



Working together
to support more
sustainable fishing
and our oceans



WWF & BOLTON

**PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT 2024
YEAR 8**

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT MORE SUSTAINABLE FISHING AND OUR OCEANS.

Bolton, in collaboration with WWF, contributes to safeguarding the health of our oceans and the livelihood of communities dependent on them. We achieve this by increasing the value of canned seafood and aiming to source from more sustainable fisheries. Sustainable fisheries 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.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	4
INTRODUCTION: OUR PARTNERSHIP VISION	6
WORKING TOGETHER: WWF & BOLTON	8
PARTNERSHIP GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS	10
GOAL 1: MORE SUSTAINABLE SOURCING	12
GOAL 2: ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGE	20
GOAL 3: TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.....	24
GOAL 4: SOCIAL AND LABOUR STANDARDS.....	28
AWARENESS AND EDUCATION	32
GLOSSARY	36
RESOURCES.....	40
CONTACTS	43

The information in this report refers to activities carried out by Bolton within its Food Business Unit, in the context of its collaboration with WWF Italia ETS (WWF Italy) and World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF International), with a focus on the results achieved from January to December 2024. Bolton Food includes Bolton Food S.p.A, Saupiquet SA and Grupo Conservas Garavilla SL.

FOREWORD



LUCA ALEMANNO CEO Bolton Food

Eight years ago, we embarked on a pioneering journey with WWF, one built on trust, ambition, shared values, and a deep sense of urgency. Today, I look back with pride at the tangible results we've achieved together and, even more importantly, at the positive impact we continue to create.

This partnership was never about doing only what was expected or required. From the very beginning, we made the conscious choice to drive real change by working side by side in a transformative collaboration. One that could raise the bar for sustainability and set a new standard for the future of the tuna industry.

Over time, our efforts have deepened and broadened, guided by a holistic approach that brings together sustainable sourcing, transparency, traceability, advocacy for policy change, and the respect of social and labour rights across the supply chain.

Our results speak clearly. Among many achievements, I'm especially proud that in 2024 we reached 99.7% of our tuna sourced from MSC certified fisheries or Credible & Comprehensive Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs), a milestone that reflects our commitment to credible and ambitious action.

But beyond the results themselves, what truly defines this journey is the example we are setting. We are proving that a different way of doing business is necessary and possible. A way that values the ocean as a vital resource, respects the people whose lives depend on it, and safeguards it for future generations.

Our responsibility doesn't stop at improving our own practices. As a leading player in the global tuna market, we have both the duty and the opportunity to help move the entire industry forward. That means continuing to lead by example, sharing what we've learned, and showing that sustainability is not a side effort, it's the only viable path for our sector.

This eighth report is not the closing of a chapter, but a milestone in a longer journey we are proud to walk together. I want to sincerely thank WWF for being a demanding, committed, and visionary partner. Together, we are not only protecting our oceans, we are helping to reshape the future of the seafood industry through leadership that takes action, embraces collaboration, and drives lasting change.

"Together with WWF, we are not only protecting our oceans, we are helping to reshape the future of the seafood industry through leadership that takes action, embraces collaboration, and drives lasting change."



ALESSANDRA PRAMPOLINI Director General WWF Italy

At WWF, we believe that achieving lasting environmental change requires both courage and collaboration. Over the past eight years, our partnership with Bolton has been a journey of dialogue, constructive challenge and shared commitment, focused on driving greater sustainability within the tuna industry.

We have worked together to improve fishing practices, strengthen traceability and transparency, and jointly advocate for better global fisheries policies and the adoption of science-based management measures in the tuna sector. All of them are important steps towards aligning corporate operations with the health of our oceans. These efforts are meaningful and tangible, and we acknowledge the dedication and openness that Bolton has demonstrated in this process.

Oceans are vital to life on Earth: they provide oxygen, food, livelihoods, coastal protection, and play a key role in regulating our climate. Simply, they are essential to both planetary and human well-being. Protecting and restoring ocean health is therefore not just an environmental imperative: it is a global necessity.

At the same time, we remain fully aware that systemic change cannot be achieved by a single company alone. The seafood sector continues to face serious environmental and social challenges. That is why our ultimate goal has never been limited to one partnership: it is to help transform the entire industry.

Through this collaboration, we started setting new ambitions for the seafood sector. We aim to spark progress among industry peers and to amplify our voice in calling for stronger regulatory frameworks and institutional action. Change at scale is possible but only if those with influence lead by example and take responsibility for their impact. As we conclude the second four-year phase of our partnership and prepare for the next phase, we do so with clarity of purpose and a strong sense of ambition. There is still much work to be done, but with mutual trust and determination, we believe this collaboration can continue to contribute to a more responsible, resilient, and transparent tuna sector: one that respects both nature and people.

"Change at scale is possible but only if those with influence lead by example and take responsibility for their impact".

INTRODUCTION: OUR PARTNERSHIP VISION

Bolton and WWF recognise the necessity of collective action in achieving global conservation goals. The preservation of nature demands the cooperation of various stakeholders, particularly those more capable of mitigating threats to biodiversity. Presently, ocean ecosystems are threatened by overfishing and unsustainable use of marine resources, jeopardising the livelihoods of millions reliant on seafood and contributing to the decline of marine biodiversity. Tuna, vital for ocean health and global sustenance, is endangered by these same factors. Our partnership endeavours to foster sustainability throughout Bolton tuna supply chain. This means taking into account the health of the stocks from which the company sources and addressing other important challenges by advocating for measures within tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to combat overfishing and illegal practices, foster sustainable stocks’ management, ensure respect for human rights and labour standards, and guarantee traceability and transparency in sourcing.

Together, WWF and Bolton can strive to develop solutions for marine biodiversity protection. A healthy and sustainably managed ocean can yield great benefits for people and the economy. Ocean ecosystems sustain life on Earth, support community livelihoods and underpin valuable nature-dependent industries like fishing. Improvements in fisheries management and policy are urgently needed to halt and reverse the loss of nature in the ocean.

This partnership is well placed to contribute to efforts to restore the abundance of marine ecosystems by:

- ◆ **Developing ambitions, definitions and measures for more sustainable fisheries activities and supply chains.**
- ◆ **Effectively advocating to institutions, to promote the adoption of integrated and restorative fisheries management approaches in priority oceans areas.**
- ◆ **Promoting enhanced seafood traceability and secure seafood import control laws, implementing traceability solutions and transparency best practices.**
- ◆ **Piloting the feasibility of proposed best practices, from Fishing Aggregating Devices (FADs) management to observer coverage and traceability.**
- ◆ **Leading by example, communicating and sharing sustainability strategies, indicators and activities adopted to reach a greater sustainability of the seafood sector, encouraging peers and other companies to follow best practices.**

Refined through years of collaboration, our vision prioritizes:



Healthy Stocks

Focusing sustainability objectives towards stock health and spawning biomass levels to support robust tuna populations and broader ocean health. Our commitment to ocean conservation extends to initiatives such as supporting the preservation of mangroves in Ecuador.



Collective Responsibility

Achieving partnership goals requires the involvement of diverse stakeholders, with advocacy emerging as pivotal for international fishery management reforms.



Tuna’s Value

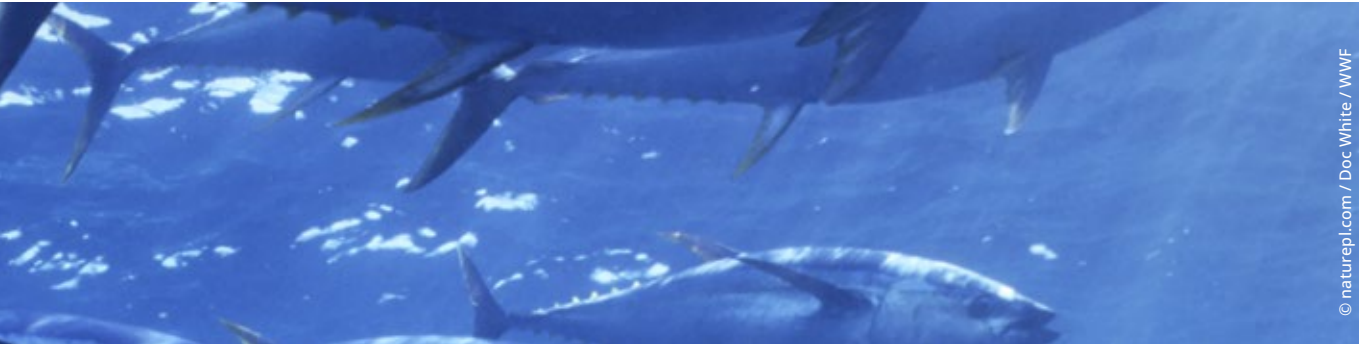
Recognizing tuna’s pivotal role in ecological balance, nutrition, and employment. We aim to elevate public awareness and appreciation of tuna’s value and healthy oceans.



Consumer Engagement

Empowering consumers as ocean advocates, urging support for thriving seas and sustainable resource management.

Together, we aspire to safeguard our oceans for future generations.



WORKING TOGETHER: WWF & BOLTON

WWF’S COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

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

WWF works with corporate partners in key industries to change behaviour and achieve conservation results at scale. By driving sustainable business practices, gaining support through advocacy and communications, and leveraging the power of philanthropy, these partnerships can transform whole sectors and markets for the better, and deliver outcomes that would not otherwise be possible. Together, we can develop solutions to conservation issues, including those affecting the oceans, such as overfishing. Given the substantial influence of the corporate sector on the global economy, it is in their best interest to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems essential for their operations.

WWF HISTORY AND MILESTONES



BOLTON COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Bolton is an Italian family-owned multinational company with more than 11, employees located across 55 offices, 16 production facilities, and 11 fishing vessels worldwide. With a diverse portfolio of over 60 quality brands in Food, Home Care, Personal Care, Beauty and Adhesives categories, present in more than 150 countries, Bolton has been enriching the lives of millions of people every day for more than 75 years.

Bolton recognizes the proactive role businesses must play in driving the transition toward a more

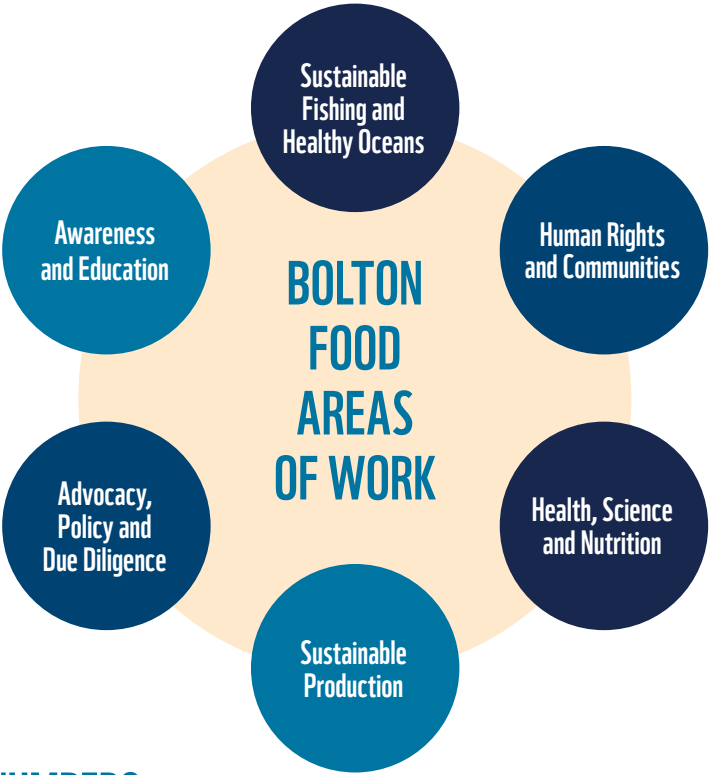
inclusive and sustainable economy, one that balances value creation with the responsibility to protect the planet and its people. This is why Bolton’s approach to sustainability is rooted in a framework where environmental and social commitments hold equal weight. The strategy is driven by the ambition to create a positive impact for both nature and people by continuously improving our environmental footprint and supporting regenerative initiatives and aiming to ensure that our value chains uphold human rights, promote equal opportunities, and foster thriving conditions for employees and local communities.

BOLTON FOOD’S SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY

The Food Business Unit is the largest within Bolton and stands as a global player in the seafood industry. Thanks to a fully vertically integrated tuna supply chain, Bolton Food oversees every stage of the process: from responsible sourcing and fleet management to processing and marketing. Its products are distributed in more than 60 countries under trusted brands such as Rio Mare, Saupiquet, Isabel, Cuca, and others. As a leader in the tuna sector, and in alignment with Bolton’s strategic direction, Bolton Food is committed to becoming the most sustainable tuna company for the world.

To pursue this ambition, the company engages in strategic partnerships with key stakeholders across the value chain, adopting a scientific, transformative, and holistic approach to sustainability. Bolton Food took its first step toward sustainable

development in 2009, becoming a founding member of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), a global multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to advancing science-based tuna stock management. In 2011, the first Corporate Social Responsibility plan was launched under the name “Responsible Quality,” setting specific targets across four pillars: fishing, production, people, and nutrition. Since then, sustainability has become progressively embedded into the core strategy, with the objective of transforming the entire supply chain, from catch to consumer. This strategic shift has gained strength and credibility through a series of transformational partnerships with global NGOs, WWF and Oxfam. These collaborations have positioned Bolton Food as a recognized leader in sustainable development and a benchmark within the seafood industry. By working closely with stakeholders throughout the supply chain, Bolton Food has built a sustainability strategy that is strongly aligned with the company’s most material priorities. As a result, the current Sustainable Development Strategy of Bolton’s Food Business Unit is structured around six core workstreams:



BOLTON FOOD KEY NUMBERS



PARTNERSHIP GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Efforts to shift a sector towards sustainability entail a complex learning process and important challenges. Throughout its years of collaboration, the partnership faced challenges such as overfishing, inadequate international tuna stock management, changes in knowledge and technology, and market fluctuations. Aligning partnership's goals with WWF's global tuna strategy, allowed to address most of those challenges, following the strategic approach towards healthy tuna stocks and marine ecosystem conservation, crucial for ocean's sustainability.



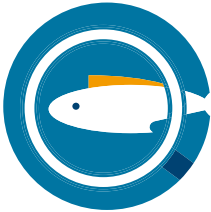
GOAL 1: MORE SUSTAINABLE SOURCING

The partnership aims to enhance Bolton's sustainable sourcing, aiming to procure by 2024 100% of its yellowfin and skipjack tuna from MSC certified fisheries or Credible & Comprehensive Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs), and increasing sourcing from fisheries that meet the partnership's sustainable fisheries criteria. Specifically, the company pledges to decrease sourcing from stocks with an estimated biomass below safe biological limits (SSB current <20%SSBo); classified as "overfished" or undergoing overfishing according to official RFMOs stock assessments.



GOAL 2: ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGE

To support the partnership's goals, Bolton is engaged, together with WWF, in advocacy at RFMOs, at European Union (EU) level and in other fora to generate positive change in fisheries management and across global supply chains towards more sustainable and transparent tuna fisheries standards and contribute to the conservation of marine ecosystems.



GOAL 3: TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The company is increasing the transparency of its tuna supply-chain by listing publicly 100% of the vessels from which it sources. For its owned fleet, it publishes on a live map a complete set of vessel tracking data, and has this data analysed by a third party. The company is also committed to extending the online traceability information to consumers from tuna to all its fish products.



GOAL 4: SOCIAL AND LABOUR STANDARDS

Bolton is working in partnership with Oxfam to develop new social sustainability standards in the fishing sector with the goal of ensuring an increasingly fair and inclusive supply chain that guarantees inclusiveness, gender equality, respect for human rights, and safe and decent working conditions for all people involved in its business activity.

Key aspects of the partnership also include:

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

The partnership aims also at integrating a wider approach by supporting a WWF conservation project in Ecuador with the final goal of protecting mangrove ecosystems and safeguarding biodiversity in this habitat.

AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Raising awareness among consumers and market stakeholders about sustainable seafood, emphasizing the ocean's importance, enhancing the value of tuna, and encouraging proactive steps to protect marine environments.





GOAL 1 MORE SUSTAINABLE SOURCING

Ensuring the sustainable management of marine resources to safeguard our oceans for future generations is a collective duty. It's urgent to restore ocean health, including rebuilding tuna stocks to preserve their vital role in marine ecosystems. Transforming an intricate global seafood supply chain, especially concerning highly migratory species such as tropical tunas, is challenging but essential.

As part of this path towards more sustainable tuna sourcing, in addition to reflecting the partnership objectives in its Tuna Sourcing Policy, **Bolton has steadily increased its procurement from fisheries that are MSC certified or managed under Fishery Improvement Projects designated to be Credible and Comprehensive, reaching 99,7% from these sources in the period January – December 2024.**

Furthermore, during the partnership, WWF and Bolton decided to raise the bar, by setting more ambitious “sustainable fisheries criteria”, beyond the certification, meaning sourcing from:

- Fish stocks that are not overfished and not in overfishing, and are above safe biological limits ($SSB_{current} > 20\%SSB_0$);
- Fisheries that are effectively managed to prevent bycatch, follow best practices in FAD management, and ensure compliance with applicable fisheries laws and regulations and minimum international labour standards and the full respect of human rights.

In addition, a set of indicators was further developed and adopted in 2023 to improve the assessment of supply against the partnership sustainable fisheries criteria, taking into consideration specific MSC performance indicators, ISSF conservation measures and the IUU Fishing Risk Index.

Thanks to this commitment, in the period January – December 2024, 96,2% of Bolton's tuna came from sustainable sourcing.

Nevertheless, Bolton, being aware of the crucial role of healthy tuna populations for

the marine ecosystem, is committed to ensuring that its actions contribute to improving the state of tuna stocks that are under severe pressure.

Considering that the assessment of the yellowfin tuna stock in the Indian Ocean gave the results of the stock being overfished and in overfishing, in March 2023, Bolton self-imposed a gradual and significant reduction in sourcing yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean, aiming to achieve a reduction of at least 30% in 2025 compared to its supply in 2020. The procurement of yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean in 2024 decreased by 74% compared to 2020 levels, so, to date, the reduction is far beyond the target and the company is on track to fully achieve the public commitment in 2025.

In December 2024, IOTC updated the yellowfin tuna stock assessment that reported encouraging results, showing significant improvement in the state of this stock. The methodology used for this stock assessment differentiates significantly from the one previously adopted. The 2024 longline ‘Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)’ indices for Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna showed significantly more optimistic trends compared to the 2021 indices. Several methodological changes in 2024 led to an increase in CPUE indices, particularly in the northwestern Indian Ocean, but these changes were not clearly justified in the stock assessment.

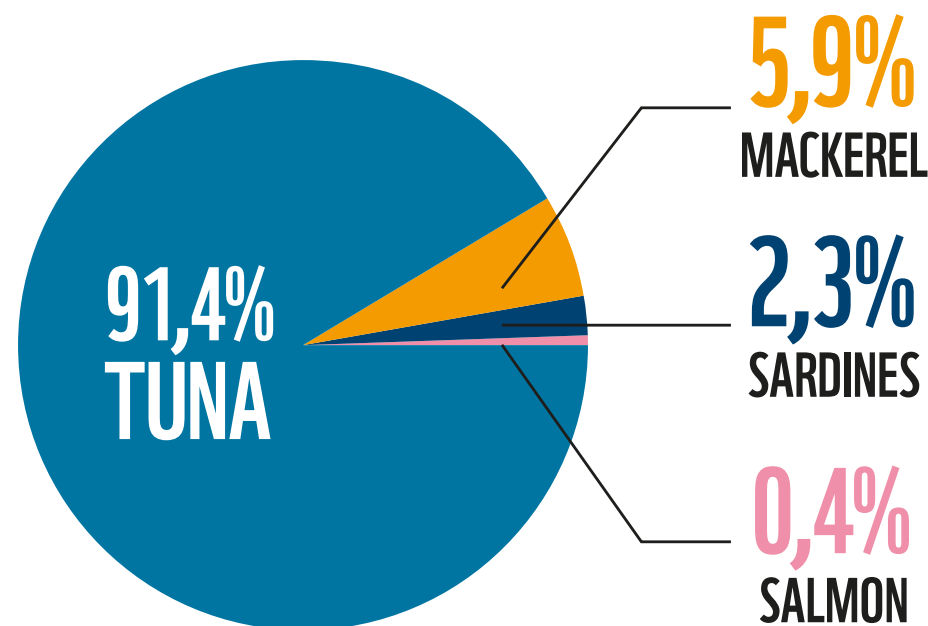
Such unexpected outcome raised several concerns by the scientific community, that can be summarized in the following main points:

- Implausibly low Biomass level estimated (BMSY) (~30% of unfished biomass) used in the stock assessment model, which contradicts conventional fisheries science.
- Extreme recruitment variability, fluctuating by a factor of four, undermining the reliability of the assessment.
- Doubtful recent biomass increases, with a steep increase in the last year, likely an artifact of flawed modeling assumptions.
- Discrepancies in CPUE trends, with previous CPUE analyses showing stock stabilization at low levels, while the new CPUE indices show a sudden optimistic trend.

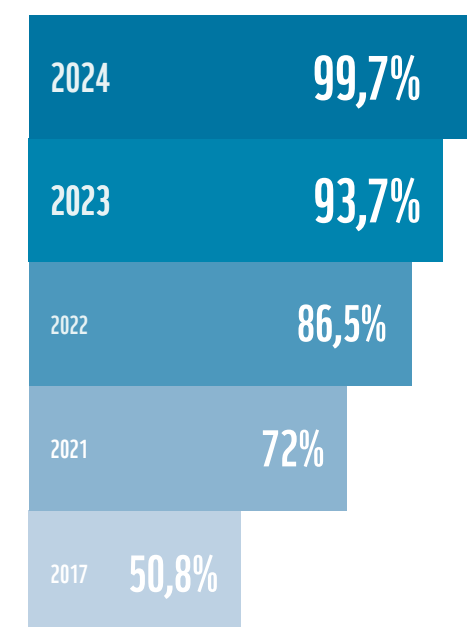
Considering the above issues, Bolton decided, together with WWF, to adopt a precautionary approach on the sourcing of yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean, until these results are consolidated by a new stock assessment, or until the scientific community is reassured on its reliability (particularly by allowing the comparability with previous assessments and adding fisheries-independent data). That said, Bolton maintains its commitment alive and is firmly advocating together with its partners, for the IOTC to honor its responsibility by sustainably managing yellowfin tuna and other tropical tuna stocks in the long term, maintaining a precautionary approach even in the light of the new positive results on the stock trend.

BOLTON FISH SOURCING

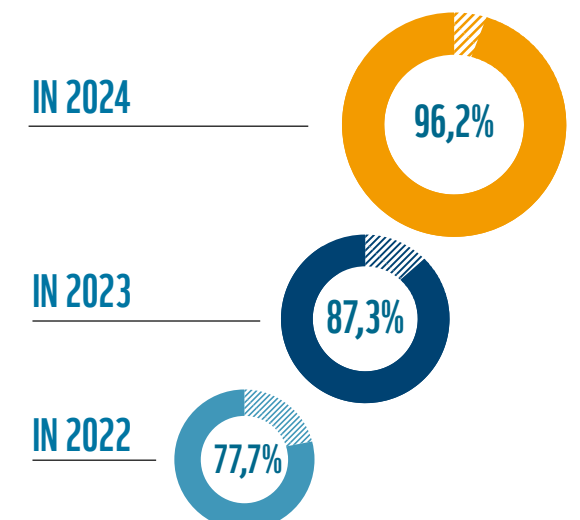
In 2024, tuna accounted for more than 90% of the fish sourced by Bolton, while other species such as salmon, sardines and mackerel are just a small percentage of the total:



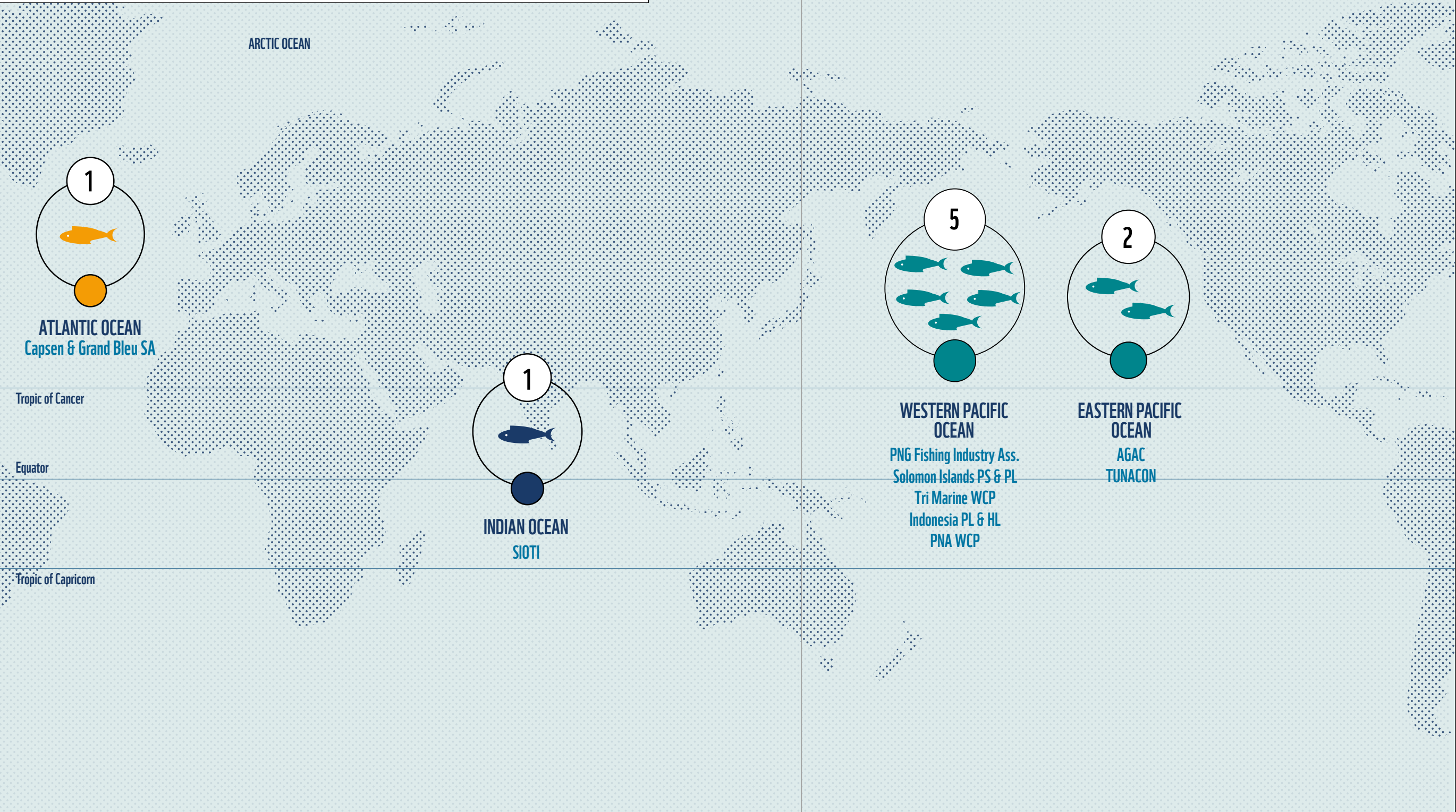
BOLTON TUNA SOURCING FROM MSC CERTIFIED FISHERIES OR CREDIBLE AND COMPREHENSIVE FIPs



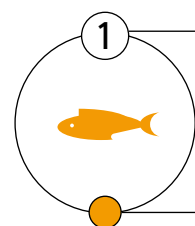
BOLTON TUNA SOURCING ACCORDING TO THE PARTNERSHIP SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES CRITERIA



MAP OF MAJOR FISHING AREAS FOR BOLTON



HOW TO READ THE MAP



Number of Fisheries

Status

- Some Units of Assessment MSC certified, some in Credible and Comprehensive FIP
- Credible & Comprehensive FIP
- MSC Certified Fishery

For the full list of fisheries, see the table in the appendix of the document.

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT FIPs

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 can help to improve the sustainability status of target stocks, reduce bycatch and improve responsible management. The MSC label is displayed only on seafood coming from MSC certified fisheries that meet MSC's standard.

THE MSC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The MSC Improvement Program is a program by the Marine Stewardship Council that supports fisheries to make measurable, independently verified progress towards MSC certification.

FISHERY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (FIP)

A FIP is a multi-stakeholder, stepwise effort that utilises the power of the private sector, community fisher groups, NGOs and government to incentivise positive changes and improve fishing practices and management. The aim of a FIP is to ensure a fishery performs at the level of an unconditional pass against the MSC fisheries standard (i.e., scoring 80 or above on each performance indicator (PI)).

CREDIBLE & COMPREHENSIVE FIP

To be identified as “credible” and “comprehensive” a FIP needs to conform to the following criteria:

- Completion of a scoping document and MSC pre-assessment by an independent third-party auditor.
- Establishment of an action plan.
- Public launch.
- Start of the implementation stage.
- Ongoing progress shown accordingly to the action plan designed within the agreed time frame.
- Periodical progress evaluation by an external independent consultant.
- Rating A or C by the NGO Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP)*.

* https://fisheryprogress.org/sites/default/files/FP_FIP%20Review%20Guidelines%202.0_221205_JHC_FINAL.docx_.pdf
* <https://sustainablefish.org/industry-leadership/tools-for-sustainability/fip-evaluation-program/sfp-monthly-fip-ratings-reports/>

FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG

Fisheryprogress.org is a website that gathers and keeps track of information on the progress of global fishery improvement projects, making tracking progress more transparent, efficient, consistent, and reliable.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2021-2024 MORE SUSTAINABLE SOURCING

The partnership has supported progress toward greater sustainability in the seafood industry. Bolton's expertise in areas like MSC certification, FIPs, biodiversity, and ocean health has grown significantly, and it may have encouraged other tuna companies to pursue similar initiatives. Suppliers are also working to align with Bolton's sustainability policies.

THIS PATH HAS LED TO INCLUDING STOCK HEALTH AS A CRITICAL PART OF THE BENCHMARKING PROCESS, BEYOND MSC AND FIP STANDARDS.

THIS BROADER DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES SETS THE PARTNERSHIP APART.

- ◇ Bolton tuna sourcing from MSC Certified fisheries or credible and comprehensive FIPs increased **from 72% in 2021 to 99,7% in 2024.**
- ◇ Bolton sustainable sourcing increased **from 77,7% in 2022 to 96,2% in 2024.**
- ◇ Bolton worked to reduce its sourcing of yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean, aiming to achieve a reduction of at least **30% in 2025** compared to its supply levels in 2020. In **2024** the sourcing decreased by **74%** compared to **2020** levels.
- ◇ Development and adoption of a set of indicators and methodology to assess Bolton's supply against the sustainable fishing criteria, taking into consideration specific MSC performance indicators, ISSF conservation measures and the IUU Fishing Risk Index.

CONSERVATION PROJECT MANGROVES TALES

Bolton is funding a WWF conservation project safeguarding mangrove forests and supporting indigenous ancestral communities in the Gulf of Guayaquil in Ecuador. The initiative supported the renewal of land protection concessions for more than 8,000 hectares.

Mangrove forests, together with algal forests, salt marshes and marine seagrass beds such as *Posidonia oceanica*, constitute so-called “blue forests,” marine and coastal ecosystems capable of storing up to nine times more carbon dioxide per hectare than tropical forests. Mangrove forests in Ecuador are, in fact, a protected ecosystem and represent a valuable resource. In addition, they combat climate change and maintain the balance of the marine ecosystem, preserving biodiversity by providing shelter for numerous marine and terrestrial species, filtering water and regulating the flow of nutrients, and protecting coastlines from erosion caused in part by rising ocean levels. These local communities reside in remote areas where access to health, electricity, and water services is severely limited, and their livelihoods depend entirely on the health of mangroves.

Since 2000, Ecuador’s Ministry of the Environment has implemented a mangrove conservation strategy by giving local ancestral communities the opportunity to obtain a 10-year concession to manage the forests to preserve them and manage their fish resources. In the 1970s and 1980s the coverage of mangrove forests had been greatly reduced due to deforestation to make room for shrimp farms. In fact, 31% of the mangrove ecosystem in Pacific South America is in Ecuador, where the Gulf of Guayaquil is home to 80% of the country’s mangroves.

Communities are asked to submit forest management plans to become “mangrove guardians” with the goal of monitoring and guarding the sites. Risks include deforestation,

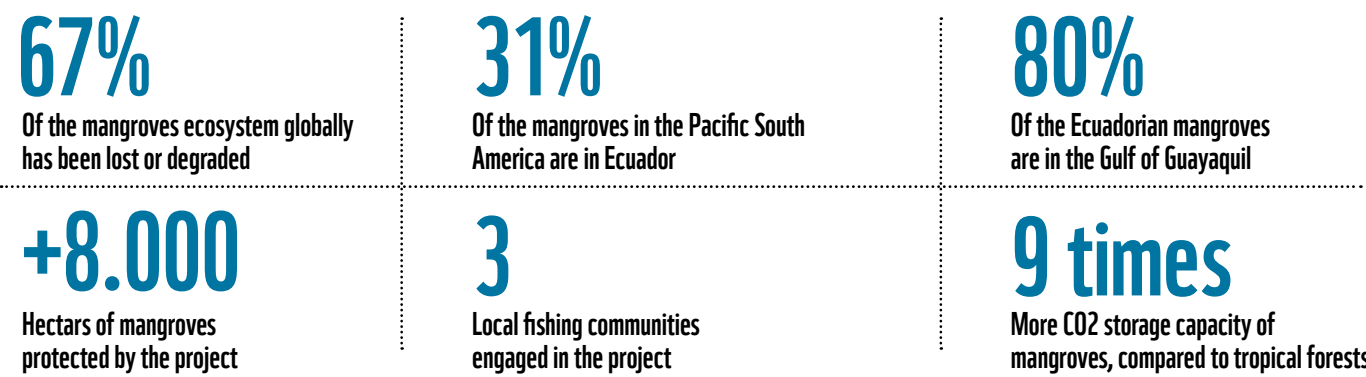
pollution and illegal fishing, particularly of mangrove red crab.

Bolton and WWF assist local fishing communities by providing technical support for the preparation and renewal of management plans to get the ministerial concessions for the use and custody of the mangrove, as well as the strengthening of community capacities for monitoring, surveillance and protection of the swamps.

From an economic and social point of view, for these communities the role of guardians is a real source of livelihood: the help of Bolton and WWF has enabled them to strengthen their capacities to cooperate with authorities and scientists in the important task of managing their areas, through better control and monitoring of fish resources, such as the mangrove red crab fishery.

Thanks to Bolton support, WWF assisted the 3 artisanal fisher associations involved in the project - Asociación De Pescadores Artesanales De Especies Bio-acuáticas y Afines Isla Escalante, Asociación De Comerciantes Minoristas De Cangrejos Los Ceibos and the Asociación De Producción Pesquera Artesanal Puerto Buena Vista - with the development and submission of all the necessary documentation for the formal request of renewal of the concessions, and made the donation of basic equipment (like computers, printers and radios) to the 3 associations. This equipment supports the management of the beneficiary concessionaires and are used for the storage of key fishing management and monitoring information.

Strengthening the management of the 3 organisations is an enabling condition so that they can comply with the commitments that the environmental authority of Ecuador requires in the framework of the custody of the mangroves. The donation of equipment allowed them to prepare and record information on the management of their areas such as fishing monitoring, patrol records, complaints and follow-up reports required by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition. The project achieved its initial objectives and was successfully completed by the end of 2024.





GOAL 2 ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGE

Achieving the partnership's objectives requires introducing changes 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 require the engagement of multiple stakeholders, including corporations, civil society, NGOs and decision makers at international and regional level, in particular RFMOs. The partnership's advocacy objectives concentrate on influencing market incentives and policy development to generate a positive change within the sector and the adoption of new measures to protect fisheries and marine ecosystems.

GOALS FOR ADVOCACY AT RFMOs

Bolton and WWF coordinate closely to set specific advocacy objectives for each RFMO and identify outreach opportunities. Bolton has prioritised three areas where to focus the advocacy efforts consistently over a period of 4 years:



Development and adoption of harvest strategies and harvest control rules to adequately manage tropical tuna populations which ensure that no overfishing is taking place, and stocks are not overfished.



Availability of updated and reliable stock assessments in RFMOs, which are essential to any fisheries management system.



Strengthening FAD management measures, to minimise negative environmental impacts and improve transparency in their use.

In addition, in line with the partnership objectives and to respond to emerging priorities in the past years, Bolton is also firmly advocating for:



Adoption of measures that ensure 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for all industrial fisheries; and



Adoption of measures that contribute to reducing bycatch and increasing post-release survival of endangered, threatened and protected species (ETP), and particularly vulnerable shark species.

ADVOCACY INITIATIVES AT TUNA RFMOs

Bolton has become a known player in 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). Bolton advocacy team members attended the 2024 annual meetings of these RFMOs, joining as part of the EU, US or Solomon Islands delegations.

Prior to these meetings, Bolton engaged directly with the EU, also through its membership in the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC).

In 2024, Bolton became formally a partner of the Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), after having coordinated with this initiative in advocacy efforts in favour of tuna sustainability in the past years, particularly advocating for major catch reductions in yellowfin tuna at IOTC. Bolton was one of the first tuna processing companies to join GTA.

Bolton, as founding member, continued its joint outreach with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), sending more than 300 letters to RFMO delegates in 2024. More broadly, Bolton representatives published [opinion articles](#) and participated as speakers at public events to advocate for sustainable policies at RFMOs.

While progress at RFMOs takes time, in the recent years RFMOs have completed some of the most necessary stock assessments, such as for skipjack and yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean. WCPFC adopted a management procedure for skipjack tuna and IATTC has advanced towards a rebuilding plan for bigeye tuna and is progressing in the setting of harvest control rules for tropical tunas. ICCAT also advanced by adopting candidate management procedures to set catch limits in 2026 for skipjack tuna in the West Atlantic. ICCAT, IOTC and, most recently, WCPFC have adopted minimum standards for electronic monitoring on board fishing vessels, an important step to enhance transparency in fishing activities. IOTC adopted a comprehensive management measure for drifting FADs, which increases clarity in FAD fisheries and introduces limits to the deployment of drifting FADs.



© Richard Herrmann / Silverback/Netflix/WWF

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Bolton advocacy activities through ISSF

Bolton is one of the founding members of 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. 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 with other stakeholders, including large-scale retail trade.

Bolton participation in other advocacy groups

In 2024, Bolton continued its involvement as a member of the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC), providing advice to the EU to improve the sustainable use of fishing resources. The company has intensified its engagement as a member of NAPA (North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy) group, a coalition of more than 50 retailers, food service companies, and suppliers who aim at restoring MSC certification for Northeast Atlantic mackerel, Atlanto-Scandian herring and Northeast Atlantic blue whiting. In 2024, one of the managers of Bolton Sustainable Development team has been appointed Vice-chair of the mackerel subgroup of NAPA.

Luciano Pirovano, Chief Sustainable Development Officer of Bolton, continued his role as chair of the Sustainability Working Group of the EU Fish Processors and Traders Association and the European Federation of National Organizations of Importers and Exporters of Fish (AIPCE CEP). The association represents 19 EU National Associations and accounts for more than 3,900 enterprises and 128,000 people (more than 80% representativeness at EU level). All sustainability and corporate social responsibility issues related to the industry are handled by AIPCE CEP Sustainability Working Group. The group is developing a manifesto that will serve as common ground to which policy makers can refer with the full confidence of representing the entire European seafood sector and support organisations and companies in the seafood sector in the development of their sustainability strategy and policies. The manifesto will work on six relevant pillars:

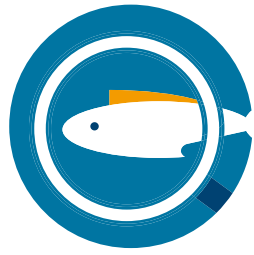
- ✓ RESPONSIBLE FISHING AND HEALTHY OCEANS
- ✓ RESPONSIBLE AQUACULTURE
- ✓ RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION
- ✓ HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT
- ✓ HEALTHY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD
- ✓ RESPONSIBLE COMMUNICATION

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS
2021-2024 ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGE

BOLTON HAS INVESTED IN ADVOCATING AT RFMOS AND TO GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT. SUSTAINABILITY IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT EFFECTIVE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS.

- Development and consolidation of a Bolton **advocacy team**, with presence in all ocean areas, and robust **coordination** with WWF policy teams.
- Growth of existing **relationships with key stakeholders**, such as representatives of the fishing industry, retailers and government representatives and integration as a member in key advisory bodies, associations and networks such as the EU’s Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC); the Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), and the North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy group (NAPA).
- More **visible profile** of Bolton as an international stakeholder on fisheries sustainability.
- At RFMOs, Bolton has supported the **adoption of more sustainable measures** through **direct engagement** with government delegations - particularly those of the EU - as well as with other stakeholders. The main focus is on FAD management in IATTC and IOTC and harvest strategies for tropical tunas across all RFMOs, with an emphasis in ensuring the rebuilding of yellowfin tuna in the Indian ocean.





GOAL 3 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. International obligations and national law increasingly require greater transparency in fishing operations and supply chains and there is a growing demand by consumers and supply chain partners to have access to reliable information about the origins of their products.



TRANSPARENCY IN BOLTON TUNA SUPPLY CHAIN

Adopting good transparency practices requires the collection and management of traceability data from every vessel and sourcing activity, from the open sea to the point of sale and ensuring maximum transparency of this data by sharing it with stakeholders and consumers. This is a challenging process, involving research, innovation and the support of technological solutions such as GPS (Global Positioning System), AIS (Automatic Identification System) and VMS (Vessel Monitoring System) to improve vessel monitoring.

Since 2022, Bolton publishes annually the list of the vessels it sourced from, which can be found on its [Responsible Quality website](#) and on WWF Italy's website in the download section.

Since 2023, Bolton publishes on its [Responsible Quality website](#) a map created in collaboration with Global Fishing Watch, which shows the tracks of 8 vessels owned by Bolton in near real time. Data on these vessels' movements is analysed yearly by an independent expert, and information is used by the company to ensure there is full monitoring and assurance of these vessels' operations.



IUU RISK ASSESSMENT

Ensuring transparency and full monitoring in all actions undertaken during a product's journey is also fundamental in tackling the problem of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. As one of the biggest threats to sustainable fishing practices, it 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 for the Food Business unit. Based on a high level IUU risk assessment conducted in 2022, Bolton identified six priority countries on which to conduct initial IUU risk assessments with the objective of developing and testing a unique IUU risk-assessment methodology. In 2024, IUU risk assessments were initiated for Ecuador, as processing state; Colombia and El Salvador, as port and processing states; and Panama as flag state. In parallel, Bolton began the development of a comprehensive due diligence management system for the Food Business unit, with an initial focus on the prevention of risks related to the violation of human rights and labour rights. Bolton will continue to grow the due diligence system to mitigate IUU fishing and environmental risks. In this context, the IUU risk assessment will be integrated in the Bolton due diligence management system, to cover the entirety of the Food business unit's supply chain.



GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON SEAFOOD TRACEABILITY

Bolton continued its partnership with the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST), an independent, industry-driven organization created to support voluntary business practices for achieving interoperable traceability within the seafood sector. Bolton became a founding member of GDST in 2022. In 2024, Bolton completed its pilot testing of the compatibility between systems, which have led to helpful revisions of the initiative.



TRACEABILITY CERTIFICATIONS

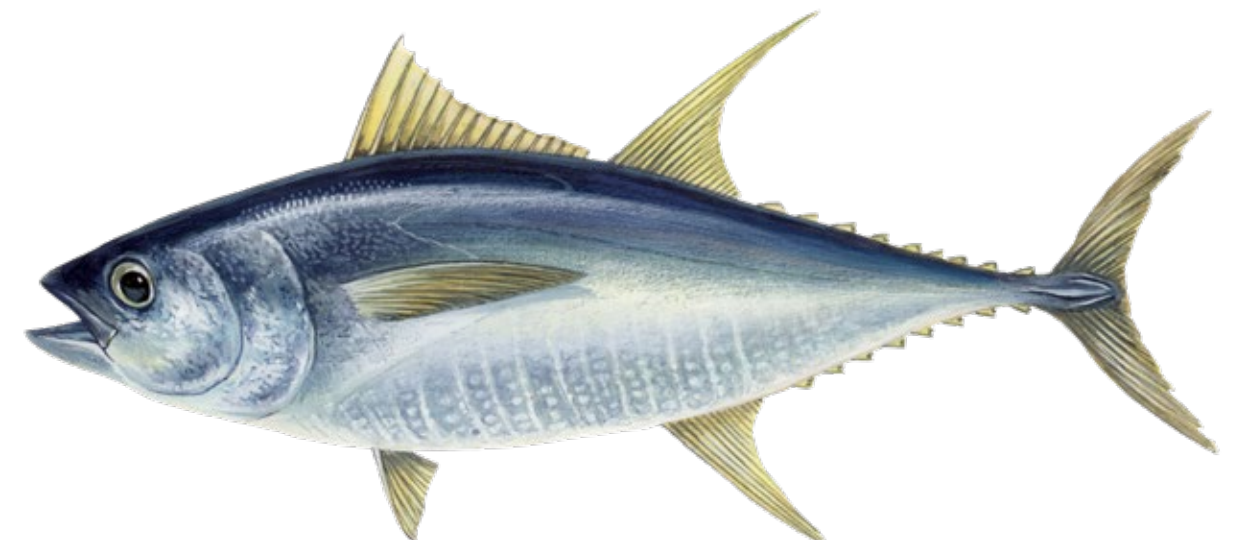
Bolton was one of the first companies in the world to develop an advanced traceability system certified by an independent certification body, in accordance with the international ISO 22005 Standard for food traceability. This system allows Bolton to trace every single can of tuna produced by the company from the moment the tuna is caught until it reaches the consumer's table. 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.



PRODUCT TRACEABILITY

To increase transparency and enhance consumer communication, Bolton implemented an online, real time traceability tool, which allows the consumer to identify information on the origin of the fish for each Rio Mare and Saupiquet tuna product by utilising the codes printed on the can. This platform is one of the first in the world to integrate data from a complex and global supply chain. This enables Bolton to guarantee the origin of its sourcing by keeping track of all stages in the production and ensuring that fish is of the utmost quality and safety. The platform is active in 21 countries where Bolton's products are marketed, and the number of consumers that use this platform has increased since its initiation in 2020.

Bolton addressed more than 8.700 traceability requests in 2024.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

2021-2024 TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

HIGH LEVELS OF TRANSPARENCY AND TRACEABILITY IN THE TUNA SUPPLY CHAIN ARE IMPORTANT FOR SEVERAL REASONS. THEY HELP REDUCE FRAUD, FOOD WASTE, ILLEGAL FISHING, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SUPPLY CHAIN.

Additionally, they contribute to strengthening the positive transformation of the industry towards ocean stewardship, while meeting international standards, national laws, and the growing consumer demand for reliable and transparent information about the origin of their products.

- Since 2022, Bolton has published annually the **list of vessels the company sources from**, which can be found on its Responsible Quality website and on WWF Italy's website in the download section.
- Since 2023, Bolton has published on its Responsible Quality website a **map created in collaboration with Global Fishing Watch**, which shows the tracks of vessels owned by Bolton in near real time.
- All data on Bolton vessels' movements is analysed yearly by an independent expert, and information is used by the company to ensure there is **full monitoring and assurance** of these vessels' operations.
- Bolton became a founding member of the **Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST)** in 2022 and has conducted comprehensive pilot testing of the compatibility between systems, which have led to improvements in the GDST system.
- A general assessment of risks of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing for all flag, port, processing and market states involved in Bolton supply chain was conducted. **A specific methodology to conduct in-depth IUU risk assessments was developed** and, in line with the partnership's sustainable fisheries criteria, IUU risks of flag states in Bolton supply chain is routinely monitored.





GOAL 4 SOCIAL AND LABOUR STANDARDS

Respect for fundamental human rights is an essential baseline for sustainable seafood and so is the basis 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 most extended and complex in the food industry. This involves multiple actors, most of them in developing countries. Each actor operates according to their own legal and cultural models which may not guarantee some aspects of respect for human rights. In addition, the isolated conditions in which fishing activity takes place, hundreds of kilometres away from the coast and on journeys that last several months, and the large number of women employed in the production process, must be taken into consideration.

ISSF CONSERVATION MEASURE 9.1 "PUBLIC POLICY ON SOCIAL AND LABOUR STANDARDS"

Bolton is committed to and compliant with the ISSF Conservation Measure 9.1 "Public Policy on Social and Labour Standards", in force since 1 January 2021, that states that processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall develop and publish a social and labour 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 labour
- Child labour
- Freedom of association
- Wages, benefits and employment contracts
- Working hours
- Health and safety
- Discrimination, harassment and abuse
- Grievance mechanisms

ATÚN DE PESCA RESPONSABLE

Bolton's Spanish and Ecuadorian fleet is certified under the UNE 195006 "Atún de Pesca Responsable". This is the only certification in the world that guarantees the highest social and labour standards for sea workers under the ILO 188 Convention. In addition, it ensures that national authorities control fishing activity 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, that vessels are in optimal navigation conditions, and that responsible or sustainable environmental practices are implemented onboard.

OTHER POLICIES

In 2022 Bolton updated its public Code of Conduct for Vessels, which was first published in 2019, following the highest human rights international standards. This Code of Conduct requires every Bolton tuna supplier, directly or indirectly engaged with fishing vessels, to comply with additional specific requirements for sea workers additional to the one included in the Bolton Human Rights Policy, which was also launched in September 2022. This updated Code of Conduct covers fundamental labour and social rights for sea workers in a process of continuous improvement with its suppliers under a Due Diligence Management System, also advised by Oxfam, that Bolton has launched in 2024. Both documents have been developed with the support of Oxfam and cover the most important Human Rights Principles:

1. Regular and Freely Chosen Employment
2. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
3. Health, Safety and Working Conditions
4. Abolition of Child Labour
5. Living Wages
6. Respect of Working Hours
7. Elimination of Discrimination and Harsh treatment
8. Rights of Local Populations
9. Reporting breaches



Since 2020, Bolton has worked on a long-term, multi-country partnership with Oxfam to promote the concept of “healthier and more sustainable food”, not only for consumers and the environment, but also for people 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 had several goals:

1

Review and update corporate human rights policies to strengthen and streamline all policies related to social and labour issues and align them with the highest international standards (the Ethical Trade Initiative Base Code, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights and the International Labour Organization Core Conventions). In 2022, this work led to the launch of a new Bolton Human Rights Policy and a new Bolton Code of Conduct for Vessels. The company has also launched the new Bolton Code of Conduct for Suppliers which include a due diligence commitment to comply with its requirements in a transformative process of continuous improvement with suppliers.

2

Develop Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIA) – using Oxfam’s owned methodology – along three relevant Bolton tuna supply chains: Ecuador, Morocco and Colombia. 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, NGOs, trade unions and workers representatives. The core of the HRIA is a field mission undertaken by performing (a) in-depth interviews with Bolton’s workers and other rights holders within and outside the 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 publication of Human Rights Impact Assessment Reports, that include an Action Plan with Bolton’s commitments to avoid, prevent and mitigate the adverse human rights impacts along its supply chain.

3

Develop a Human Rights Due Diligence Management System in order to provide a framework and tools to adopt a governance process through which the company puts in place a series of measures to identify its risks and its actual and potential negative impacts in its own activities, its supply chain and other business relationships to ensure that the respect for human rights is effectively monitored throughout the company’s supply chain. This Due Diligence Management System, aligned with the United Nations Guiding Principles, shall be based on a robust risk analysis process to evaluate and monitor compliance with its internal corporate policies and establish corrective measures to avoid, prevent and mitigate current and potential adverse impacts along its supply chain.

4

Improve the well-being of the communities where the company is present through the implementation of the Action Plans resulting from the HRIA.

5

Raise awareness of the social scope of sustainability through the communication of the commitments made with the aim of bringing positive changes in the industry and becoming an example in the sector.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

2021-2024 SOCIAL AND LABOUR STANDARDS WITH OXFAM

The tuna supply chain is one of the longest and most complex in the food industry because it involves a multiplicity as well as a diversity of players, most of whom work in Global South countries where fishing activities take place. That’s why social issues have always been one of the workstreams of Bolton and WWF partnership.

IN 2020 BOLTON SIGNED A TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH OXFAM TO BUILD TOGETHER AN INCREASINGLY EQUITABLE SUPPLY CHAIN, WHERE INCLUSION, ELIMINATION OF INEQUALITY, GENDER EQUALITY, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND SAFE AND DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS ARE GUARANTEED FOR ALL PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE TUNA SUPPLY CHAIN.

- New updated policy structure advised by Oxfam: **Bolton Human Rights Policy, Bolton Food Code of Conduct for Vessels and Bolton Food Due Diligence Management System.**
- **Human Rights Impact Assessments** developed in three key supply chains: Ecuador, Morocco and Colombia, with three years action plans to remedy impacts.

AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Promoting awareness among consumers about the significance of healthy oceans and sustainable resource management is a primary focus of the partnership. Bolton and WWF advocate for changing consumer behaviour by emphasising reliable communication, prioritising quality over quantity in seafood consumption, and recognising consumers’ pivotal role in this endeavour.

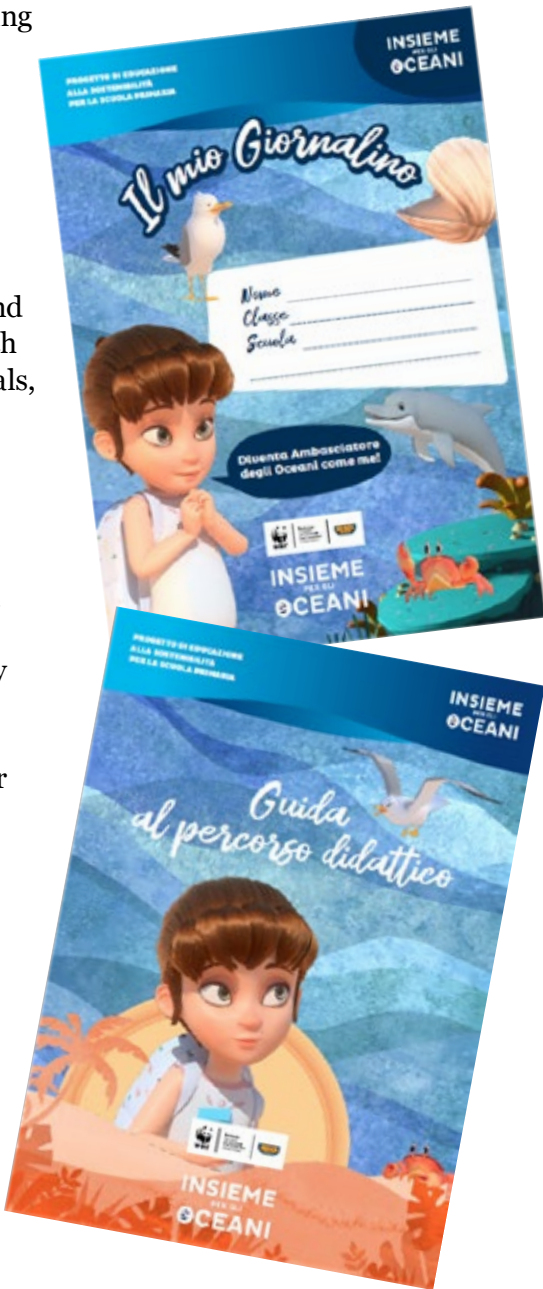
MARKETING AND PR ACTIVITIES

In 2024, the partners continued to communicate the efforts and commitments through the “Together for the Oceans” campaign, featuring the cartoon character Ondina, aimed at educating and raising awareness about sustainability issues faced by the ocean and Rio Mare’s commitments. Launched in 2018, the campaign was active in 11 countries in 2024, designed for a diverse range of marketing activities, such as PR, events, in-store and digital advertising, on the days around World Oceans Day (8th June). MSC- certified products were clearly identifiable in stores, thanks to specially designed packaging featuring information about the company’s commitment to sustainable fishing and the partnership. In addition to a dedicated display for the products, each participating retailer was provided with additional information materials, and the support of dedicated staff.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL PROJECT IN ITALY

Since 2020, the school project, developed in Italy, has been a crucial part of the “Together for the Oceans” campaign. It 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 behaviour and lifestyle choices capable of creating a better, richer, greener, healthier and fairer future for all. The project is developed for children between 7 and 10 years old, and their families and teachers are also involved through specific activities. The project contributes to strengthening the educational role of the partnership’s communication and stimulating children to get involved to face the great global challenges. The protagonist of the school project is Ondina, a little girl on a journey to save the ocean, who is presented on all materials prepared for the project (School Kit), such as the illustrated book with Ondina’s story. During the school year 2023/2024, a total of 2.031 elementary schools were reached, involving more than 62.500 children. The project was approved by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) and successfully involved 67% of total Italian elementary schools in 5 years.

Bolton also continued with the Bolton Ambassadors Program, in which the company’s employees take part in presentations in the schools involved in the Together for the Oceans project to talk about sustainability and the partnership with WWF.

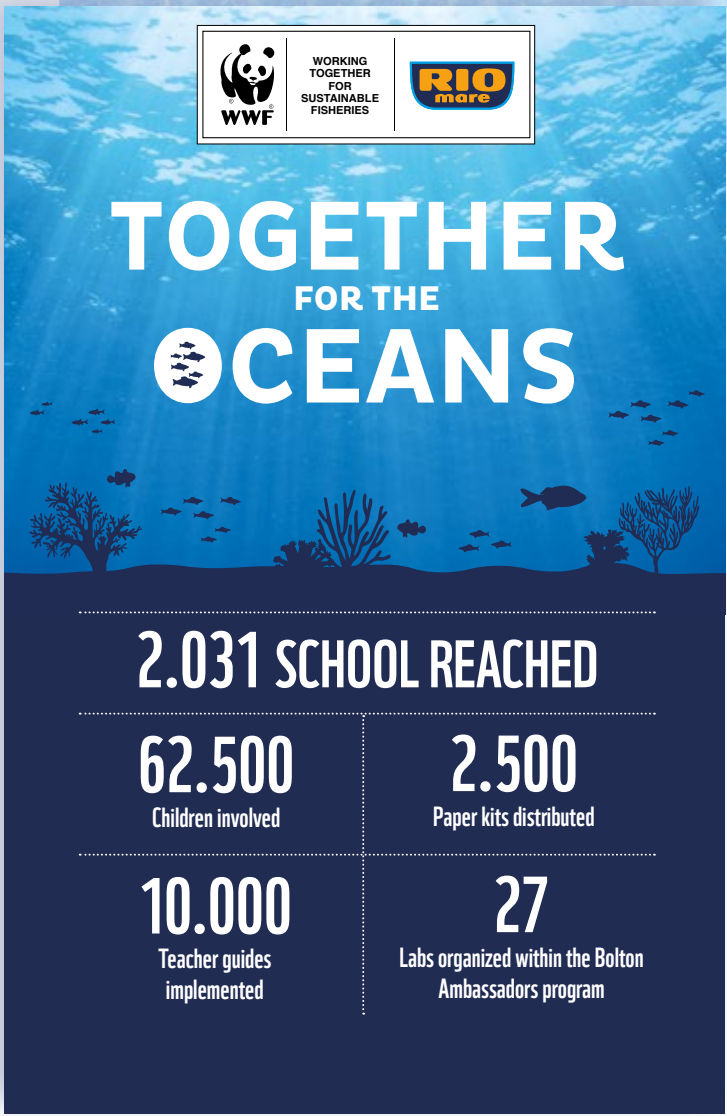


MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2021-2024 AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

At the beginning of the 2021-2024 partnership, sustainability issues were still relatively unknown to the public. Recognising this, the team's idea was to create a joint communication moment to raise awareness and discuss the sustainability of fisheries and healthy oceans.

THIS INITIATIVE AIMED TO INFORM AND ENGAGE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF OCEAN CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE FISHING PRACTICES, HELPING TO EDUCATE CONSUMERS ON THESE TOPICS.

- The point of sales activation in Italy, reached **60% Weighted Distribution**.
- The campaign has been launched in **11 countries** with a positive response.
- The “Little girl and the ocean” book has reached the top **20 best-selling children’s books** in Feltrinelli bookshops in Italy.
- The **Educational school project** was approved by the **Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR)** and successfully involved 67% of total Italian elementary schools.



2024 FISHERY LIST

OCEAN	SPECIES	STATUS	FISHERIES	FISHING METHOD
ATLANTIC OCEAN	YFT & SKJ	MSC	AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery (Atlantic Ocean)	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	Anabac Atlantic purse seine yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacares) and skipjack tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis) fishery (FAD and FSC)	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC/CC FIP	Capsen & Grand Bleu Atlantic Ocean purse seine skipjack and yellowfin tuna fishery	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	Atlantic Ocean tropical tuna French purse seine	PS
	YFT & SKJ	CC FIP	Atlantic Ocean tuna – purse seine (Capsen & Grand Bleu S.A.)	PS
	YFT & SKJ	CC FIP	Atlantic Ocean tuna - purse seine (GSK Marine S.A.)	PS
	YFT & SKJ	CC FIP	Eastern Atlantic Ocean tuna - purse seine (ANABAC)	PS
	SKJ	CC FIP	Eastern Atlantic tuna – purse seine (Ghanian fleet)	PS
	YFT & SKJ	CC FIP	Eastern Atlantic tuna – purse seine (French fleet)	PS
INDIAN OCEAN	YFT & SKJ	CC FIP	Indian Ocean tuna – purse seine (SIOTI)	PS
	YFT & SKJ	CC FIP	Indian Ocean tuna - purse seine (Dongwon Industries)	PS
	YFT & SKJ	CC FIP	Indian Ocean yellowfin & bigeye tuna – purse seine (AGAC)	PS
	SKJ	MSC	AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery (Indian Ocean)	PS
	SKJ	MSC	Echebastar Indian Ocean PS SKJ	PS
	SKJ	MSC	Maldives pole & line skipjack tuna	PL
EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN	YFT & SKJ	MSC	AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery (Eastern Pacific)	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	US Pacific Tuna Group Purse Seine FSC and FAD Set Fishery	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (TUNACONS) fishery	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	Atún Sostenible EPO Panamá Tuna Fishery	PS
	SKJ	MSC	Eastern Pacific Ecuador Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery (FSC and FAD set fishery)	PS

OCEAN	SPECIES	STATUS	FISHERIES	FISHING METHOD
WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN	YFT & SKJ	MSC	AGAC four oceans Integral Purse Seine Tropical Tuna Fishery (Western & Central Pacific)	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	FSM Western and Central Pacific Tuna Purse Seine Fishery	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	Indonesia pole-and-line and handline, skipjack and yellowfin tuna of Western and Central Pacific archipelagic waters	PL HL
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin, unassociated / non FAD set, tuna purse seine fishery	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	PNG Fishing Industry Association's purse seine Skipjack & Yellowfin Tuna Fishery	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	Solomon Islands skipjack and yellowfin tuna purse seine and pole and line	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	Tri Marine Western and Central Pacific skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna fishery	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	Dongwon Pacific purse seine yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack fishery	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	WPSTA Western and Central Pacific Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye Purse Seine Fishery	PS
	YFT & SKJ	MSC	US Pacific Tuna Group Purse Seine FSC and FAD Set Fishery	PS
	YFT & SKJ	CC FIP	Indonesia Southeast Sulawesi yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna - purse seine	PS
	SKJ	MSC	Nauru skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna purse seine fishery	PS
	SKJ	MSC	TTKV WCPO skipjack and yellowfin tuna purse seine fishery	PS
	SKJ	MSC	Dongwon Pacific purse seine yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack fishery	PS
	SKJ	MSC	WPSTA Western and Central Pacific Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye Purse Seine Fishery	PS

LEGEND

YFT: Yellowfin tuna
SKJ: Skipjack tuna
MSC: Marine Stewardship Council Certified
CC FIP: Credible & Comprehensive Fishery Improvement Projects

PS: Purse seine
PL: Pole & line
HL: Handline

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 bycatch, 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 utilises the power of the private sector, community fisher groups and/or government to incentivise 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 fisheries standard (i.e., scoring 80 or above on each performance indicator). To be identified as “credible” 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 C rating by the NGO Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP)*.

FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG

Fisheryprogress.org is a website that gathers and keeps track of information on the progress of global fishery improvement projects, starting from the information directly shared and uploaded by

the FIP itself, and the FIP Progress Ratings system by Sustainable Fisheries Partnership.

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership’s FIP Progress Ratings system is the methodology that applies time benchmarks to quickly understand the rate at which a fishery is improving and assign a related letter grade. Each FIP receives a rating, ranging from an “A” grade of “Exceptional Progress” to an “E” grade of “Negligible Progress”*.

*”Advanced Progress” (A) - Reserved for comprehensive FIPs that have achieved a Stage 4 or 5 result within the past 12 months.
Some recent progress (C) - A FIP that has achieved a Stage 4 or 5 result in more than 12 (but less than 24) months AND has reported a Stage 3 activity within the past six months. Or a FIP younger than 12 months that has never achieved a Stage 4 or 5 result but has reported a Stage 3 activity within the first 12 months.

STAGE 3 = FIP implementation; STAGE 4 = improvements in fishing practices or fishery management; STAGE 5 = improvements on the water Sustainable Fisheries Partnership’s FIP Progress Ratings system was updated starting from January 2023.

In past versions of the progress rating methodologies, A indicated Advanced Progress, B indicated Good Progress, C indicated Some Recent Progress both for basic and comprehensive FIPs.

REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (RFMOS)

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) are international organisations created by countries with the objective to cooperate on the management of fisheries in specific regions of the world and/or for specific species. They can be integrated by both coastal states in a region and distant water fishing nations with interests in the fisheries concerned. RFMOs adopt binding

measures to conserve and manage the stocks under their competence, including the setting of catch and fishing effort limits. The four principal RFMOs, which manage highly migratory species, mainly tropical tuna are:

- 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 organisations as an observer and an active stakeholder at advocacy level.

ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

IUU fishing is one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems and fisheries sustainability. It can undermine national and regional efforts to manage fisheries sustainably, as well as efforts 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 utilisation of fish, and it may sometimes be associated with organised crime. IUU fishing represents up to 26 million tonnes 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 organisation but operate in contravention of the conservation and management measures adopted by that organisation 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 organisation.

- 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 organisation which have not been reported or have been misreported, in contravention of the reporting procedures of that organisation.
- Unregulated fishing: in the area of application of a relevant regional fisheries management organisation that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by those flying the flag of a State not party to that organisation, or by a fishing entity, in a manner that is not consistent with or contravenes the conservation and management measures of that organisation; 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.

INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION (ISSF)

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), founded in 2009, is a global, non-profit organisation 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 bycatch and promote marine ecosystem health. Participating companies choose to commit to honouring 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

*”Advanced Progress” (A) - Reserved for comprehensive FIPs that have achieved a Stage 4 or 5 result within the past 12 months.
Some recent progress (C) - A FIP that has achieved a Stage 4 or 5 result in more than 12 (but less than 24) months AND has reported a Stage 3 activity within the past six months. Or a FIP younger than 12 months that has never achieved a Stage 4 or 5 result but has reported a Stage 3 activity within the first 12 months.
STAGE 3 = FIP implementation; STAGE 4 = improvements in fishing practices or fishery management; STAGE 5 = improvements on the water Sustainable Fisheries Partnership’s FIP Progress Ratings system was updated starting from January 2023.

combat inequality, and safeguard poorer, more vulnerable individuals, by meeting the requirements of consumers and the environment.

BLUE FORESTS

“Blue forests” are coastal and marine ecosystems, including mangrove forests, seagrass meadows and tidal salt marshes. They play an important role in protecting marine biodiversity and supporting the livelihoods of coastal and island communities by providing habitats for fisheries, filtering water, guarding shorelines and creating opportunities for tourism and recreation. Blue forests also play a vital role in addressing the impacts of climate change. Such ecosystems are highly efficient in storing and sequestering atmospheric carbon in biomass and sediments, storing up to ten times as much carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests. The ability of coastal vegetation to sequester carbon is called “blue carbon.”

SPAWNING STOCK BIOMASS (SSB)

Spawning stock biomass (SSB) is the combined weight of all individuals in a fish stock that have reached sexual maturity and are capable of reproducing. An unsustainable fishery is one where the current or recent SSB is below 20% of SSBo. SSBo is the estimated level of spawning stock biomass before fishing of the stock commenced. SSB/SSBo at 20% is the minimum level of acceptance for any stock to be considered sustainable (see FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 569, Review of the state of world marine fishery resources).



© WWF-Pacific/Tom VierusNetflix / WWF

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/
WWF AND BOLTON PARTNERSHIP (ITALIAN WEBSITE)	https://www.wwf.it/cosa-facciamo/aziende-e-markets/i-nostri-partner/bolton-alimentari/
WWF GLOBAL TUNA STRATEGY	wwfnt.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/tuna_strategy_2021_web.pdf
BOLTON 2024 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT	https://www.bolton.com/sites/default/files/2025-04/bolton-sustainability-report_2024.pdf
BOLTON COMMITMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN YELLOWFIN TUNA	https://qualitaresponsabile.riomare.it/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/bolton-food-statement-indian-ocean_31032023_0.pdf
BOLTON POLICIES	https://www.bolton.com/commitment/our-policies
BOLTON AND OXFAM PARTNERSHIP	https://www.oxfamitalia.org/best-practice/bolton-food/
MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC) STANDARD FOR CERTIFIED SEAFOOD	https://www.msc.org/standards-and-certification/the-msc-standards
INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION (ISSF)	iss-foundation.org/
GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE	globaltunaalliance.com/
NORTH ATLANTIC PELAGIC ADVISORY GROUP	napafisheries.org/
GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON SEAFOOD TRACEABILITY	https://thegdst.org/
IUU FISHING DEFINITION	fao.org/iuu-fishing/background/what-is-iuu-fishing/en/
SIOTI FIP	fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indian-ocean-tuna-purse-seine-sioti
AGAC	https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/agac-four-oceans-integral-purse-seine-tropical-tuna-fishery/@@view
INDONESIA TUNA FIPS — POLE&LINE HANDLINE	http://fisheryprogress.org
INDONESIA SOUTHEAST SULAWESI YELLOWFIN TUNA AND SKIPJACK TUNA FIP — PURSE SEINE	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/
TUNA CONS FIP	tunacons.org
EASTERN ATLANTIC TUNA	http://fisheryprogress.org





WWF & BOLTON FOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT 2024 YEAR 8
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 has strengthened advocacy efforts for responsible management of tuna stocks globally. The report concerns the eighth year of the partnership and summarizes the progress made during the period between January 2024 and December 2024 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 eighth 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

Vimercate (MB), 18th June 2025

Lead Verifier
Biolini,
Caterina
Digitally signed
by Biolini,
Caterina
Date: 2025.06.18
15:01:31 +02'00'

Reviewer
Arena,
Riccardo
Digitally signed
by Arena,
Riccardo
Date: 2025.06.18
15:22:40 +02'00'

CONTACTS

WWF

Isabella Pratesi
Conservation Director WWF Italy


Benedetta Flammini
Marketing & Communications Director WWF Italy

infoaziende@wwf.it

BOLTON

Roberta Signori
Sustainable Development Manager
rsignori@boltonfood.com

Claudia Milan
Senior Communication Manager
cmilan@boltonfood.com



**Bolton is working together with
WWF for more sustainable
fishing and to safeguard the
oceans: to protect ourselves,
our future generations and the
ecosystem we share.**



Working together
to support more
sustainable fishing
and our oceans.

