



Sustainable Tuna Sourcing Guidance Note:

Canned Tuna [SS17.1a]*



Background

Tuna is a vital and popular source of protein globally. This highly migratory group of fish is heavily exploited for the canned tuna industry. In South Africa, Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) is predominantly found in canned products with the majority originating from fisheries in Thailand. As is the case with many other fisheries, tuna fisheries face challenges with harvesting from the world's oceans sustainably. The majority of tuna species face increasing pressure from the industry resulting in decreasing population trends, increasing the probability of being listed in a threatened category. It is because of tuna's popularity, staple protein status and key position in the food web that increased focus on canned and sachet products is required.

Walmart Position

Walmart works to provide products to their customers that are sustainably sourced while not compromising on quality and price. Walmart requires all canned light and white tuna suppliers comply with ISSF sustainability conservation measures or manage a programme in accordance with the relevant principles developed by The Sustainability Consortium or source from MSC certified fisheries. Walmart advocate for better fishing management practices validated through chain of custody documentation.

Massmart's position

Massmart recognises that as a responsible retailer we have a mandate to ensure that the products we procure are sourced in a responsible and sustainable manner while maintaining the quality our customers expect of us at competitive prices. Massmart has identified canned tuna as a product which requires greater consideration in addition to our sustainable seafood policy which currently guides seafood procurement within the business. Massmart supports the efforts of WWF-SASSI and recommends that our customers and suppliers refer to The SASSI List to inform sustainable decision-making. In line with Massmart's commitment to marine advocacy and sustainable canned tuna sourcing, requirements which guide procurement of canned tuna are indicated below.

Guidelines

- Massmart will not source from any red-listed Tuna fisheries.
- Preference will be given to suppliers who source from ISSF-registered fisheries or members.
- In the event that suppliers do not source from ISSF registered fisheries, they must provide evidence demonstrating that the fishery from which they source is responsibly managed and comprehensive chain of custody documentation to source.
- Hence forth, all canned tuna suppliers will be required to participate in Massmart's annual marine advocacy survey.
- Suppliers are required to inform Massmart promptly in the event that they (or their products) are targeted by environmental advocacy groups, NGO's or regulatory/legislative bodies.



- In addition to contractual obligations, suppliers should communicate their intention to amend any process that concerns product procurement to Massmart buyers/sustainability representatives prior to doing so. This may include but is not limited to, changes to product type and composition and adding or transitioning to new suppliers.

Related Guidance Notes

- Sustainable Seafood Guidance Note [SS17.1]
- Seafood DNA Analysis Protocols and Promotion of Disclosure Guidance Note [SS17.1b]

* This 2017 document replaces all previous versions of the Sustainable Canned Tuna Sourcing Guidance Note