the requests came from Italian customers, followed by Canadian and German ones. Most of the requests regarded the Filetti in Vetro, which is a product strongly associated with a high quality, and therefore a stronger customer's curiosity about its origin. In comparison, the canned products did not receive as much attention in the transparency system, as they are typically associated with a faster and less attentive type of consumption.





## GOAL 4 ENSURING SOCIAL AND LABOR STANDARDS

The respect of the fundamental human rights is the essential baseline of Bolton's sustainability policy and strategy. For this reason, the company works actively to ensure compliance with human rights throughout the tuna supply chain, one of the longest and most complex in the food industry because it involves multiple actors, most of them in developing countries, each operating according to their own legal and cultural models that may not guarantee some aspects related to respect for human rights. In addition, the isolated conditions in which this fishing activity takes place, thousands of kilometers away from the coast and in journeys that last several months, and the large presence of women in the production process, must be taken into consideration.

### ISSF Conservation Measure 9.1 "Public Policy on Social and Labor Standards"

Bolton is committed and compliant with the new ISSF Conservation Measure 9.1 "Public Policy on Social and Labor Standards", into force since January 1st, 2021, that states that processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall develop and publish a public social and labor standards policy and/or sourcing policy that applies to it and its supply chain, including production facilities and fishing and supply vessels, that addresses, at a minimum, the following categories:

- Forced labor
- Child labor
- Freedom of association
- Wages, benefits and employment contracts
- Working hours
- Health and safety
- Discrimination, harassment and abuse
- Grievance mechanisms

### 100% ISABEL Atún de Pesca Responsable

In addition, since 2020 Isabel brand has 100% of its tuna under the AENOR Atún de Pesca Responsable seal in Spain, the only certification in the world that guarantees the highest social and labour standards for sea workers, under ILO Convention 188, in addition to the control of fishing activity, ensuring that vessels are in optimal conditions for sailing and responsible environmental practices with the oceans and their resources.

### Other Policies

Since June 2019, all Food Business Unit of Bolton Group suppliers have been required to respect the public Bolton Food's Vessels Code of Conduct for Tuna Suppliers. This code was drafted in consideration of the principles of the ILO convention and the Seafood Task Force, as well as the new public company's Tuna Sourcing Policy. The latter, in particular, requires compliance for all large-scale purse seiners by 2022 and for all vessels by 2024. This policy covers fundamental labour standards including human trafficking, child labour, health and safety standards and conditions.

## OXFAM PARTNERSHIP



Since 2020, Bolton has been working in a long-term, multi-country partnership with Oxfam to promote the concept of "healthier, more sustainable food", not only for the environment and those who consume it, but also for those who produce it. The aim of this partnership is to work together towards a tuna supply chain that ensures inclusiveness, gender equality, respect for human rights and safe and decent working conditions for all actors involved, and to develop new standards of social business sustainability in the tuna industry, thus contributing responsibly to an increasingly fair and inclusive supply chain.

The partnership with Oxfam has several goals:

### 1. Develop a Human Rights Impact Assessment and a revision of the human rights and social company policies:

- Desk Analysis of Corporate Policies related to Human Rights.
  - Development of a due diligence process using the Oxfam's *Human Rights Impact Assessment* (HRIA) methodology in the supply chains of Ecuador, Morocco and Indonesia. This happens through a country analysis of the socio-economic, legal and cultural context, an assessment of the local tuna market and through several interviews with key stakeholders, such as internal staff, suppliers, tuna sector associations, international organizations, trade unions and workers representatives, and NGO.
  - Design a Human Rights Due Diligence Management System, that will provide a framework and tools to adopt a governance process through which the company puts in place a series of tools or measures to identify, avoid, prevent, mitigate and explain how it addresses actual and potential negative impacts in its own activities, its supply chain and other business relationships to ensure that respect for Human Rights is effectively monitored throughout the company's supply chain.
- The core of the HRIA is a field mission undertaken by performing (a.) in-depth interviews with BF's workers and other rights holders within and outside company's supply chain and (b.) a final stakeholder roundtable to deepen the analysis and validate the findings. The outcome of this process is the launching of public a *Human Rights Impact Assessment* Reports that include Bolton Food's commitments in order to avoid, prevent and mitigate the potential human rights risks along its supply chains;

### 2. Improve the well-being of the communities where the company is present

### 3. Raise awareness of the social scope of sustainability

Communicate the commitments made with the aim of bringing about positive change in the industry and setting an example in the sector.

As part of this partnership with Oxfam, throughout the period of analysis of this report, Bolton has worked on the creation of a transversal Human Rights Committee formed by all central functions and all countries, on the HRIA in the tuna supply chain in Ecuador, and on the review and update of corporate Policies and Codes related to the protection of Human Rights - Bolton Group Human Rights Policy, Bolton Food Code of Conduct for Vessels and Bolton Food Code of Conduct for Suppliers - to align them with the highest international standards (the Ethical Trading Initiative Base Code, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights and the International Labor Organization Core Conventions).

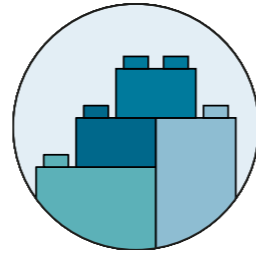


# AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Educating consumers towards the importance of healthy oceans and sustainable management of natural resources is one of the core areas of work of the partnership. Bolton Food and WWF believe in the value of shifting consumer behavior, given the scientific reliability of our communication, the need to address seafood consumption preferring quality over quantity and the key role that consumers can have on this matter.

## Marketing and PR activities

In 2021, the initiative continued to communicate the efforts and commitments through the campaign “Together for the Oceans”, that is developed specifically for the partnership’s communication using the cartoon character of Ondina, to educate and raise awareness in the target identified (mothers with kids) on the sustainability issues faced by the ocean and Rio Mare’s commitments. The campaign was first launched in 2018, and in 2021 it was present in 9 countries. It was designed to allow for a diverse range of marketing activities, such as PR activities, events, in store activations and corporate advertising, on the days around World Oceans Day (8th of June). In 2021, it was decided to focus “Together for the Oceans” on the partnership renewal, which was announced on the 8th of June, through both digital materials and press pages. MSC-certified products were in promotion for the length of the campaign, and they were clearly identifiable in stores, thanks to specially designed packaging featuring information about the company’s commitment to sustainable fishing and about the partnership. In addition to a dedicated display for the products, each participating retailer was provided with additional information materials, as well as the support of promotional staff. On the 17th of June, Bolton Food and WWF participated to an important PR event in Genova, where Luciano Pirovano, Global Sustainable Development Director of the Food Business Unit of Bolton Group and Alessandro Buzzi, Mediterranean Marine Initiative Tuna Regional Manager of WWF, had the occasion to discuss the important results obtained in the past four years of partnership and our commitments for the future on sustainable fishing and marine protection.



In 2021, the initiative continued to communicate the efforts and commitments through the campaign “Together for the Oceans”, that is developed specifically for the partnership’s communication.



## Educational school projects in Italy

The school projects for primary school children and for their teachers and families were implemented and expanded, that is designed and developed together with specialized agency “La Fabbrica” in 2020. The school projects are a key part of the “Together for the Oceans” campaign and aims at educating in the culture of sustainability, especially the younger generations, because only through a constant commitment to environmental and sustainability education is possible to foster a change in behavior and lifestyle choices capable of creating a better, richer, greener, healthier and fairer future for all.

Indeed, the Italian education system often lacks the capability to include programs dedicated to environmental and social

sustainability education. The project’s target are children between 7 and 10 years old, but also their families and teachers are involved through specific activations. Therefore, the project contributes to strengthening the educational role of the partnership communication and stimulating children to get involved in order to face the great global challenges. The testimonial of the school projects is Ondina, a little girl on a journey to save the Ocean, who is presented on all physical and digital materials prepared for the project, such as the illustrated book with Ondina’s story. During the school year 2020/2021, a total of 3.140 schools were reached, corresponding to 20% of Italian primary schools, and involving more than 112.500 children.

**3,140**  
SCHOOLS REACHED

**112,500**  
CHILDREN INVOLVED

**4,500**  
PAPER KITS DISTRIBUTED

**702**  
PROJECTS FROM 430 CLASSES

**18.000**  
TEACHER GUIDES IMPLEMENTED



# GLOSSARY

## MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is a global, voluntary, independent certification scheme that rewards more sustainable fishing practices and sets environmental standards for more sustainable seafood. MSC certification has been successful in reducing by-catch, improving stock health and responsible management. The MSC label is displayed only on seafood coming from MSC-certified fisheries that meet MSC's standard.

## CREDIBLE & COMPREHENSIVE FISHERY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

A FIP is a multi-stakeholder, stepwise effort that utilizes the power of the private sector, community fisher groups and/or government to incentivize positive changes and improve fishing practices and management. The aim of a FIP should be to have a fishery perform at the level of an unconditional pass against the MSC standard (i.e., scoring 80 or above on each performance indicator). To be identified as “robust” or “comprehensive”, a FIP needs to conform to the following criteria:

- a scoping document and MSC preassessment has been completed by an independent third-party auditor;
- an action plan has been established;
- the FIP has been publicly launched;
- the FIP has entered its implementation stage;
- the fishery is making progress according to the action plan designed within the agreed time frame;
- progress is to be evaluated periodically by an external independent consultant;
- the FIP has to have an A or B rating on fisheryprogress.org.

## FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG

Fisheryprogress.org is a website that, in addition to gathering and keeping track of information on the progress of global fishery improvement projects, also rates FIPs - starting from the information directly shared and uploaded by the FIP itself - on a A to E scale with:

- A indicates Advanced Progress
- B indicates Good Progress
- C indicates Some Recent Progress
- D indicates Some Past Progress
- E indicates Negligible Progress

## AQUACULTURE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) is an independent, non-profit organization with global influence. The ASC's primary role is to manage global standards for responsible aquaculture. ASC works with aquaculture producers, seafood processors, retail and food service companies, scientists, conservation groups and consumers to: recognize and reward responsible aquaculture through the ASC aquaculture certification programme and seafood label; promote best environmental and social choices when buying seafood; contribute to transforming seafood markets towards sustainability.

## AQUACULTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

An Aquaculture Improvement Project (AIP) is an alliance of farmers, processors, retailers, NGOs, and other stakeholders, working together to improve seafood farming production practices and reduce the impact that fish farming can have on wild habitats and the diverse life they support. AIPs also help farms earn Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certification. By sourcing responsibly farmed seafood and adopting procurement policies that support improved conditions at seafood farms, the food service industry can help ensure that fish farms source feed from sustainable, wild-caught fisheries, promoting and achieving more efficient

energy and water use and, ultimately, healthier and more diverse aquatic habitats.

## REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (RFMOS)

The Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOS) are international organizations formed by countries with fishing interests in an area. Some of them manage all the fish stocks of a specific area, while others focus on specific highly migratory species, notably tuna, throughout vast geographical areas. The organizations are open both to countries in the region (“coastal states”) and countries with interests in the fisheries concerned. While some RFMOs play a purely advisory role, most have management powers to set catch and fishing effort limits, technical measures and control obligations. RFMOs which manage highly migratory species, mainly tropical tuna:

- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

WWF is involved in the main tuna organizations as an observer and an active stakeholder at advocacy level.

## ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems as it can undermine national and regional efforts to manage fisheries sustainably as well as endeavours to conserve marine biodiversity. IUU is a broad term that describes a wide variety of fishing activities. IUU fishing is found in all types of fisheries; it occurs both on the high seas and in areas within national jurisdiction. It concerns all aspects and stages of the capture and utilization of fish, and it may sometimes be associated with organized crime. IUU fishing represents up to 26 million tons of fish caught annually, valued at USD 10 to USD 23 billion. The FAO refers to IUU fishing as follows:

- **Illegal fishing:** conducted by national or foreign vessels in waters under the jurisdiction of a State, without the permission of that State, or in contravention of its laws and regulations; conducted by vessels flying the flag of States that are parties to a relevant regional fisheries management organization but operate in contravention of the conservation and management measures adopted by that organization and by which the States are bound, or relevant provisions of the applicable international law; or in violation of national laws or international obligations, including those undertaken by cooperating States to a relevant regional fisheries management organization.
- **Unreported fishing:** fishing activities which have not been reported, or have been misreported, to the relevant national authority, in contravention of national laws and regulations; or are undertaken in the area of competence of a relevant regional fisheries management organization which have not been reported or have been misreported, in contravention

of the reporting procedures of that organization.

- **Unregulated fishing:** in the area of application of a relevant regional fisheries management organization that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by those flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, or by a fishing entity, in a manner that is not consistent with or contravenes the conservation and management measures of that organization; or in areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law.

## ISSF

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), founded in 2009, is a global, non-profit organization whose participating companies include the most eminent scientists, marine biologists and various NGOs, including WWF International. ISSF's objective is to guarantee tuna stock sustainability, reduce by-catch and promote marine ecosystem health. Participating companies choose to commit to honoring the conservation measures and to undergo annual audits).

## OXFAM

Oxfam is a global movement of people working in Italy and in over 70 countries worldwide to fight inequality and end poverty and injustice. Oxfam saves lives when disaster strikes, creates sustainable development activities with local communities, proposes responsible lifestyles, by lobbying in support of fairer rules that combat inequality, and safeguard poorer, more vulnerable individuals, by meeting the requirements of consumers and the environment.

# RESOURCES

You can know more about the partnership and related projects by visiting the following websites:

## WWF AND BOLTON PARTNERSHIP

[https://wwf.panda.org/act/partner\\_with\\_wwf/corporate\\_partnerships/who\\_we\\_work\\_with/bolton\\_food/](https://wwf.panda.org/act/partner_with_wwf/corporate_partnerships/who_we_work_with/bolton_food/)

## WWF and Bolton Partnership (Italian web-site)

<https://www.wwf.it/cosa-facciamo/aziende-e-markets/i-nostri-partner/bolton-alimentari/>

## Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standard for certified seafood

<https://www.msc.org/about-us/standards>

## SIOTIFIP

<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indian-ocean-tuna-purse-seine-sioti>

## Opagac

[www.opagac.org](http://www.opagac.org)

## Indonesia tuna FIPs - pole&line handline

<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesian-western-and-central-pacific-skipjack-tuna-pole-and-line>  
<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesian-indian-ocean-skipjack-pole-and-line>

## Indonesia Southeast Sulawesi yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna FIP - purse seine

<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesia-southeast-sulawesi-yellowfin-tuna-and-skipjack-tuna-purse-seine>

## Solomon Islands tuna fishery

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/solomon-islands-skipjack-and-yellowfin-tuna-purse-seine-and-pole-and-line/>

## Tunacons FIP

<https://tunacons.org>

## Eastern Atlantic tuna FIP

<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/eastern-atlantic-tuna-purse-seine>

## IUU fishing definition

<https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/background/what-is-iuu-fishing/en/>

## Bolton Group 2021 Sustainability Report

<https://www.boltongroup.net/en/stories/2021-sustainability-report/>

## The Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability

<http://traceability-dialogue.org/>

## WWF Global tuna strategy

[https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/tuna\\_strategy\\_2021\\_web.pdf](https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/tuna_strategy_2021_web.pdf)

## Bolton commitment on Indian Ocean Yellowfin tuna

<https://www.boltongroup.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Statement-Bolton-Food-ENG.pdf>

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## WWF & BOLTON FOOD PARTNERSHIP REPORT YEAR 5

### Independent Verification Statement

#### Introduction

In June 2017 WWF Italy Onlus, WWF International ('WWF') and Bolton Alimentari SpA ('Bolton Food' or 'BF') publicly launched an international partnership to find solutions to move BF towards sustainable production and sourcing practices. This collaboration aims at increasing the amount of sustainably sourced seafood available in the market, support well-managed fisheries, foster transparency along the seafood supply chain and increase consumer's awareness of the importance of sustainable seafood.

WWF and Bolton Food renewed their transformational partnership for another four years (2021-2024) to promote more sustainable fishing activities. In addition, phase II of the partnership will strengthen advocacy efforts for responsible management of tuna stocks globally. The report concerns the fifth year of the partnership and summarizes the progress made during the period between January 2021 and March 2022 towards sustainability and outlines the activities undertaken to develop steady steps towards improving the environmental sustainability of the BF's supply chain.

DNV Business Assurance Italy Srl ('DNV') was commissioned by the Management of WWF Italy and Bolton Food to carry out a verification activity of the above-mentioned Report.

WWF and BF are responsible for the collection, analysis, aggregation and presentation of information contained in the Report. The verification activity assumes that the data and information provided in good faith by the Organizations are complete, sufficient and authentic.

Our responsibility in performing the work commissioned, in accordance with the terms of reference agreed on with the Organizations, is solely towards the Management of WWF and BF.

This Verification Statement is intended solely for the information and use of the stakeholders of WWF and BF, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

#### Scope of Verification and Audit Methodology

The objective of our work was to provide an evaluation of the reliability and accuracy of the reported progress and the supporting performance data.

Our verification engagement was planned and conducted in accordance with the DNV's model, which is based on our professional experience and international assurance best practice.

The evaluation was conducted to a limited level of assurance.

Coherently to what defined with WWF and BF, we have planned and conducted the verification activity through online interviews to assess the level of capability of WWF and BF to demonstrate the content of the Report in terms of statements and data reported.

As part of our independent evaluation, our work included:

- conducting interviews with key WWF and BF personnel responsible for the management of the partnership and for monitoring progress against the commitments set out under the partnership;
- reviewing documentary evidence provided by WWF and BF including action and monitoring plans, assessments and data analysis, presentations, internal and external communications, and independent reports and certificates;
- assessing the disclosure and presentation of information provided to ensure consistency with the reviewed supporting documentation.

We performed sample-based audits of the following:

- mechanisms for the implementation of sustainable policies, as described in the Report;
- processes for generating, gathering and managing the quantitative and qualitative information as contained in the Report.

#### Conclusions

Based on our verification activities, no evidence has come to our attention to suggest that:

- the reported progress against the partnership's commitments for fifth year does not provide a fair representation of the progress under the partnership for the defined period;
- there are significant omissions which could affect stakeholders' ability to make informed judgements on the partnership's reported performance against commitments.

We appreciate and recognize the clear desire of Bolton Food to continue with the roadmap agreed with WWF and their commitment to influence the entire sector towards better sustainability standards and consumers are able to make more informed choices.

#### DNV's Competence and Independence

DNV was not involved in the preparation of any statements or data included in the Report.

DNV maintains complete impartiality toward stakeholders interviewed during the verification process.

DNV expressly disclaims any liability or co-responsibility for any decision a person or an entity may make based on this Independent Verification Statement.

For DNV Business Assurance Italy Srl




Caterina Birolini  
Lead Verifier



Riccardo Arena  
Reviewer

Vimercate (MB), 27 Luglio 2022



**BOLTON IS WORKING TOGETHER  
WITH WWF FOR MORE  
SUSTAINABLE FISHING AND TO  
SAFEGUARD THE OCEANS: TO  
PROTECT OURSELVES, YOU, OUR  
FUTURE GENERATIONS AND THE  
ECOSYSTEM WE SHARE.**



Working together  
to support more  
sustainable fishing  
and our oceans.

