



WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR
SUSTAINABLE
FISHERIES



WWF & BOLTON FOOD

PARTNERSHIP REPORT
2016-2020

THE REPORT CONCERNS THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WWF ITALIA ONLUS,
WWF INTERNATIONAL AND BOLTON FOOD S.P.A. AND THE RESULTS ACHIEVED FROM JULY 2019 TO DECEMBER 2020.
TODAY BOLTON FOOD S.P.A. IS THE NEW BOLTON GROUP BUSINESS UNIT, DEDICATED TO THE FOOD SECTOR
AND INCLUDES BOLTON FOOD, SAUPIQUET AND GRUPO CONSERVAS GARAVILLA S.L.

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INDEX

FOREWORD	6
INTRODUCTION: OUR VISION	8
WORKING TOGETHER: WWF & BOLTON FOOD	10
PARTNERSHIP GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	13
TOWARDS A NEW COMMITMENT	30
GLOSSARY	34

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FOREWORD



Bolton Food credits

LUCA ALEMANNO BOLTON FOOD CEO

Bolton Food has been operating globally for more than half a century and nowadays our products are sold in over 60 countries worldwide. In our daily activities we always pay meticulous attention to the selection of raw materials, supply chain enhancement, sustainable fishing activities and the protection of human rights across our entire supply chain: that's why we have set a very ambitious target to become the most sustainable tuna company for the world.

Nevertheless, the biggest challenge we are facing is to increase supply chain sustainability, with regards to both raw materials and packaging where we will focus our strategies and energies to balance the relationship between an extractive and generative business model.

This is the result of a simple yet highly realistic observation: by 2030 there will be 10 billion people on the planet and natural resources will be more and more under severe pressure and we cannot continue to use them as we have been doing up to this present moment. This objective can only be achieved by improving the sustainability levels of our entire supply chain, which includes diversifying our procurements, focusing on the fishing methods' used, and respecting the human rights of all those involved. The achievement of the MSC certification for Fishery Improvement Projects that started with this partnership is a concrete example of the positive impact that can be generated by this type of partnership.

As market leaders we believe that it is our role to create the best practice

for the entire seafood industry. This is our commitment to all those who have chosen and continue to choose our products on a daily basis. Working with WWF to achieve more sustainable fishing and protect our oceans has certainly helped us to attain this goal, which we will continue to pursue in the future, following our motto "Partnership is our Leadership".

The partnership between WWF and Bolton Food demonstrates that companies are really and progressively increasing their attention towards concrete actions to transform their supply chain and their business models, ensuring a future for the Planet and for future generations. "Sustainability" is by now a central asset of innovative and forward-looking corporate strategies and WWF will keep pushing companies and markets to shift towards sustainable solutions.

The first four years of partnership with Bolton Food have been successful and full of key learnings for both of us. The public reporting of the partnership achievements and roadmap has been a crucial step to regularly check on our progress and to maintain a strong focus



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ALESSANDRA PRAMPOLINI DIRECTOR GENERAL WWF ITALY

on our shared goals in a dynamic and challenging environment such as the fishing sector.

The market is constantly evolving, consumers are becoming more conscious of the industry's impacts on the environment and of their proactive role as responsible purchasers. Bolton Food play a leading role in the European market and, by expanding the partnership to other countries across Europe, together we spread awareness amongst a wider number of consumers, with the final goal of shifting towards sustainable production and consumption across the whole seafood sector.

We look forward to keep working with Bolton Food for the next four years,

building on our shared experience to improve our projects consistently with the developments of the seafood sector and the conservation priorities. Our partnership aims at enhancing its vision towards the safeguard of marine biodiversity and the livelihood of communities that depend on it. The partnership's progress will be a key tool to ensure the long-term resilience of tuna and other species in healthy ecosystems and to promote ethical, legal, transparent and fully traceable fisheries.

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.

The corporate sector drives much of the global economy and has a specific responsibility to ensure that the natural resources and ecosystems that underpin their business are used sustainably by reducing their ecological footprint, encouraging sector and market shifts towards sustainable solutions, accelerating the policy changes that must occur if we are to shift to a more sustainable future.

Today, ocean ecosystems are endangered by several factors, including plastic pollution, climate change, overfishing and ghost gear, in addition to the hundreds of millions of people whose livelihoods depend on seafood as a resource for food or revenue.

WWF's vision for fisheries is to attain a global shift towards an ecosystem-based approach that not only supports sustainable seafood production and consumption, but also benefits the people, livelihoods and businesses that depend on them, thus balancing the exploitation of tuna with their fundamental role in ecosystem maintenance.

Due to their nature and desire to transform businesses and sectors, transformational partnerships always require a long-term vision. The implementation of significant, long-lasting changes requires persistence and effort.

Based on this vision, Bolton Food and WWF have teamed up to transform the future of tuna fisheries. This involves working towards a more sustainable supply chain that not only takes into account the health of the stocks from which the company sources its procurements, but also deals with other important challenges, including fighting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, endorsing 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.

This report summarizes the commitments, results, and activities achieved by the partnership between WWF and Bolton Food over the first phase of the partnership, with a focus on the last year 2019-2020.



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WORKING TOGETHER: WWF & BOLTON FOOD

In December 2016, WWF Italy and WWF International launched a four-year corporate partnership with Bolton Food's existing business which at that time, included Rio Mare, Saupiquet and Palmera. Its objective was to reshape the method used by the company to source and supply tuna and other seafood species.

The aim of the partnership was to move Bolton Food's supply chain towards a more sustainable, traceable and transparent method of sourcing, involving the implementation of all regulations and the guarantee of protecting human rights. By joining forces, this important international canned fish producer and the world's leading conservation organization aimed to deliver large scale impacts to ensure that our oceans are more sustainable and better managed both for us 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. In order to

achieve this, the involvement of all market players is essential. This explains why WWF engages with the corporate sector to develop better ways of doing business for conservation purposes, since every company depends on the environment in which it works. Business drives much of the global economy, and WWF believes that companies have a specific responsibility to ensure that the natural resources and ecosystems on which they depend are used sustainably and adequately protected. In particular, WWF focuses its efforts on those stakeholders that have the greatest potential to reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth, working together to find solutions to conservation challenges,

including deforestation, overfishing, water scarcity and climate change.

BOLTON FOOD'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Bolton Food, a leader in the canned tuna industry supplying over 60 countries throughout the world, is a part of the Bolton Group. The Bolton Group is an Italian, multinational company that has been producing and distributing fast moving consumer goods for more than 70 years. Thanks to sustainable sourcing and a responsible use of its raw

materials, the Bolton Group operates with respect for the planet and its resources for both present and future generations, through the adoption of its "We Care" sustainability plan. Since the launch of its sustainability activities, Bolton Food's sustainability strategy has been fully integrated with 'We Care'.

In 2009, the company participated in founding the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) with the aim of improving tuna sustainability. This commitment, which was integrated into its Corporate Social Responsibility program known as 'Responsible Quality' in 2011, has become one of Bolton Food's key strategic drivers.

It is based on four pillars including fishing, production, people and nutrition, with specific goals and targets set for each one of them, with the aim of achieving sustainability across the entire supply chain, from catch to consumer, in respect of the environment and people. This change in Bolton Food's strategic direction has become even more concrete and credible thanks to its partnership with WWF on environmental sustainability in 2016, and its alliance with Oxfam on social sustainability in 2020. These associations have enabled the company to move towards becoming a leader in the field while pursuing a steady course towards sustainability. To help protect the marine environment and become one of the

most sustainable and responsible businesses in the seafood market, Bolton Food's strategy is focused on specific targets:

1. To adopt and promote sustainable fishing;
2. To reduce the environmental impact of our factories and of our packaging;
3. To foster employee wellbeing and generate positive social impacts across the supply chain;
4. To manufacture premium-quality products for a varied, balanced diet.



WWF and Grupo Conservas Garavilla

Grupo Conservas Garavilla (GCG) is the Business Unit of Bolton Food producing brands including Isabel and Cuca for the Spanish, Moroccan and South-American markets.

In 2018 and 2019, WWF carried out a diagnosis of GCG's business model to evaluate its raw material sourcing practices to incorporate GCG's activity into the agreement between Bolton Food and WWF.

In 2020 GCG signed an agreement with WWF. In addition to establishing a series of sustainability priorities and policies regarding tuna fisheries, the agreement focused on assessing the sustainability levels of other key species including mussels and sardines, and reducing the environmental impact of GCG's operations throughout the supply chain. These targets are related to three key aspects:

SOURCING: assessing the sourcing of these species to promote a shift towards more sustainable practices.

1. Tuna: GCG is committed to Bolton Food's pledge to source 100% of its tuna from MSC certified or robust FIPs by 2024.

2. Mussels: a sustainability study has been carried out on the fisheries from which Bolton Food sources its procurements with the aim of establishing a proposal that will enable them to improve sustainability.

3. Sardines: a study has been carried out on the main fisheries supplying Bolton Food (Croatia, Morocco and Ecuador), and the sustainability of their fishing practices has been assessed.

TRANSPARENCY AND TRACEABILITY: complete transparency and traceability of both the company's own fleet and all the vessels involved in the supply chain through GCG's internal traceability system and the registration of Garavilla's fleet on [Transparentseas.org](https://transparentseas.org).

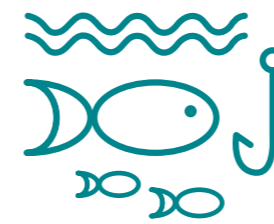
HUMAN RIGHTS: ensuring the implementation of Bolton Food's Human Rights policy in its supply chain.



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PARTNERSHIP GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

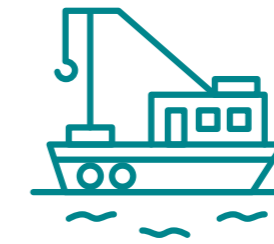
1



SHIFTING TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD SOURCING

The objective of the company is to increase the amount of more sustainable seafood products in its portfolio, including sourcing 100% of its Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna from MSC-certified fisheries or from robust 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.

2



INCREASING TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF SEAFOOD

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 that 100% of the tracking data of its company-owned vessels are 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.

3



PROMOTING SOCIAL AND LABOUR STANDARDS

Bolton Food has committed to developing a strong Human Rights policy aligned with international best practices. This policy will be incorporated into the company's management and audit system and into the company's sustainability reporting.

The partnership also covers other issues:



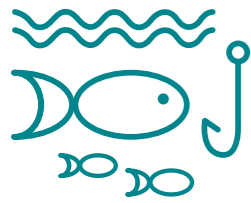
ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGE: In order to move the sector towards sustainability and to generate positive change across their global supply chains, WWF and Bolton Food have committed to advocate for full compliance with fishery regulations.



CONTRIBUTING TO A CONSERVATION PROJECT: the company contributed to supporting the management process for the development of a Marine Protected Area in the archipelago of the Solomon Islands.



ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION: the company has pledged to raise awareness among consumers and other markets stakeholders about the need for sustainable seafood sourcing and the impact that this has on the lives and livelihoods of the communities that depend on it.



GOAL 1 SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD SOURCING

Working to ensure that marine resources are respected and managed sustainably, so that our oceans are protected and productive for future generations, is our responsibility.

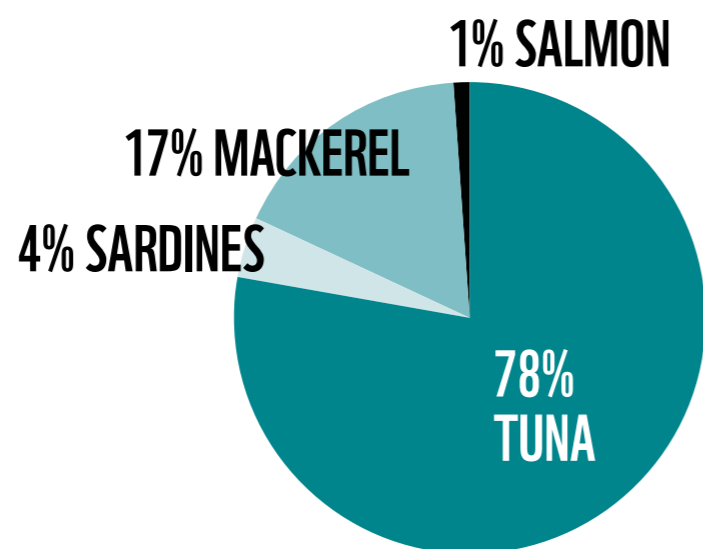
There is an urgent need to restore ocean health, including rebuilding tuna stocks to a level where the important role played by them in the marine environment can be guaranteed.

Transforming a complex international seafood business is not an easy task, particularly when dealing with migratory species, like tuna. Initially, Bolton Food and WWF worked together to:

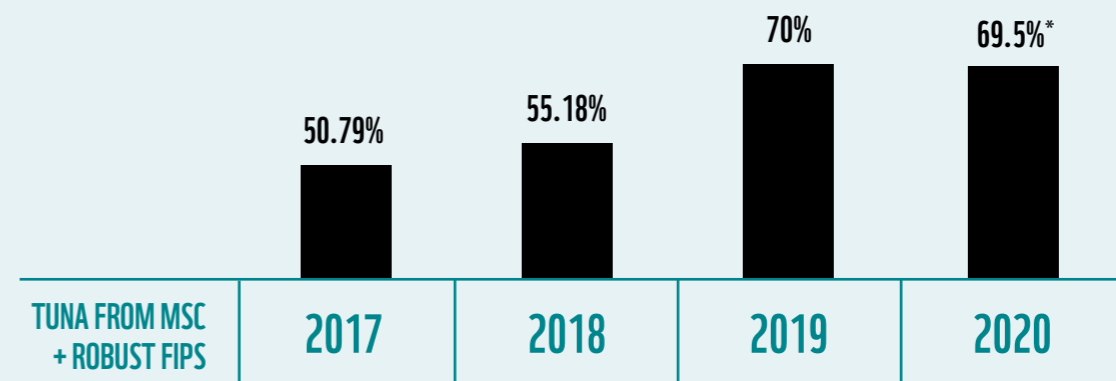
- identify the sustainability baseline of all of Bolton Food's supply chains for all of its species (tuna, salmon, mackerel and sardines), using WWF's internal Common Assessment Methodology (CAM)
- agree on a roadmap to improve the sustainability of the company's sourcing policy, by setting priorities and identifying existing or potential Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) that they could join or use for sourcing purposes;

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

Additionally, in June 2019, Bolton Food updated and published its Tuna 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 commitment, requiring supply vessels to use only non-entangling FADs that are made primarily with biodegradable materials by 2024.



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11 SEAFOOD PRODUCT LINES DISPLAYING THE MSC LABEL IN 14 COUNTRIES

Bolton Food also committed to increasing its responsible sourcing of mackerel and sardines from Robust Fishery Improvement Projects, to helping fisheries meet the standards set by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), and to sourcing salmon from Aquaculture Improvement Projects whose aim is to earn ASC certification.

* The COVID19 pandemic has impacted Bolton's business, as many others. Unexpected increase in demand from consumers in all the countries where the Company operated matched with the necessity to slow down its usual production rhythms to ensure the respect of safety measures for its workers in the plants as well as a quick re-planning of its production activities, leading it to move tuna volumes to other facilities to allow the production of finished products for their market. For these reasons, the Company was not able to fulfill its target goal of 70% of tuna coming from MSC certified fisheries or Robust FIPs in 2020 and closed the year a bit behind. Its procurement is fully determined and committed to reach the 2024 goal of 100% tuna from MSC certified fisheries or Credible and Comprehensive FIPs.

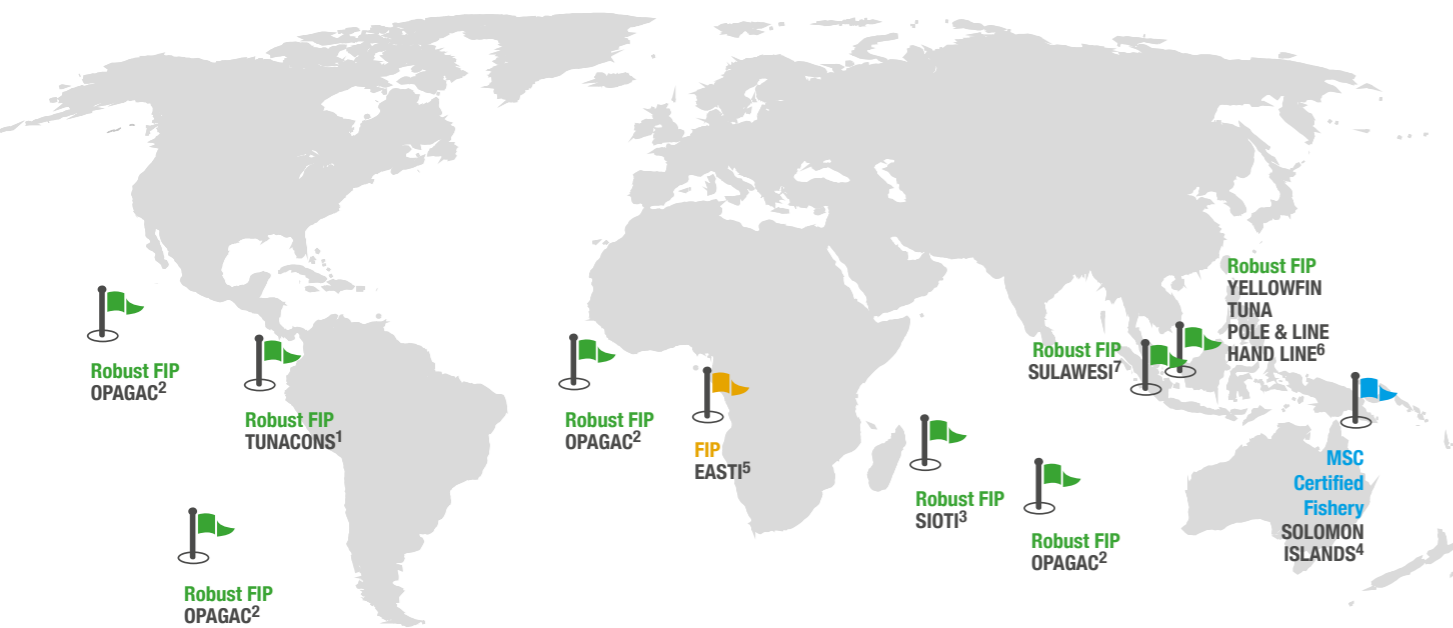
Fisheries Roadmap

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.

As part of the partnership framework, Bolton Food developed a roadmap to direct its sourcing towards robust FIPs and MSC certified fisheries. The robustness of a FIP

is a requirement by WWF, to assure that the project is well managed and progressing. During its four years of collaboration, 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.

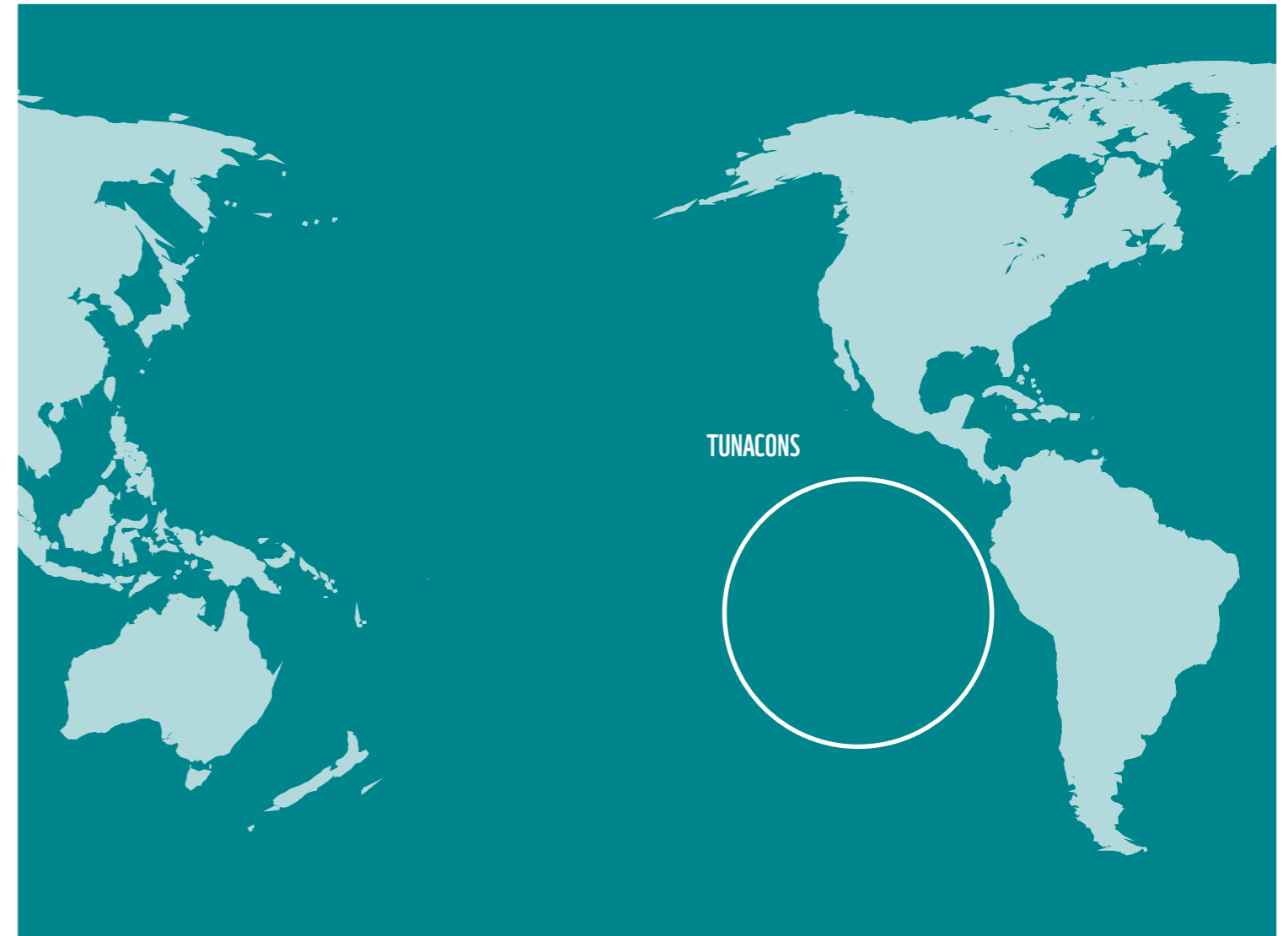
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- 1 **TUNACONS: Eastern Pacific Ocean, FAO AREA: 87-77 supply through Bolton Group owned company Tri Marine**
- 2 **OPAGAC: FAO AREA: 71-77, 87, 31-34, 51-57 supply through Bolton Food own fleet**
- 3 **SIOTI: Indian Ocean FAO AREA: 51-57 supply through Bolton Food supplier Princes Ltd.**
- 4 **SOLOMON ISLANDS: FAO AREA: 71 supply through Bolton Group owned company Tri Marine**
- 5 **EASTI: Eastern Atlantic Tuna, FAO AREA: 34-47 supply through Bolton Food own fleet**
- 6 **YELLOWFIN TUNA POLE & LINE - HAND LINE: supply through Bolton Group owned company Tri Marine**
- 7 **SULAWESI YELLOWFIN TUNA AND SKIPJACK TUNA**

www.fisheryprogress.org

Definition of "Robust Fishery Improvement Projects" in the Glossary, at page 40

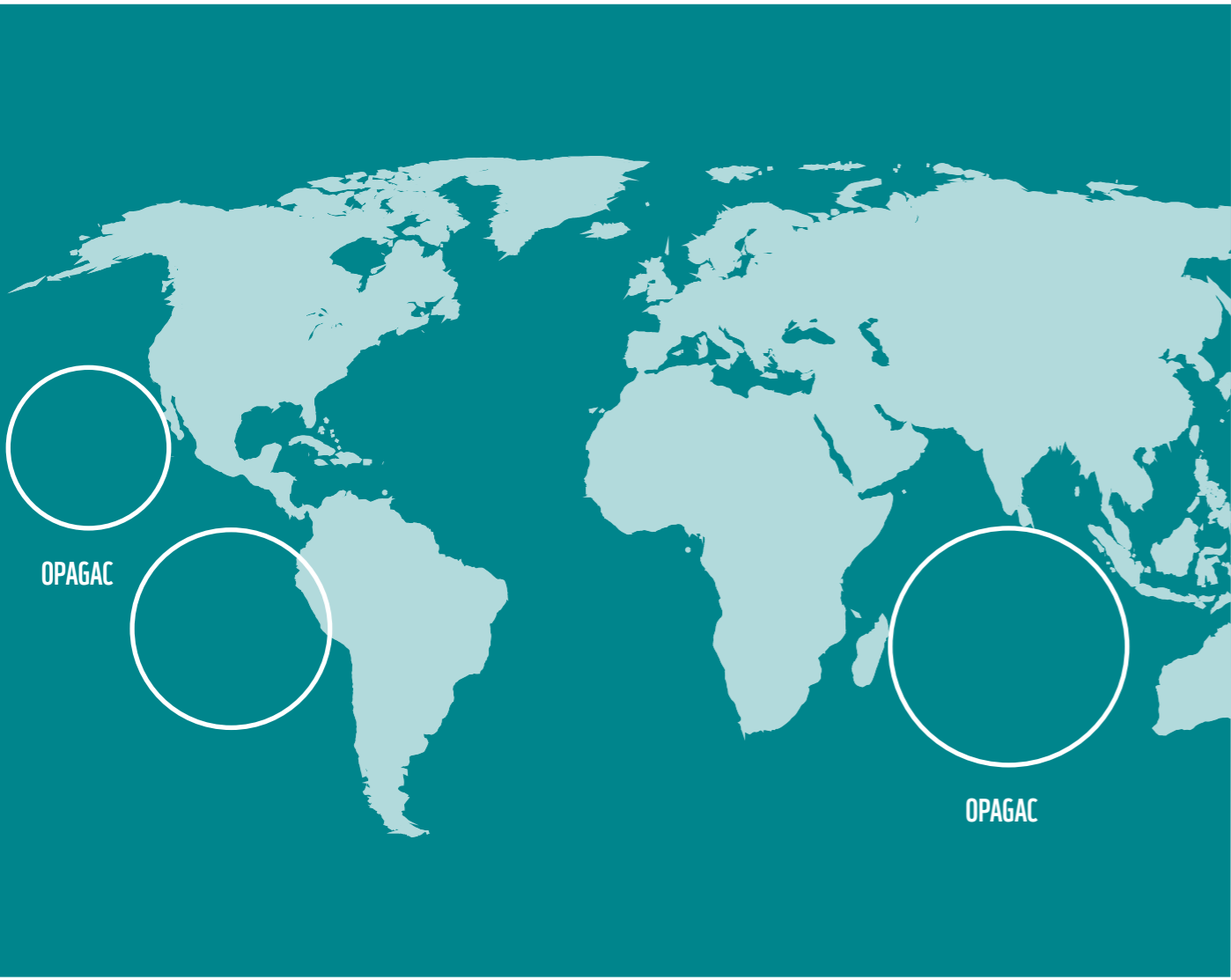


The main fisheries from which Bolton Food sources its procurements include:

TUNACONS

- **Fishery:** Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna caught by purse seine vessels.
- **Geographical Area:** Eastern Pacific Ocean
- **Main achievements** - TUNACONS is a FIP developed by five tuna fishing companies, with a fleet of 46 fishing vessels flagged from Ecuador, Panama, and the United States, in partnership with WWF. Collectively, the fleet catches over 400,000 metric tons of tuna each year. Many activities have been developed in 2020, towards the project's objectives, such as:
 - providing input to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) scientific team which carries

- out stock assessments and establishes regulations to control catch
- commitment to replace at least 20% of conventional FADs with biodegradable, non-entangling FADs
- 100% observer coverage on board of small scale vessels
- training for captains on the proper management of bycatch
- a project in the Galapagos Islands marine reserve in collaboration with regional government and WWF aimed at clean up and mitigate FADs and plastic pollution
- a new virtual platform with webinar trainings on best fishing practices
- ratification of the Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration
- **Status:** the fishery is undergoing full MSC assessment to obtain MSC certification



OPAGAC

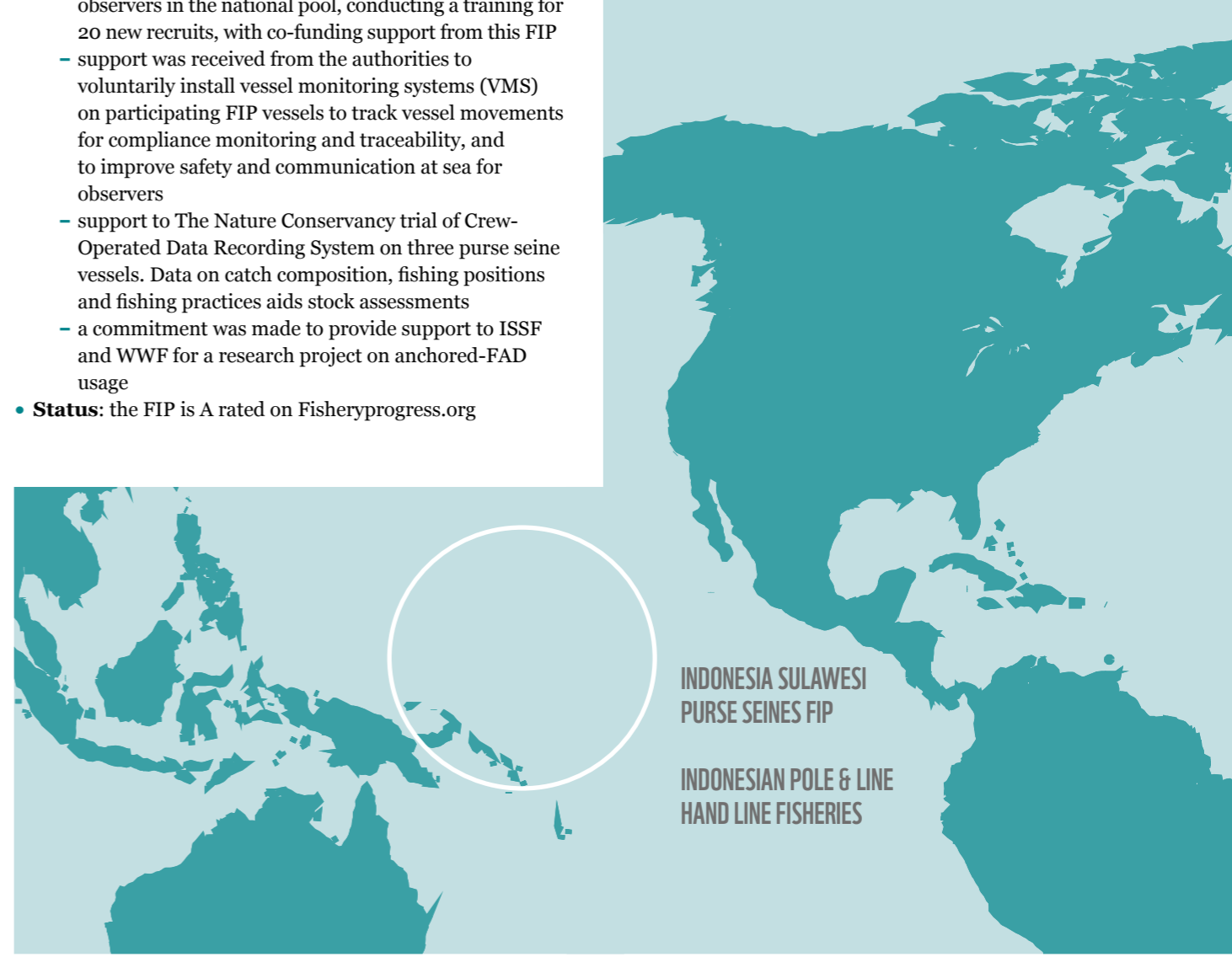
- **Fishery:** Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by purse seine vessels.
- **Geographical Area:** Western Central Pacific Ocean, Eastern Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean
- **Main achievements:**
 - good practice code on fishing practices, FADs management and non entangling FADs implementation, 100% observer coverage on board, crew education, by-catch release technique
 - fishing data and by-catch studies on Indian Ocean (presented to IOTC) and Atlantic Ocean (that will be presented to ICCAT on 2021) and generation of alternative Harvest Control Rules (papers and stock studies) for ICCAT and IOTC
 - FAD scientific papers, FAD watch project in Seychelles since 2017, FAD beaching reports (for all oceans), BioFAD projects, draft of scientific papers on stock assessment based on FADs real data
 - Electronic Monitoring Systems, project with IATTC for an Electronic Monitoring System and the comparison EMS versus Physical Observers (only on Garavilla's fleet)
 - research and development of new release devices for bycatch by the Garavilla fleet: Hopper project to demonstrate the effectivity of new technologies on the bycatch mortality rate (with an newly designed sliding conveyor there is a time reduction on by catch release minimizing the contact between the shark and the crew, keeping safe both).
- **Status:** the fisheries are undergoing full MSC assessment to obtain MSC certification

INDONESIA SULAWESI PURSE SEINES FIP

- **Fishery:** the first Indonesian FIP for Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by small purse seine vessels.
- **Geographical Area:** Western Central Pacific Ocean
- **Start date:** December 2018
- **Main achievements** - The Indonesia South-East Sulawesi Purse Seine FIP entered its second year of implementation in 2020. Key achievements in 2020 included:
 - external FIP review that concluded the FIP was on target with its action plan
 - the provincial fisheries authority verified that 100% of FIP vessels were reporting catches via Indonesia's new electronic logbook system
 - while observers are not mandatory on small-scale tuna vessels in Indonesia, the FIP voluntarily committed to place human observers on participating FIP vessels (a strategy was developed to increase onboard observer coverage by 20% by the end of 2023)
 - the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries started addressing the need to increase the number of observers in the national pool, conducting a training for 20 new recruits, with co-funding support from this FIP
 - support was received from the authorities to voluntarily install vessel monitoring systems (VMS) on participating FIP vessels to track vessel movements for compliance monitoring and traceability, and to improve safety and communication at sea for observers
 - support to The Nature Conservancy trial of Crew-Operated Data Recording System on three purse seine vessels. Data on catch composition, fishing positions and fishing practices aids stock assessments
 - a commitment was made to provide support to ISSF and WWF for a research project on anchored-FAD usage
- **Status:** the FIP is A rated on Fisheryprogress.org

INDONESIAN POLE & LINE - HAND LINE FISHERIES

- **Fishery:** Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by PL and HL vessels.
- **Geographical Area:** Western Central Pacific Ocean
- **Main achievements** - In January 2020, eight Units of Assessment transitioned from Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs) into MSC full assessment. The assessment covered 380 pole-and-line and handline vessels operating in Indonesian archipelagic waters in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, which collectively catch around 11,000 mt of tuna per year. Twelve months later, the fishery successfully obtained MSC certification. Tri Marine - Bolton Food's main tuna supplier, part of the Bolton Group - and its Indonesian suppliers have actively supported various fisheries improvement initiatives which have underpinned this MSC certification, including improved vessel-level data collection and monitoring.



SOLOMON ISLANDS FISHERY

- **Fishery:** Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by purse seine vessels.
- **Geographical Area:** Western Central Pacific Ocean
- **Main achievements** - The fishery obtained MSC certification in 2016 and Fairtrade certification in 2020

EASTI FIP

- **Fishery:** Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by purse seine vessels.
- **Geographical Area:** Eastern Atlantic Ocean
- **Start date:** January 2018
- **Main achievements:**
 - A letter on behalf of the FIP has been published on the ICCAT website with partners' position on priority regional issues.
 - Funding towards upgrading and re-starting Electronic Monitoring on Ghana purse seine vessels. Observer reports have been provided by the Ghana Fisheries Commission.
 - Ghana fleet involved in the ISSF/FAO ABNJ bio-FAD project with ~50 of 200 planned bioFADs deployed in 2020.
 - Advocacy activity at ICCAT convention
- **StatusProgress:** the FIP is C rated on Fisheryprogress.org

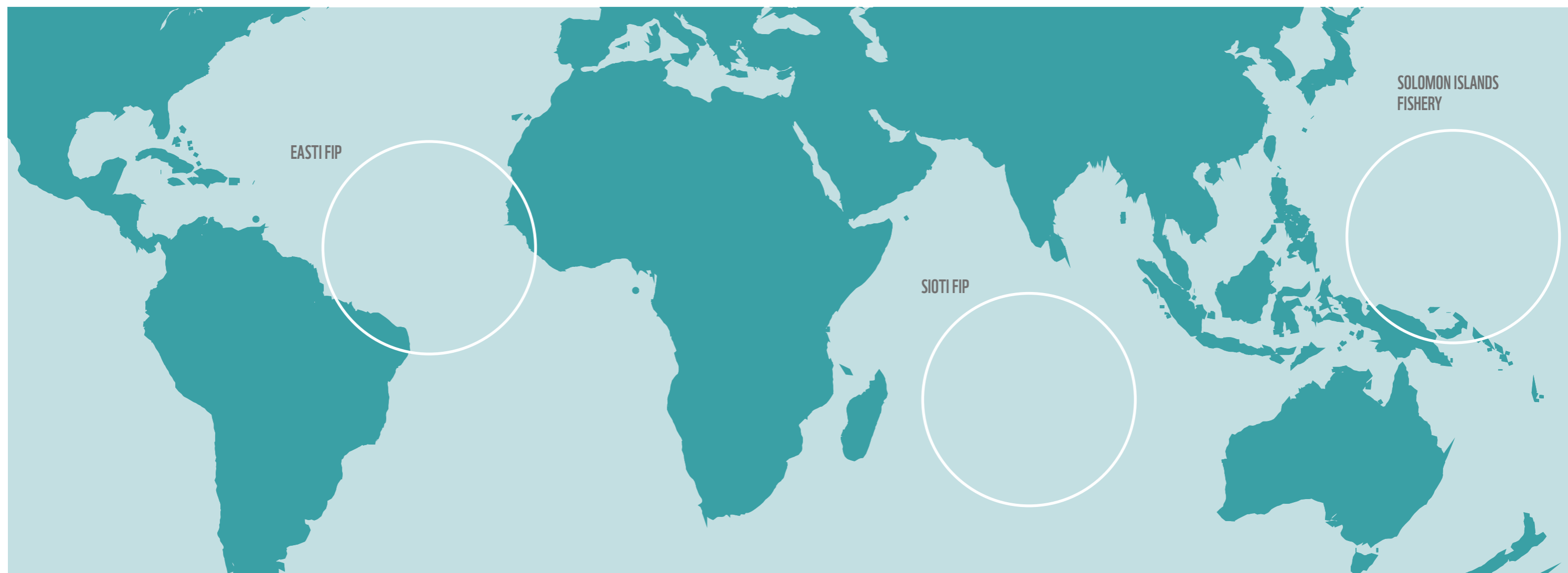
SIOTI FIP

- **Fishery:** Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, caught by purse seine vessels.
- **Geographical Area:** Indian Ocean
- **Start date:** April 2017
- **Progress:** the FIP is A rated on Fisheryprogress.org

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**



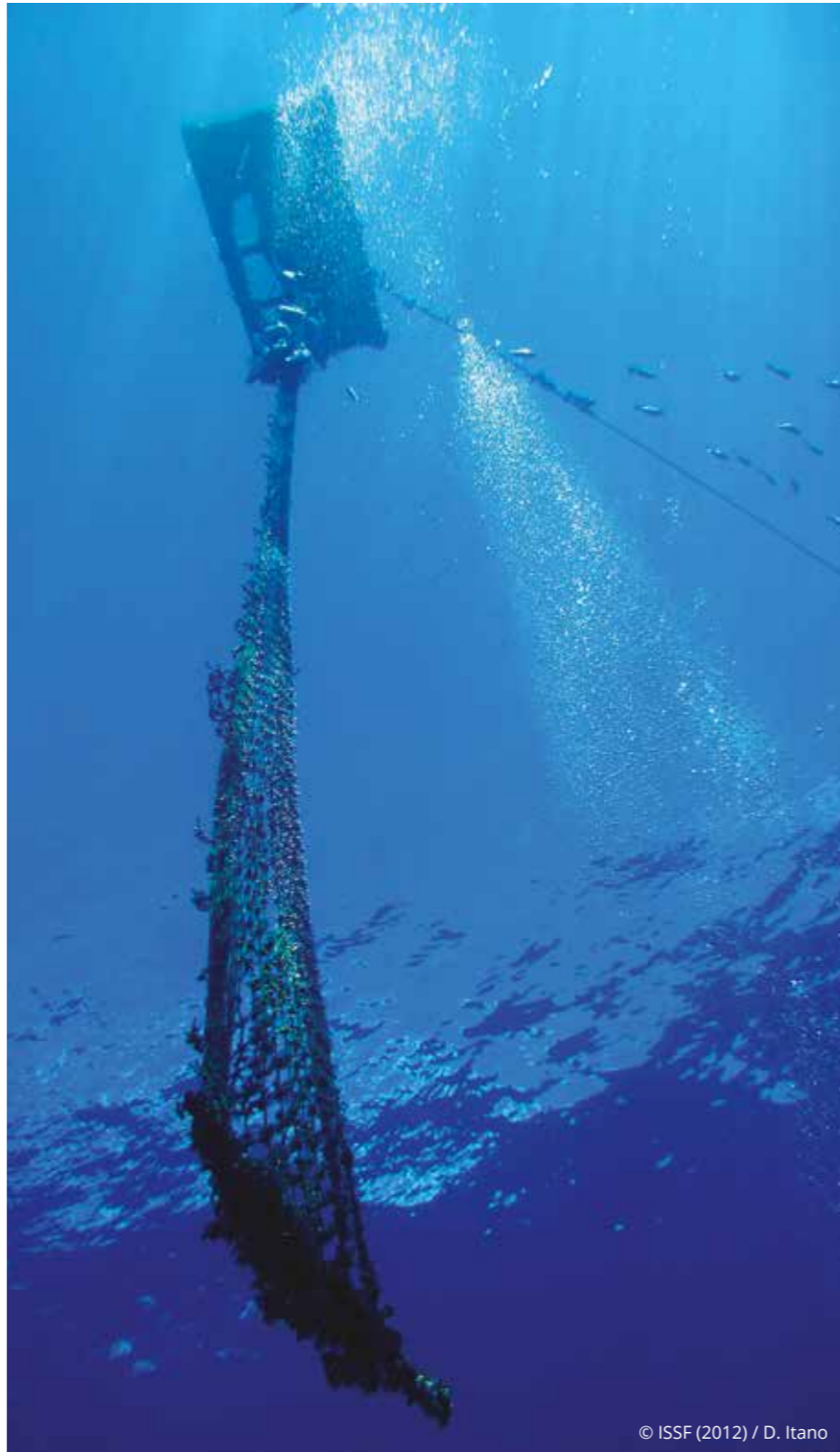


GOAL 2 INCREASING TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The second goal of the partnership is to improve traceability actions and the transparency of the communication activities related to the seafood supply chain and its products. Traceability is a fundamental aspect because it guarantees responsible sourcing for every consumer.

Traceability encourages and monitors compliance with international and local regulations. It facilitates a reliable framework to carry out sustainable fishing activities and drives their transparent communication. Adopting good traceable practices means collecting 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 applications on technological devices such as GPS, AIS and VMS monitoring systems, to support and improve vessel monitoring. Transparent communication of data allows both consumers and markets to verify all actions undertaken on the open sea during a product's journey, a mark of quality for the seafood company and a means of allowing consumers to 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, to the ocean environment and marine ecosystem health, to respect for labour standards and to a fair seafood market system.



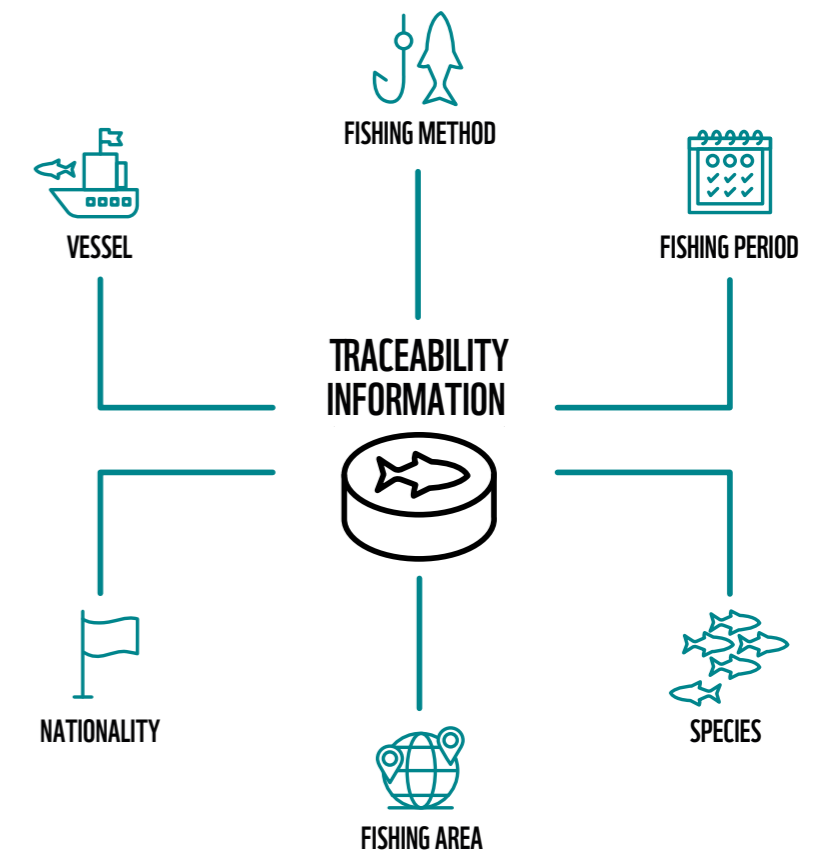
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Activities:

- **Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability** - Bolton Food 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 Food 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.
- **Certifications** - Bolton Food was one of the first companies in the world to develop an advanced traceability system certified by DNV_GL, an independent certification body, in accordance with the ISO 22005:2008 standard. This system allows us to trace every single can of tuna produced by the company from the supermarket shelf to the fishing area and boat.
- **All Bolton Food's plants are covered by the MSC Chain of Custody certification**, meaning that they are therefore allowed to produce MSC certified products.
- **Transparency 4.0** - In September 2020, in order to increase

transparency and enhance consumer communication, Bolton Food launched a new, 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. 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 Food, resulting in the increased efficiency, control and automation of processes. The new platform is active in 21 countries where Bolton Food'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.



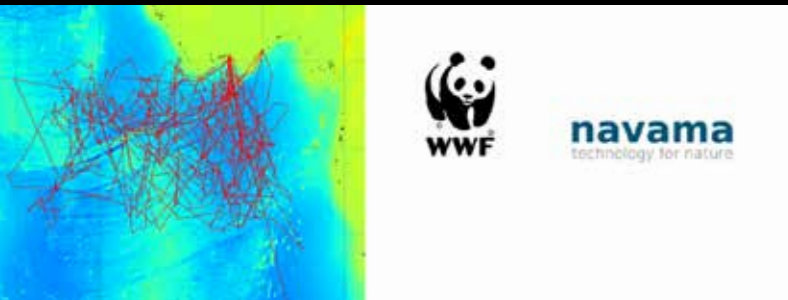
- Transparentsea.org - WWF, Bolton Food and Navama, a German technology company working to process tracking data, set up the Bolton Food transparency webpage to show all the technical information related to the company's large-scale purse seiner vessels.

The Bolton Food transparency webpage is public and embedded in the platform **transparentsea.org** where the data of seven vessels are accessible. Navama receives Vessels Monitoring System (VMS) trackings of Bolton Food's fleets to analyse this data within the context of conservation needs.

This analysis includes:

- Vessels Monitoring System analytics (VMS)
- Automatic Identification System analytics (AIS)
- Harboring activities
- Interaction with Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)
- Speed pattern and related activity
- Interaction with Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

This tracking data is publicly available on transparentsea.org, demonstrating Bolton Food's ongoing commitment to a traceable, transparent and sustainable tuna fishing industry.



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GOAL 3 ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL AND LABOUR STANDARDS

Nature conservation cannot be separated from human well-being, especially in the seafood industry where tens of millions of people work in either the fish capture process, during processing, or as part of scientific data collection, mostly in the developing countries.

Respect for human rights is a key pillar of any sustainability strategy and is therefore one of the cornerstones of this partnership. Bolton Food is committed to guaranteeing respect for human and labour rights not only within the company, but also across the entire supply chain.

Since October 2016, all Bolton Food's suppliers, either through supply contracts or the company's internal portal for traceability, were required to comply with the Bolton Group's Code of Ethics and Human Rights Policy. Furthermore, in 2017 and in 2019, all seafood suppliers were requested to answer a self-assessment questionnaire, aimed at verifying compliance with the policy's principles.

As far as the fishing sector is concerned, since June 2019, all Bolton Food suppliers have been required to respect the 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 Tuna Supply 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.

In 2020, Bolton Food entered into a transformational

partnership with Oxfam Italia, the organization committed to fighting inequality and reducing global poverty. This partnership aims to implement new standards of social enterprise sustainability in the fishing industry. Its objective is to build 'an increasingly equitable supply chain', where inclusion, the elimination of inequality, gender equality, respect for human rights and safe, decent working conditions are guaranteed for all those involved.

The partnership with Oxfam envisages a four-year roadmap which will be implemented until 2024 and includes a robust analysis of the global tuna supply chain.

This commitment is divided into four stages:

1. assessment, updating and expansion of existing corporate policies regarding workers' rights.
2. development of a due diligence process in three key countries of the tuna supply chain, namely Ecuador, Morocco and Indonesia using Oxfam's methodology "Human Rights Impact Assessment".
3. definition of an ongoing monitoring system to check that the respect for human rights is dealt with efficiently.
4. communication regarding the commitments and activities undertaken to manage and solve any non-compliance identified.

Furthermore, 2020 was the year in which Bolton Food's Spanish fleet achieved 100% of AENOR/APR certified tuna. In addition to marking an important move towards combating illegal fishing and exploitative working conditions, this significant achievement also guarantees total fishing activity control and the assurance that fishing vessels are in optimum condition to work in safety.



Bolton Food credits

ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGE

The objective of this advocacy process is to influence market incentives, policy development, and laws and regulations at national, regional and global levels. The ultimate goal of these actions is to generate a positive change within the sector.

Achieving the partnership’s objectives includes introducing changes, particularly in fishery 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.

• Bolton Food advocacy activities through ISSF

Bolton Food is one of the founding members of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), a global, non-profit organization whose members and partners include several of the world’s most eminent scientists and biologists and various NGOs, including WWF. The organization’s objectives include long-term tuna stock sustainability, promotion of the protection and health of the marine eco-system, and the reduction of bycatch. Bolton Food 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.

• Bolton Food on traceability at the CEO Roundtable on Sustainable Seafood of the United Nations Global Compact event on Sustainable Ocean Principles

In September 2020, Bolton Food participated at the CEO Roundtable on Sustainable Seafood, organized by the United Nations Global Compact. During the Roundtable, the company outlined its commitment to improving traceability and transparency in the tuna supply chain. It also addressed the opportunities and challenges facing it, and the roles that the private sector and governments should play in ensuring greater traceability in seafood supply chains.

• Bolton Food on the importance of people’s welfare at the Innovazione Sostenibile 2020 Forum

In September 2020, Bolton Food participated in the 2020 Sustainability Forum “Starting Again with Social Innovation.

People’s Welfare First”. During the forum, Bolton Food shared its approach to corporate social sustainability, with a particular focus on the importance of corporate partnerships and their commitment to create shared value across the supply chain.

• Bolton Food on its commitments to CSR and fishing sustainability at ANSA 2030

In September 2020, Bolton Food shared its commitments to CSR and sustainable fishing at the ANSA “Sustainable development, Italy and the 2030 Agenda Goals” event. Bolton Food described its sustainability policy as a strategic, global, scientific and multi-stakeholder approach, characterized by three milestones: 2009, the foundation of the ISSF; 2011, the birth of Bolton Food’s Responsible Quality program, dedicated to Corporate Social Responsibility; and 2016, the launch of the partnership with WWF.



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SUPPORTING TETEPARE ISLAND CONSERVATION

Since 2018, Bolton Food has supported a project in the Coral Triangle, in the Solomon Islands, where it sources a considerable percentage of its tuna.

The Coral Triangle is one of the world’s richest areas for marine biodiversity. Its name refers to a roughly triangular area of the tropical marine waters of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. It is recognized as a global priority for conservation. The region includes 76% of known coral species, more than 3,000 reef fish species and six of the world’s seven known species of marine turtles.

WWF considers the region a top priority for marine conservation and is addressing the threats this faces through the Coral Triangle Program, by working with WWF’s national offices in each country.

Within this area, Tetepare Island is known as the ‘Last Wild Island’. By supporting exceptional biodiversity, the island has been recognized for its conservation significance by both the Solomon Islands government and numerous international organizations.

The Tetepare Descendants’ Association (TDA) officially represents the legal owners of Tetepare. The Association is a large, charitable landholder’s organization in the Solomon Islands boasting nearly 4,000 members, many of whom live on adjacent islands.

Within the context of this partnership agreement, this conservation project aims to support Tetepare in the process of a formal request to the government, requesting that it be officially recognized as a Protected Area.

Legalizing the Tetepare Island Conservation Area under the National Protected Areas Act of the Solomon Islands involved:

- obtaining TDA’s community consensus on the Tetepare Island to become a legally recognized Protected Area
- developing a robust but adaptable Protected Area Management Plan for the Tetepare Island that meets the criteria required under the Protected Areas Act
- organizing meetings and workshops to undertake a technical review of the draft Management Plan with the Ministry of Fisheries, the

Ministry of the Environment, and representatives of several NGOs and local organizations

- receiving endorsement of the Tetepare Island Protected Area Management Plan by the TDA Board and Government Annual General Meeting
- registering the Tetepare Island as a Protected Area under the National Protected Areas Act.

WWF has supported the TDA with revisions to the draft management plan and is now waiting to submit an application for PA status to the Ministry of the Environment, once discussions with the Ministry over the marine boundary for the proposed Marine Protected Area have been concluded.

Registration of Tetepare Island as a Protected Area will directly benefit conservation management for Tetepare Protected Area status, and will act as a safeguard against external threats, such as logging, silver mining and commercial fishing. It will also help secure the sustainable harvesting of resources in and around Tetepare, as well as supporting the livelihoods of the descendants and their families living in nearby communities.

ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

To support and enhance the partnership's achievements a communication plan was implemented in order to aim at raising consumer awareness about the importance of sustainable fishing practices and protecting the oceans' natural resources.

- **Marketing and communication campaign**

Bolton Food has developed consumer-targeted marketing and communication activities both to promote responsible purchasing behaviour and choices, and to increase general awareness regarding

ocean conservation issues. In the summer of 2018, the communication project **"Together for the Oceans"** was launched in Italy on World Oceans Day (8 June). Every year since then, the partners have notified the public about the progress of the partnership through public relations activities, events, press releases and corporate advertising to coincide with World Oceans Day and the surrounding days. Communication activities were initially launched in Italy, and then extended to other countries during the four-year partnership.

In the summer of 2018, the company launched another marketing activity that involved the participation of large-scale retailers: in-store promotions were developed to introduce Rio Mare's



MSC-certified products to consumers and to raise awareness about the partnership. The new certified products were clearly identifiable thanks to **specially designed packaging** featuring information about the company's commitment to sustainable fishing goals and the partnership project. 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. This activity helps to establish a direct connection with the public, by providing information that is both simple and easy to understand about the company's journey towards a sustainable business, and the need for more responsible, transparent and regulated fishing practices within the supply chain to protect the marine environment.

To describe the company's commitment more fully, a narrative approach, focusing on the conservation project and the environmental benefits of sourcing sustainable seafood, was adopted. **Ondina**, the narrator, is a child experiencing the environmental effects of unregulated fishing activity in the seas of the Coral Triangle. The story has been relayed via digital channels, the Rio Mare website and cinema screenings of the short promotional film titled "The Little Girl and the Ocean".

- **Educational project in schools**

"Together for the Oceans" has also been translated into a **sustainability educational project** that Rio Mare and WWF have dedicated to primary school children. Little Ondina and her wise friend Oceano are set to take both the children and their families on a wonderful adventure to discover marine ecosystems, biodiversity and responsible consumption. The journey offers the sound of the waves, the colours of the corals, the hidden treasures of the seabed, and a shared objective: becoming acquainted with our precious "Blue Planet" and how to defend it.



TOWARDS A NEW COMMITMENT

Working to transform a sector towards sustainability is not always an easy task, and one that encompasses an in-depth learning process. Over these past 4 years, 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, and a constantly evolving

market, including the growth of the company which incorporated Grupo Conservas Garavilla in its borders. Today, WWF and Bolton Food have agreed to renew their partnership for another 4 years and 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. Based on the

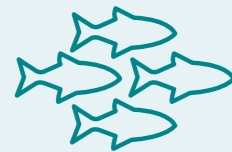
experience acquired over the past few years and a heightened commitment to tuna conservation, WWF and Bolton Food have decided to renew their partnership for another 4 years in order to demonstrate the key role played by the seafood sector in the regeneration of marine populations, such as tuna stocks and, more specifically, to guarantee the prosperity of the oceans as an ecosystem.

WWF PARTNERSHIP 4 YEARS RESULTS

	2017	2018	2019	2020
SOURCING	Bolton Food contributes to TUNACONS FIP development	Bolton Food participates in OPAGAC FIP through Grupo Conservas Garavilla fleet		TUNACONS and OPAGAC FIP in MSC full assessment
	Saupiquet fleet joins the EASTI FIP			Solomon Islands fishery Fair trade certified
		Launch of the first small scale purse seine FIP in Kendari port, Sulawesi, Indonesia	Indonesian Kendari purse seine FIP becomes robust	
		Boost of the PL&HL FIPs in Indonesia		8 unit of assessment of the PL&HL Indonesian FIPs entered in MSC full assessment
	50.79%	55.18%	70%	69.50%
TRACEABILITY		Bolton Food traceability system is ISO22005 certified	1° pilot project on GDST	Transparency platform: real time information to consumers for all Bolton Food tuna products in 4 languages and 22 countries
		All the large-scale purse seiner vessels supplying Bolton Food are registered in the PVR	All Bolton Food owned vessels' routes are published on trasparentea.org	
CONSERVATION	Supporting the Tetepare Island Conservation		Supporting the Tetepare Island Conservation	
COMMUNICATION	Partnership launch	Launch of Together for the Oceans campaign in Italy	Extension of Together for the Oceans campaign to Slovenia, Croatia, Austria	Extension of Together for the Oceans campaign to Czechia & Slovakia Ondina & the Ocean
POLICY CHANGE	Bolton Food signed the WWF Global Seafood Charter	Bolton Food at the Our Ocean Conference publicly committing to the partnership goals	Bolton Food at Seafood EXPO in Brussel as a best case for traceability	Bolton Food on traceability at the CEO Roundtable on Sustainable Seafood of the United Nations Global Compact event
HUMAN RIGHTS		Self assessment questionnaire performed by all Bolton Food seafood suppliers	Bolton Food Vessel Code of Conduct for tuna suppliers is released	Partnership signed between Bolton Food and Oxfam to enhance the human rights standards across the tuna supply chain



Working together to support more sustainable fishing and our oceans.



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 corporate responsibility → to advocate 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 will assume a new central role in the partnership.



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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 delicacy, a resource of significant value.

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.



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.

ROBUST 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 pre-assessment 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 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)



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- 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

Founded in 2009, the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), a global, non-profit organization whose members 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 follow the progress of the partnership by visiting our websites:

WWF and Bolton partnership
http://wwf.panda.org/get_involved/partner_with_wwf/corporate_partnerships/who_we_work_with/bolton_food/

WWF and Bolton Food Partnership (Italian web-site)
<https://www.wwf.it/?s=bolton>

WWF's Living Planet Report
<https://www.wwf.it/?s=bolton>

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standard for certified seafood
<https://www.msc.org/about-us/standards>

Bolton Food announces launch of the partnership at Our Ocean 2017 Conference, Malta
http://ourocean2017.org/sites/default/files/ooc-2017-list-ofcommitments_en.pdf

WWF Brochure Fishery Improvement Projects
http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_brochure_fisheries_improvement_projects_final_19_4_16.pdf

Atlantic Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (OPAGAC)
<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/atlantic-ocean-tropical-tuna-purse-seine-opagac>



Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (OPAGAC)
<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/eastern-pacific-ocean-tropical-tuna-purse-seine-opagac>

Indian Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (OPAGAC)
<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indian-ocean-tropical-tuna-purse-seine-opagac>

Western and Central Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (OPAGAC)
<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/western-and-central-pacific-ocean-tropical-tuna-purse-seine-opagac>

Opagac global
www.opagac.org

Indonesia Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna - pole & line
<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesian-indian-ocean-yellowfin-tuna-pole-and-line>

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

The Ecuadorian tuna FIP
<https://tunacons.org/upgrade/>

Bolton Group's TriMarine acquisition Press Release
<http://www.boltongroup.net/en-ww/news/acquire-tri-marine-global-tuna-supply-operations>

Eastern Atlantic tuna FIP
<https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/new-fishery-improvementproject-launches-eastern-atlantic-ocean>

WWF Report on IUU Fishing
http://www.wwf.eu/campaigns/living_land/?uNewsID=322611

IUU fishing definition
<http://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/background/what-is-iuu-fishing/en/>

Bolton Food's sustainability report 2014-2016
http://responsiblequality.riomare.com/download/BOLTON_REPORT_ENG.pdf

WWF's Global Seafood Charter for Companies
<http://wwf.panda.org/?248190/WWF-Global-Seafood-Charter-aguide-for-companies-towards-sustainable-sourcing>

The Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability
<http://traceability-dialogue.org/>

CONTACTS

WWF

Isabella Pratesi

Conservation Director WWF Italy

infoaziende@wwf.it

Bolton Food

Luciano Pirovano

Sustainable Development Director
Bolton Food

lpirovano@boltonfood.com



WWF & BOLTON FOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT YEAR 4 Independent Verification Statement

Introduction

In June 2017 WWF Italy Onlus, WWF International ('WWF') and Bolton Food 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. In October 2018, WWF and BF have drafted a Partnership Progress Report Year 1 that summarizes the progresses made during the period between January 2017 and June 2018 of the WWF & Bolton Food partnership towards sustainability and outlines the activities undertaken to develop first important steps towards improving the environmental sustainability of the BF's production and supply chain.

In November 2019, WWF and BF have drafted Partnership Progress Report Year 2 that summarizes the progresses made during the period between January 2019 and July 2019 of the WWF & Bolton Food partnership towards sustainability and outlines the activities undertaken to develop first important steps towards improving the environmental sustainability of the BF's production and supply chain.

A final Partnership Progress Report has been prepared in May 2021, presenting at the same time the progresses made in the period 2020 year and final balance statements pertaining the overall results of the first 4 years of the partnership.

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 final 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 at the Bolton Milan office 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 second 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

Riccardo Arena
Lead Verifier

Massimo Trombetta
Reviewer

Vimercate (MB), 04 June 2021



Letrè



Working together
to support more
sustainable fishing
and our oceans.



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