



WORKING  
TOGETHER  
FOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
FISHERIES



# WWF & BOLTON FOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT YEAR 2

# CONTENTS

---

---

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction: a long-term vision to change the market</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Working together for the benefit of the oceans</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Partnership Project implementation in Year 2</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Next steps</b>	<b>34</b>



The report concerns the second year of the partnership between WWF Italia Onlus,  
WWF International and Bolton Food S.p.A.  
and the results achieved from July 2018 to July 2019.  
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.

# FOREWORD



More than ever, oceans are under an enormous threat and this is due to all human activities, whether direct or indirect: climate change, pollution and unsustainable fishing are the most pervasive causes of the ocean's environmental decline. Ocean services are invaluable: the future of humanity depends on ocean health and on the resources they provide for us and our lives. They feed families, protect coasts, play an important role against climate change and provide employment.

There is an urgent need for a seafood business commitment to lead the market towards protection of marine biodiversity and to guarantee a future for both marine life and people. WWF works with corporate partners along the fish supply chain aiming to ensure the sustainability and traceability of the seafood and fish products they commercialise at a global scale.

We rely strongly on the partnership with Bolton Food, which is one of world's largest canned fish producers, to improve the sustainability of their business practices and to deliver large-scale impacts to help safeguard the marine environment.

By sharing best practices, we want to help fisheries to improve their management, ensuring healthy marine ecosystems and inspiring other seafood companies to embark on the road to sustainability. We aim to engage people to be aware of marine environmental issues and become responsible sustainable consumers. A shift towards sustainable production and consumption across the whole seafood sector, helping restore oceans to build a future where people and the planet can thrive, is only possible by combining our efforts.

**Gaetano Benedetto**  
CEO of WWF Italy



At Bolton Food, we consider sustainability as a daily commitment to more responsible behaviors, which, in 2011, we named "The Right Course".

Our contribution starts by working hard for the health of the Oceans, guaranteeing resources for future generations; acting responsibly towards the communities and our people working in the supply chain, and towards all of those who have chosen our products in the past years and continue to choose them everyday.

Keeping sustainability at the heart of our business model has challenged us on a continuous monitoring of our fishing activities by joining several Fishery Improvement Projects around the world, by increasing our sourcing from MSC certified fisheries and by signing an ambitious partnership with WWF in 2016.

This partnership, in particular, is testimony of our dedication and I am so proud to announce that in 2019 we have achieved 65.5% of responsibly sourced tuna.

We believe that is our role as market leader to challenge the seafood industry for the best, working together with WWF to ensure that the oceans are sustainable today and in the foreseen future.

**Giuseppe Morici**  
CEO of Bolton Food



# INTRODUCTION: A LONG-TERM VISION TO CHANGE THE MARKET

**As the SDGs deadline fast approaches and the world is soon going to assess the real impact of conservation activities, it is increasingly urgent to involve business sectors in taking the lead in protecting natural resources.**

Oceans ecosystems are endangered and with them hundreds of millions of people whose livelihoods depend on seafood as food resource or as revenue.

WWF's vision for fisheries is to attain a **global shift towards healthy ecosystems** that support sustainable seafood production and consumption and benefit the people, livelihoods and businesses that depend on them.

Transformational partnerships always require **a long-term vision**, due to their nature and will to change entire businesses and sectors. Time, persistence and effort are needed to make significant and long-lasting changes.

Along with the commitment to transform the supply chain, partnerships like the one between WWF and Bolton Food have to cope with other important challenges. Urgent solutions must be put in place **to fight Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing** and its negative impacts on the oceans' ecosystems; along the supply chains respect for human rights and labour standards must be insisted upon, especially in developing countries; international regulations must be implemented and discussed with stakeholders, governments and regional municipalities to ensure that fish stocks are being fished within their reproduction capacity so that natural resources are not being harmed.

It is fundamental that **best practices are shared**, so that consumers and institutional actors can understand the importance of sustainable and fully traceable seafood. This will allow them to become proactive decision makers as well as inspire other seafood companies to embark on the road towards sustainability.

This report summarises the achievements of WWF and Bolton Food's project over the last year and all the activities undertaken to improve sustainability along the company's supply chain.

# WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE OCEANS

## WWF AND BOLTON FOOD

In December 2016, WWF Italy and WWF International started a **four-year corporate partnership** with Bolton Food's existing business at the time, Rio Mare, Saupiquet and Palmera, to transform the way in which the company sources and supplies tuna and other seafood species. **The aim of the partnership is to move Bolton Food's supply chain towards sustainable sourcing within 2024.** By joining forces, this important international canned fish producer and the world's leading conservation organization will deliver large-scale impacts to make our oceans more sustainable and better managed for us and for future generations.

## WWF's Seafood Charter

Seafood is the most traded food commodity globally. However, this is a critical moment since marine life is declining and hundreds of people around the world suffer from the threats of overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

WWF works across seafood supply chains, from fishers and farmers to supermarkets and restaurants, helping fishing companies and farms to increase their transparency and sustainable sourcing.

The Global Seafood Charter is a WWF document that aims to help companies move faster towards sustainable sourcing, outlining the key steps for a company to take on this journey.

Specifically, the Charter supports these objectives by:

- Helping companies to develop responsible seafood policies and sourcing strategies;
- Encouraging companies to invest in "on-the-water" or "on-the-ground" fishery and aquaculture improvement and conservation projects;
- Informing consumers and encouraging them to buy sustainable seafood.

By signing the international commitment in 2017, only four months after the partnership launch, Bolton Food further declared its engagement in developing key actions to be undertaken during the partnership to make responsible choices.

## 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 live in harmony with nature. Market actors have to be involved in order to make this happen. That is why **WWF addresses the corporate sector to develop better ways of doing business for conservation purposes**, since every company depends on the environment they work with.

Business drives much of the global economy, and WWF considers that **companies have a specific responsibility** to ensure that the natural resources and ecosystems upon which they depend are sustainably used and adequately protected. WWF especially focuses its efforts on those 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 such as deforestation, overfishing, water scarcity and climate change.



Tri Marine is a **recognized leader in fishing, processing and distributing high quality tuna products** to the world's markets and it has been Bolton Food's main supplier for over 25 years.

In July 2019 Bolton Group declared the **acquisition of 100% of Tri Marine's tuna supply chain business**. Tri Marine represents a success story and a profitable business model in tuna fishing, processing and marketing that the company intends to preserve and develop. The organizational choice to keep the activities of Bolton Food and Tri Marine separate thus underlines how the mission of Bolton Food, a branded consumer goods company, and Tri Marine, a service supply chain company, remain distinct.

The longtime partnership between Tri Marine and Bolton Group has greatly improved the sustainability of tuna supply worldwide. In fact, both companies are founding participants of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF). With this acquisition Bolton Group aims to move the tuna fishing sector to transparent and sustainable operations by introducing innovative activities in the most remote areas of the world. This acquisition confirms and strengthens their joint commitment to sustainability and it is expected to enhance the impacts of the tuna supply chain responsible policy on the seafood sector.

Trimarine, as Bolton, is **founding member of ISSF**. Trimarine is fully engaged on **MSC fisheries standard** and **chain of custody** certifications, **FIPs** aimed at achieving MSC certification, **Fair Trade** certification. It is also a member of the **Seafood Task Force (STF)**, the **Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI)** and the **International Handline and Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF)**.



## BOLTON FOOD'S COMMITMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

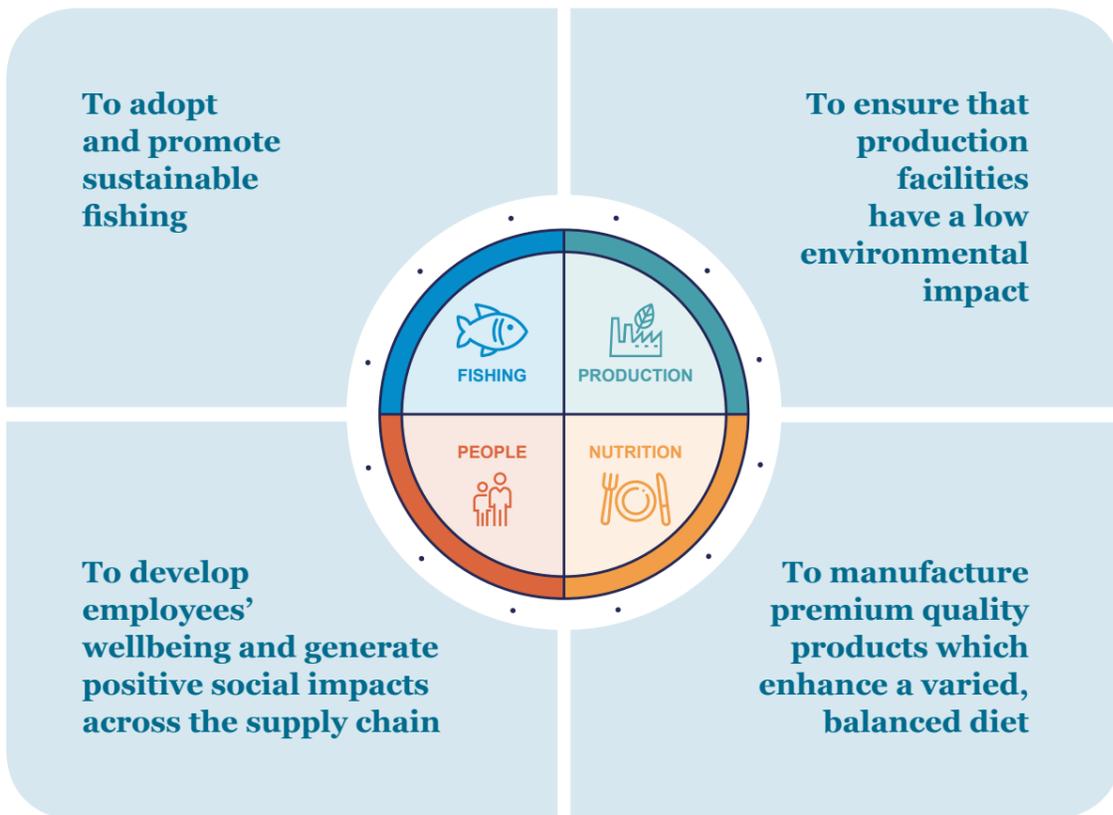
Bolton Food, the Italian and European leader in the canned tuna industry serving over 45 countries all over the world, has always been committed to sustainability: in 2009 the company participated in **founding the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)**.

Over the years, sustainability has become one of the key strategic drivers of Bolton Food. In 2011 this was articulated according to four fundamental pillars – fishing, production, people and nutrition – within the **Corporate**

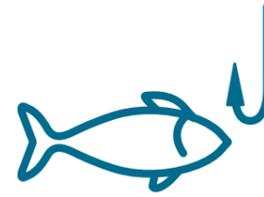
### Social Responsibility program “Responsible Quality”.

For each of the pillars, specific goals and targets have been set to achieve sustainability across the entire supply chain, from catch to consumer, respecting both the environment and people. This change in strategic direction was made even more concrete and credible by the launch of the partnership with WWF in 2016, allowing Bolton Food to reach the targets defined in its sustainable sourcing roadmap, in the pursuit of a steady course towards sustainability.

To help safeguard the marine environment and become one of the most sustainable and responsible businesses in the seafood market, Bolton Food’s strategy aims at specific targets:



## THE PARTNERSHIP'S GOALS



1

### Shifting to sustainable seafood sourcing

The objective of the company is to increase the amount of certified sustainable seafood products, to be able to **supply 100% of its tuna from MSC-certified fisheries or from Robust Fishery Improvement Projects by 2024.**

A similar commitment has been made for the other fish species the company commercializes: salmon, mackerel and sardines.



2

### Increasing traceability and transparency

The company has agreed to work with WWF to increase the traceability of the whole seafood sector and has committed to **providing full transparency and traceability to 100% of its supplying vessels.** The same traceability and transparency systems developed for tuna will be applied to all other species the company commercializes by the end of 2024.



3

### Promoting social and labour standards

Bolton Food has committed to **developing a robust Human Rights policy** aligned with international best practices, incorporating it into the company's management system and into the company's sustainability reporting.

The partnership will also cover other issues:

#### Advocacy and policy change:

WWF and Bolton Food have committed to advocate for full compliance to fisheries regulations and promote robust fisheries management policies among market stakeholders such as RFMOs.

#### Contributing to a conservation project:

the company has planned a contribution to support the management process for the development of a conservation project.

#### Engagement, education and communication:

the company has engaged to raise awareness among consumers and markets about the need for sustainable seafood sourcing and the impact this has on lives and livelihoods. Consumers across Europe must be provided with the information they need to make responsible choices on the seafood products they buy through yearly communication campaigns.

# Sustainable certification and fisheries activities

© naturepl.com / Doc White / WWF



## Marine Stewardship Council certification

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

WWF considers MSC certification to be the best available certification scheme for wild-caught seafood.

The MSC fisheries standard has three core principles that every fishery must meet:

- Sustainability of the stock: fishing must be at a level that ensures it can continue indefinitely and the fish population can remain productive and healthy;
- Ecosystem impacts: fishing activity must be managed carefully so that other species and habitats within the ecosystem remain healthy;
- Effective management: certified fisheries must comply with relevant laws and be able to adapt to changing environmental circumstances.



## Aquaculture Stewardship Council certification

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. WWF recognizes ASC as the most credible and effective standard for determining environmentally responsible aquaculture.

## Robust Fishery Improvement Projects

WWF defines **Fishery Improvement Projects (FIP)** as focused initiatives aimed at enabling fisheries to reach the sustainability standards necessary to enter a full assessment by a credible, science-based, multi-stakeholder certification programme. The programme that currently meets WWF's minimum criteria for wild-caught seafood is the Marine Stewardship Council. FIP stakeholders should include fishers/producers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), fishery managers, governments, researchers, and other members of the fishery supply chain.

FIPs are stepwise projects designed to achieve continuous time-bound improvements across the fishery in order to address its deficiencies against the MSC standard. So the fundamental goal of all FIPs is to help fisheries meet the MSC standard for sustainable fisheries.

In particular, a **Robust FIP** is a specific project which **aims to attain sustainability standards**.

In general, a Robust FIP contributes consistently, year after year, to the reduction of impacts on a given fish stock. 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, that is stage 3 within FIP guidelines;
- the fishery is making progress according to the action plan designed to reach a level consistent with the MSC standard within the agreed time frame (max. 5 years);
- progress is to be evaluated by an external independent consultant annually for the entire duration of the FIP.

## Aquaculture Improvement Projects

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.

# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN YEAR 2

**In the first eighteen months of the partnership, Bolton Food has created in the first eighteen months of the partnership, the conditions to be able to implement the journey towards its sustainability objectives. Bolton and WWF have developed strategic and operative standards so that they can:**

- implement actions within the FIP work and the sourcing activities already in place and support good industry practices;
- collect and analyse information regarding vessels and track their operations;
- coordinate the labour policies to be implemented by all the suppliers.

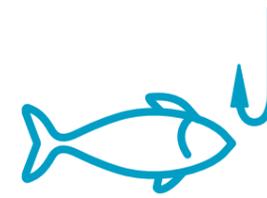


The project involved an initial analysis of Bolton Food's supply chain to understand the baseline situation and to identify priorities towards increasing sourcing from sustainable certified fisheries and robust Fisheries Improvement Projects.

In the second year of this journey the partnership is focused on **fostering and developing best practices and their application to the entire supply chain**, by studying individual cases and implementing ad hoc solutions, making improvements at all stages of the roadmap, conceiving positions and resolutions which will positively affect market trends and lobbying institutions.

This phase of the collaboration has seen an **up-scaling of the company's commitment** to encompass the global dimension of their entire supply chain and get it to work efficiently.

The following sections of this report describe in more detail the developments made in every aspect of the partnership to reach their final objectives.



## GOAL 1 SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD SOURCING

Transforming a complex international seafood business requires effort, particularly when dealing with migratory species, such as tuna, that are sourced from a number of different fisheries around the world.

As a first step, WWF used its internal Common Assessment Methodology (CAM) for the analysis of all of Bolton Food's supply chains for all of its species (tuna, salmon, mackerel, sardines) to establish a sustainability baseline for the raw materials the company uses. Taking into consideration the agreed roadmap, the next step was to concentrate on the identified FIPs (from which Bolton Food sources their seafood) and other potential projects to set priorities and organize workstreams towards the achievement of the sustainable partnership objectives.

As from 30 June 2019, **the new Tuna Policy** has been published by Bolton Food. This document contains specific commitments regarding the increase in sourcing from

MSC-certified fisheries and a commitment on FAD management measures, involving the development and use of biodegradable FADs by 2024.

**As a result of the joint effort between WWF and Bolton Food, the company's global sourcing from MSC-certified fisheries from January to July 2019 ranks at 33%.**

**Tuna sourced from  
MSC-certified fisheries  
or Robust FIPs:  
65.5%.**



## TUNA RESULTS ON SOURCING ROADMAP

Bolton Food is committed to increasing sourcing of yellowfin and skipjack tuna from Robust FIPs and supporting the advancement of fisheries towards reaching MSC certification.

**In the period between January and July 2019, the company sourced 65.5% of its tuna from MSC-certified fisheries or Robust FIPs, increasing of +20.1% compared to 2018. MSC-certified products account for 19% of the overall sourcing.**

The partnership is now working to implement the existing FIPs and for the continuous improvement of more sustainable fishing practices as part of the global tuna roadmap.



© S. Gross / Shutterstock

## OTHER SPECIES RESULTS ON SOURCING ROADMAP

Bolton Food is committed to increase sourcing of sardines, salmon and mackerel from Robust FIPs and to support the advancement of fisheries towards reaching MSC standards. In this past year of the partnership the company recorded a good global increase in the procurement and sourcing of other species. **Mackerel fishery sourcing volumes are fixed at 92% of MSC-certified products from January to July 2019.** As for sardines, the MSC sourcing from January to July reached 18%. This data, however, is to be considered partial as the fishing season for MSC-certified sardines began in July.

**Mackerel from MSC-certified fisheries: 92%.**  
**Sardines from MSC-certified fisheries: 18%.**



© J. Chabala / Shutterstock

## 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 particular highly migratory species, notably tuna, throughout vast geographical areas.

The organizations are open both to countries in the region (“coastal states”) and countries with interests in the fisheries concerned.

While some RFMOs play a purely advisory role, most have management powers to set catch and fishing effort limits, technical measures and control obligations.

### RFMOs which manage highly-migratory species, mainly tropical tuna:

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

WWF is involved in the main tuna organizations with the role of observer and active stakeholder at advocacy level. This includes producing position papers which cover conservation and management recommendations. Bolton Food, through its membership with ISSF and thanks to the WWF partnership, advocates to RFMOs to improve tuna fisheries management.



© Jürgen Freund / WWF

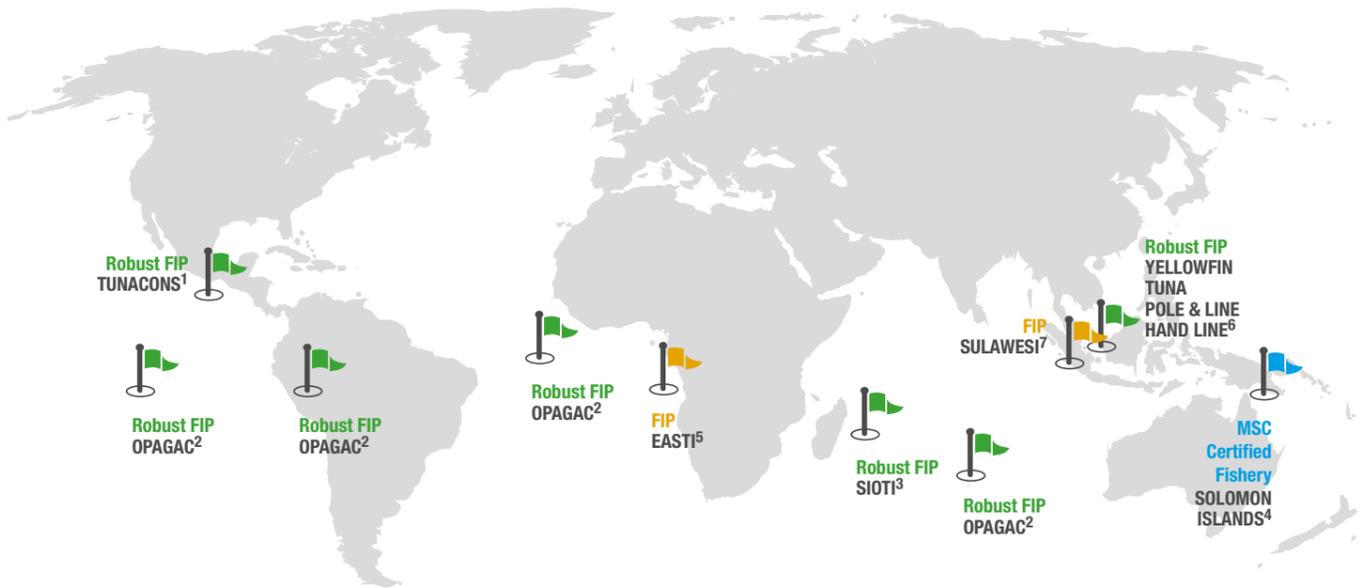
## The importance of FIPs

Making progress towards sustainable fisheries is crucial. Adopting and fostering best practices brings the FIPs one step closer to achieving full assessment.

**WWF supports the establishment of FIP's towards developing and spreading good practices of sustainable sourcing to all markets** and contributing to tuna stock conservation in all regions. All FIPs, at their various stages of development, are available for public consultation on the Fishery Progress website.

Our partnership draws attention to pole-and-line and purse seine tuna fisheries in order to meet the business needs of the company. Below is a brief list of ongoing activities in some of the FIPs and Robust FIPs involved in the partnership agreement.

## Fishery Status



- 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 Group owned company Grupo Conservas Garavilla
- 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 owned company Saupiquet
- 6** YELLOWFIN TUNA POLE & LINE - HAND LINE: supply through Bolton Group owned company Tri Marine
- 7** SULAWESI YELLOWFIN TUNA AND SKIPJACK TUNA

## Robust FIP Global Tropical Tuna Purse Seine OPAGAC

**Species:**  
Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), and bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

**Geographical Area:**  
Western and Central Pacific Ocean, Eastern Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean

**Start date**  
October 2016

- Participating stakeholders and supporting institutions:**
- WCPC, EPO and AO FIPs
  - IO FIP
  - Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores (OPAGAC)
  - Garavilla (Bolton Food)

**Rating on Fisheryprogress.org:**  
A (except for Indian Ocean tropical tuna – rating: B)

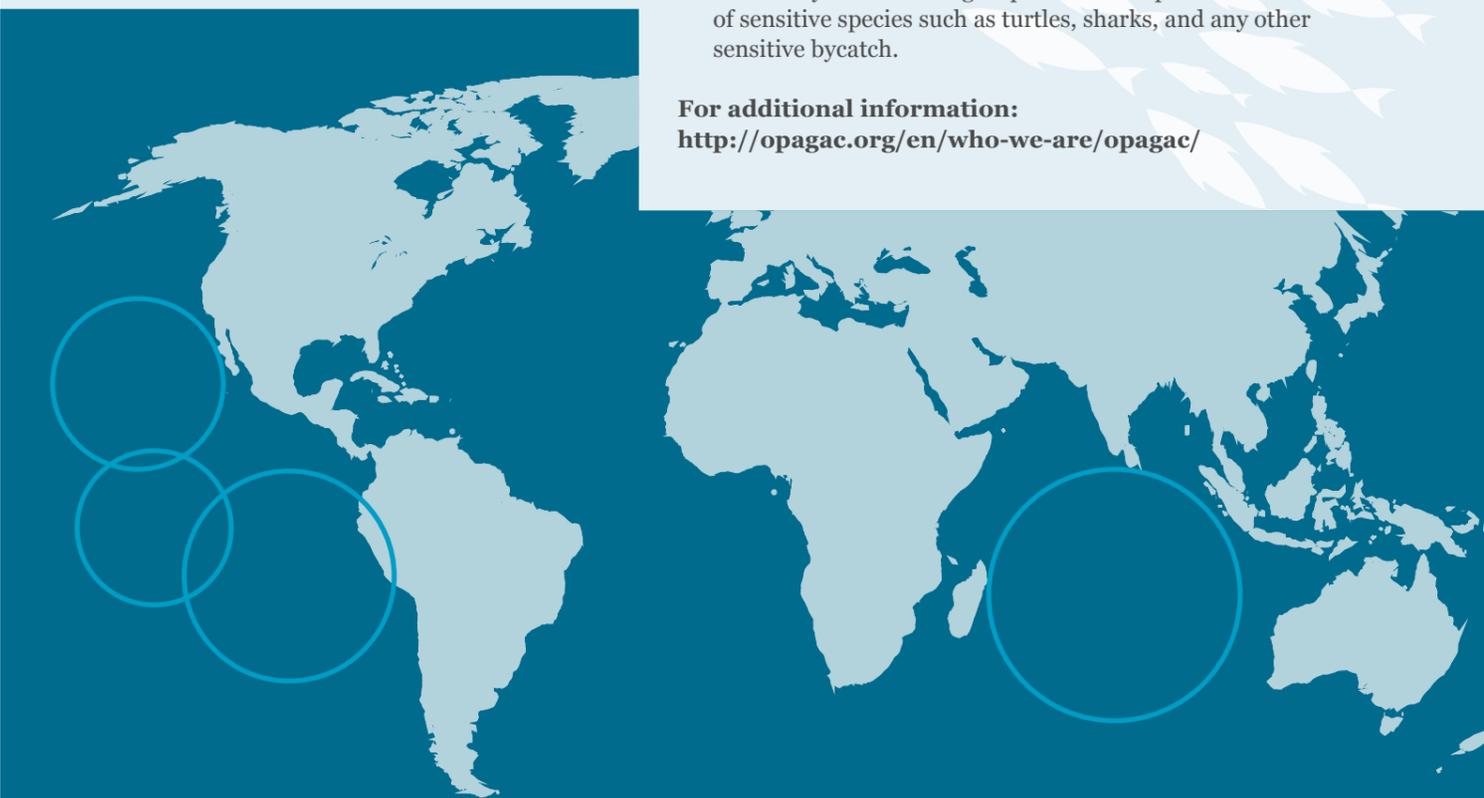
**Fishery:**  
The FIP encompasses all global tropical tuna stocks of three species – bigeye, skipjack

and yellowfin tuna – for a total of 13 Units of Certification. The project began in 2016 and is being implemented by OPAGAC's industrial purse seine fleet, which continues to supply several European brands. The FIP has reached the MSC final assessment phase and is expected to become MSC-certified by the end of 2020.

**Goals:**  
These FIPs are working towards completing the following objectives by fall 2021:

1. Achieve MSC certification for the OPAGAC industrial purse seine tuna fleet in three oceans and four RFMOs, within the next 5 years.
2. Unify the industrial purse seine fishery into one MSC unit of certification instead of the misleading current division of free and associated schools.
3. Bring together leading industry and environmental partners to work collaboratively towards sustainability of the fishery and ensure fair market access.
4. Have RFMOs adopt Harvest Control Rules (HCR) for stocks of tropical tuna species, including support to the process of Management Strategy Evaluation based on the best science available.
5. Influence the various RFMOs to adopt an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.
6. Adopt robust ad-hoc rebuilding strategies, in line with MSC standards, for stocks not subject to HCR (where required).
7. Influence the various RFMOs to adopt an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.
8. Assist RFMOs in the adoption of best practices concerning the use of drift fish aggregating devices (dFADs), through provision of information in support of informed scientific advice.
9. Drive real changes in the fleet to minimize the impact of the fishery over non-target species and improve survival of sensitive species such as turtles, sharks, and any other sensitive bycatch.

**For additional information:**  
<http://opagac.org/en/who-we-are/opagac/>



## Robust FIP Eastern Pacific Ocean Tropical Tuna Purse Seine Tunacons

### Species:

Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), and bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

### Geographical Area:

Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), Ecuador

### Start date:

October 2016

### Participating stakeholders and supporting institutions:

- Negocios Industriales Real SA (NIRSA)
- EUROFISH
- GRUPO JADRAN
- SERVIGRUP
- Tri Marine

### Rating on Fisheryprogress.org:

A

### Fishery:

44 purse seine vessels  
(about 16% of the fleet in the region)

### Goals:

- Develop sustainable fish stock guidelines during our certification process.
- Achieve effective management for the fishery.
- Minimize environmental impacts from its vessels.
- Achieve MSC certification.

Tri Marine is the main supplier of Bolton Food, for this reason its participation in the project is the best guarantee of Bolton Food fulfilling its commitments. WWF is a key partner for the implementation of this project: it contributed to the formation of the working group during the initial phases by facilitating meetings and cooperation between the parties. NIRSA started the process with a pre-assessment of the fishery, and then continued with Eurofish and Jadran, who were the pioneers of this initiative. A short time later, Tri Marine and Servigroup joined. WWF coordinates the annual review process of the FIP, which is carried out by an independent consultant to evaluate the results achieved during the year.

From a more general perspective, WWF makes its experience and knowledge available to the FIP, promoting sustainable fisheries governance policies at national and regional levels. TUNACONS is becoming a working model for fishing companies around the world. This initiative shows that strategic alliances between the private sector and public sector and civil society can tackle issues of sustainability and achieve effective solutions.

In June 2019 the FIP coordinator announced that Ecuador's purse seine fleet intends to apply for MSC full assessment. The process is scheduled to end by December 2020.

**For more information:** <https://tunacons.org>



## FIP Eastern Atlantic Ocean Tuna Purse Seine Easti

### Species:

Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), and bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

### Geographical Area:

Eastern Atlantic Ocean (EAO)

### Start date:

January 2018

### Participating stakeholders and supporting institutions:

- The private companies participating in this FIP include: AFKO, Agnes Park, AIRONE Côte d'Ivoire, ANABAC & Associates, ATUNSA, CFTO, COSMO, DH Fisheries, FCF, ORTHONGEL, PANOFI, Saupiquet Concarneau - a company owned by Bolton Food, SCODI, Sea Breeze Ventures and Thai Union Europe.
- The Republic of Ghana
- The Republic of Ivory Coast
- WWF-UK.

### Rating on Fisheryprogress.org:

C

### Fishery:

Purse seine fishing vessels

### Goals:

- To form a collaboration between governments, industry and fleets to bring about improvements in the fishery.

- To address the shortfalls in the stock health, ecosystem health and management of the fishery.
- To improve the fishery to a point at which it can undergo (and pass) full assessment by a credible, science-based, multi-stakeholder certification programme like MSC by the start of 2023.

In early December 2017 the action plan for the FIP was agreed between FIP participants.

This highlights the major activities, improvement areas and key performance indicators that participants will have to achieve within five years of the launch of the FIP.

FIP coordinators were assigned to this project in June 2019 and have since highlighted objectives for the next year. Activities linked to the sustainability of the fish stocks such as stock rebuilding, harvest strategy and control have not been addressed by ICCAT, but the FIP is looking to address these issues in the next year of implementation. Recently EASTI joined the partnership on ABNJ (an FAO program); an SKJ stock assessment is being implemented and is due to be submitted to the ICCAT commission by the end of September 2019.

To contribute to minimizing environmental impacts, the FIP is conducting a shark finning assessment on species in the Atlantic Ocean. By the end of 2019 they aim to provide technical assistance to the Republic of Ghana to support data collection on bycatch data and quality control.

Activities undertaken towards improving effective management such as governance, establishing specific objectives for the fishery and monitoring activities are still scoring low; today the compliance and improvement of governance structures of the main flag states and landing states is a major priority for the FIP.

## FIP Indonesia Southeast Tuna Purse Seine Sulawesi

### Species:

Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*),  
yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)

### Geographical Area:

Western Central Pacific Ocean,  
Indonesia - FAO Area 71

### Start date:

December 2018

### Participating stakeholders and supporting institutions:

- PBN - PT Pahala Bahari Nusantara
- Tri Marine International
- Indonesian Ministry for Marine Affairs  
and Fisheries

### Rating on Fisheryprogress.org:

At the moment of the publication the rating has not been published on fisheryprogress.org

### Goals:

- Meet MSC principles for sustainable fishing by 2023.
- Promote transparent information on stock status, catch composition, and traceability by 2020.
- Improve the accuracy and reliability of data on target species, bycatch, and ETP species by 2022.
- Ensure full compliance with regional/national fishery regulations by 2022.

With a total fishery volume of 10,000 metric tons, the FIP involves stakeholders in improving the management of its primary and secondary species, aiming for sustainable levels in the ecosystems and threatened species management. Activities related to the sustainability of the fish stocks are being implemented with a focus on strengthening vessel-level data collection; harvest strategies and harvest control rules are expected to be announced soon (skipjack) or are still under development (yellowfin tuna).

## Robust FIP Indonesia WCPO Tuna Pole and Line/Hand Line

### Species:

Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*),  
Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

### Geographical Area:

Western and Central Pacific Ocean, Indonesia  
- FAO Area 71

### Start date:

November 2017

### Participating stakeholders and supporting institutions:

PT. Aneka Sumber Tata Bahari, PT. Jaya Bitung Mandiri, PT. Sari Usaha Mandiri, PT. Samudra Mandiri Sentosa, PT. International Alliance Food Indonesia, PT. Sinar Pure Foods International, PT. Radios Apirja Sorong, PT. Karya Cipta Buana Sentosa, PT. Primo Indo Ikan, PT. Pahala Bahari Nusantara, PT. Aneka Tuna Indonesia, PT. Bagan Sukses Mandiri, PT. Intimas Surya, PT. Harta Samudera, PT. Kelola Mina Laut, PT. Maluku Prima Makmur, PT. Blue Ocean Grace International, PT. Nutrindo Fresfood International, PT. Chenwoo Fisheries, PT. Sari Tuna Makmur, PT. Manina Nusantara Selaras, PT. Bumi Menara Internusa, PT. Dharam Samudra Fishing Industry, PT. Bali Seafood International, PT. Sultratuna Samudra, PT. Edmar Mandiri Jaya, Koperasi Perikanan Santo Alvin Pratama, PT. Marina Nusantara Selaras, Sea Delight, Tri-Marine International, Fish Tales, Anova USA, Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI).

### Rating on Fisheryprogress.org:

Pole-and-line - A  
Handline - C

### Gear:

Handline and Pole-and-Line tuna fishing vessels

### Goal:

Achievement for the equivalent of an MSC conditional-pass by June 2023.

Key fishery improvement activities for pole-and-line and handline tuna fisheries which are crucial for the advancement of marine conservation include scientific data collection, stakeholder engagement and capacity building. The FIP is focusing on the following areas of work:

- Scientific data collection to assess the fisheries impacts on target, primary and secondary species, including whether or not ETP interactions occur;
- Investigation as to whether the fishery poses an ecological threat to the environment, including fishing events on FADs;
- Investigation as to whether the fishery has an impact on habitats, including the deployment of anchored FADs;
- Development of fishery monitoring technology and electronic reporting;
- Compliance review of national and regional tuna management measures and the status of local Units of Assessment;
- Stakeholder engagement and capacity building to support the development of Harvest Strategies (HS) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR) for Indonesian Archipelagic Waters (IAW) and the National Tuna Management Plan (NTMP);
- Engagement at RFMO meetings (i.e. WCPFC, IOTC) to advocate for sustainable management measures that includes regional HS and HCR to manage the status of tropical tuna stocks at productive and sustainable levels.

Two years since its establishment and with a total FIP fishery volume of 30,100 metric tons, this FIP has reached stage four. Activities linked to the sustainability of the fishery continue, aiming for conclusive outcomes.





## GOAL 2. INCREASING TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

One of the objectives of the partnership is to improve traceability actions and the transparency of communication activities related to seafood supply chain and products. This is a fundamental aspect because it **guarantees responsible sourcing for every consumer** and highlights that the **company's supply chain processes fully respect legal frameworks and regulations.**

Traceability and transparency are important elements that demonstrate the appropriate respect for international and local regulations, and therefore ensure the basis for an effectively sustainable fishing activity. To adopt good **traceability practices** means **collecting tracking data for every vessel**

**and sourcing activity from the harbor to the open sea.** This is a challenging process that involves continuous innovation, research and study of technological devices (for example GPS monitoring systems, AIS, VMS) to support and improve monitoring.

**Transparent communication** of the tracking data allows both consumers and markets to verify all actions undertaken during a products' journey, which **has to be considered a mark of quality for the seafood company.**

These activities are fundamental for tackling the problem of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, which is unfortunately more than common, especially in some regions of the oceans. This is one of the biggest threats to sustainable and rightful fishing practices, to the ocean environment and marine ecosystem health, to respect for human rights and labour standards and to an honest seafood market system.



© T.J. Udvang / Shutterstock

### What is IUU fishing?

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a broad term that describes a wide variety of fishing activity. IUU fishing is found in all types and dimensions 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. Reference to broad fishing activities classified as illegal, unreported and unregulated are included in the FAO IPOA-IUU (International Plan of Action-IUU) 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:** 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.

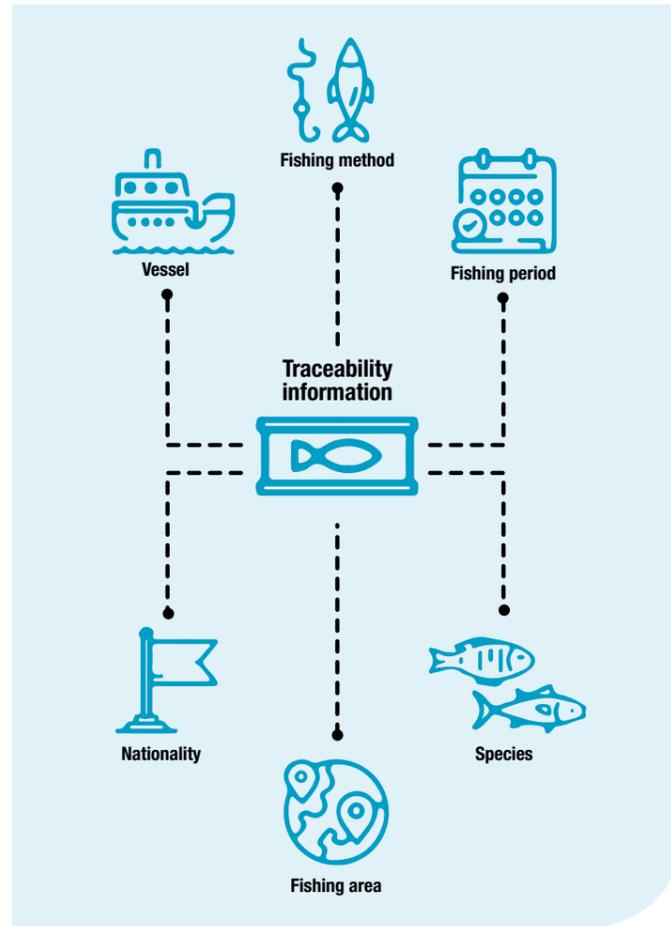


Bolton Food credits

## Activities:

In the first year of the partnership the Illegal Unreported Unregulated fishing risk analysis for Bolton Food's tuna supply chain was completed: WWF recommended the use of IUU and supply chain risk analyses to help set priorities for minimizing the risk of IUU fish entering Bolton Food's tuna supply chain and involved an independent third-party auditor, MRAG, to carry out desk research. The overall aim of this activity was to support the development of concrete actions to be included in the partnership activities.

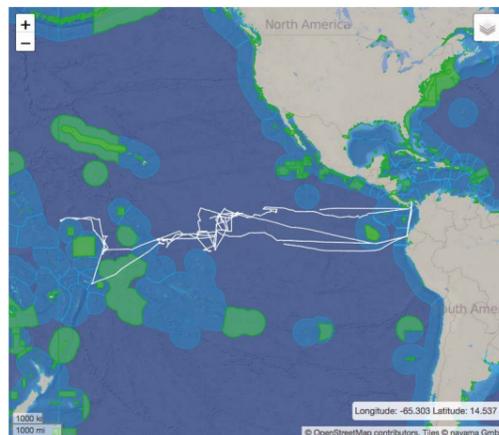
- **Bolton Food has been a member of the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) since 2018** and has continued its engagement with this group. The GDST is an international platform of the seafood industry established to develop a framework for interoperable seafood traceability and to enhance the level and quality of traceability in the seafood sector. It organizes meetings and webinars with the various working groups. Bolton Food representatives have actively participated in and provided input to the initiative by sharing the data of the Company's traceability system, allowing the development and completion of the first pilot project on interoperability between a company and a retailer.
- Bolton Food has already developed an **advanced traceability system, among the first in the world, certified by an independent certification body, DNV GL and Bureau Veritas** in accordance with the ISO 22005:2008 standard. The system, which is completely digital, allows tracing back every single can of tuna produced by the company from the supermarket shelf to the fishing area and boat.
- WWF, Bolton Food and Navama, a German technology company working to elaborate tracking data, set up the Bolton Food transparency web-page to show all technical information related to the company's large-scale purse seine vessels. **The Bolton Food transparency web-page is public and embedded in the WWF and Navama transparency platform, transparentsea.org** where the data of 7 vessels are already accessible. WWF receives Vessels Monitoring System (VMS) trackings of Bolton Food's fleets (Saupiquet and Garavilla fleets) on a regular basis to analyse this data within the context of conservation needs.



The 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)

The tracking data have been made publicly available on [transparentsea.org](https://transparentsea.org) to demonstrate Bolton Food's strong commitment to a traceable, transparent and sustainable tuna fishery.



Example of Bolton Food's vessels data tracking on [transparentsea.org](https://transparentsea.org)



## GOAL 3 ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL AND LABOUR STANDARDS

Bolton Food considers respect for human rights to be an essential element of all corporate activities and a fundamental pillar of any sustainability strategy. **Bolton Food guarantees the protection of these rights** not only within the company, but across the entire supply chain.

All of Bolton Food's suppliers are required to be compliant with the Bolton Group's Code of Ethics and Human Rights Policy as of October 2016. Furthermore, in 2017, all their seafood suppliers were requested to answer a self-assessment questionnaire, to verify their respect for the Human Rights Policy principles.

Directly concerning the fishing sector, from 30 June 2019, **all of Bolton Food's suppliers**

**are required to respect the Vessels Code of Conduct for Tuna Suppliers**, written according to the principles of the ILO convention and of the Seafood Task Force, along with **the new Tuna Supply Policy**. The latter, in particular, asks for the compliance of all large-scale purse seiners by 2022 and for all vessels by 2024. This policy covers fundamental labour standards including voluntary labour, human trafficking, underage workers, health and safety standards and conditions, and is subject to periodic audits.

All these documents are an integral part of the Bolton Food **quality management system ISO9001:2015** that is subject to internal assessment and **annual audit from a third party certification body (DNV GL)**.



## ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGE

### Bolton Food advocacy activities through ISSF

Bolton Food is one of the founders of 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 ecosystem, and the reduction of bycatch. ISSF cooperates with and supports RFMOs and vigorously advocates to RFMO members for the adoption and implementation of science-based management measures so that tuna stocks and their ecosystems are managed comprehensively and sustainably.

Advocacy activities are also directed to other subjects, including large-scale retail trade, aiming to increase the sustainability level of the offer.

### Bolton Food at the Our Ocean Conference

Since 2014, the Our Ocean Conference has brought together the world's key decision makers to identify solutions and commit to significant and impactful actions to address the global challenges that face our oceans.

In 2017 Bolton Food publicly committed to the partnership goals at the conference; as a consequence the company's leaders were invited to participate in 2018, to renew the commitment and provide information on the progress made. On 29 and 30 October 2018, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia hosted the 5th edition of the Our Ocean Conference in Bali. Participants from the public and private sectors debated measures and activities to tackle the critical issues facing oceans: overexploitation of resources, IUU fishing and managing fisheries resources at sustainable levels. This year the Our Ocean Conference also focused on the cross-cutting themes of sustainable blue economy and maritime security, as introduced by the European Union in 2017. In the framework of formal and important international commitments from various countries, NGOs, foundations, research institutes, international organizations and companies, Bolton Food participated in the conference and confirmed its commitment to sustainable goals as expressed in the partnership agreement, focusing on the importance of transparency and traceability with projects such as tracking implementation for vessels as a mark of quality of sustainable sourcing.

### Bolton Food's participation at the Seafood Summit event in Rimini

On 7 November 2018 Bolton Food participated in a stakeholder market event involving all the seafood companies of the industrial seafood sector at a national level. Bolton Food introduced the partnership with WWF and its goals, outlining the achievements already reached in the sustainable sourcing



© A. McGlashan / Shutterstock

roadmap and describing the adoption of best practices. It was also a good occasion to launch the Annual Report of the first year of the partnership to the public.

### Bolton Food traceability and transparency best practice experience presented at Seafood Expo in Brussels

On 9 May 2019 Bolton Food was invited to a policy event at the Seafood Expo in Brussels organized by WWF. The event concerned global best practices on traceability, blockchain and transparency measures used by seafood companies worldwide. Bolton Food presented its approach to business and its commitment to a completely traceable, certified and transparent supply chain to be fulfilled within the end of the partnership agreement.

### WWF and the Environmental Justice Foundation's in-depth analysis of EU transparency regulations and defence of human rights with the seafood corporate sector

In March 2019 WWF took part in one of the most important sustainable events for consumers in Italy ("Fa la cosa giusta"). During this 3-day event, a corporate roundtable was organized to discuss traceability and transparency in the market system and to address the need for stricter human rights and labour policies to support legal, responsible and sustainable fishing practices. The event was also attended by the Environmental Justice Foundation, an NGO founded in 2001 that promotes the non-violent resolution of human rights abuses and related environmental issues. Due to its core founding mission, the Environmental Justice Foundation has shown to the corporate public the analysis and risks related to human rights abuse in the seafood sector at a global scale. The event ended with a constructive debate where corporates stated their positions and illustrated their own activities and projects related to the sustainable topics discussed. Bolton Food introduced its journey towards complete tracking and transparency. Several seafood trading companies took part in the event, including those involved in the supply industries, in retailing and in supermarket-related activities.



© Sara Savelli / WWF

## CONSERVATION PROJECT

Bolton Food's support for a conservation project is one of the planned goals of the partnership.

For WWF, MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) help protect species, habitats and ecosystems. MPAs shelter ocean life and habitats so they can recover from human impacts like pollution or overfishing. They protect the planet's blue capital for current generations and those to come. WWF works globally with partners at local, national and regional levels to secure a healthy marine environment and to support communities whose livelihoods depend on fishing activities.

**Since 2018, Bolton Food has supported a project in the Coral Triangle, in the Solomon Islands, where they source a considerable percentage of their tuna. WWF considers the region to be a top priority for marine conservation, and is addressing the threats it faces through the Coral Triangle Program, working with WWF national offices in each country.**

Key threats facing the Coral Triangle include unsustainable and illegal fishing, illegal trade (e.g. in marine turtles and sharks), unsustainable aquaculture, unsustainable development, climate change, pollution, extractives, and public/private sector funding directed to unsustainable development.

Within the partnership agreement, **the conservation project aims to support Tetepare** – one of the archipelago islands best known as the 'Last Wild Island' – **in the process of a formal request to the government that it be officially recognized as a Protected Area.**

### • **Challenges: sustainable resources management and conservation**

Over 15 years of resource and conservation management, a strategic plan has been developed and adapted to include the Tetepare Field Station and the permanent Marine Protected Area, the development of monitoring protocols and the training of community-based rangers and resource monitors.



© James Morgan / WWF

Monitoring and the collection of resource data for the Tetepare Island Conservation Area has been important for determining the health and population status of the most used coastal and marine resources. The establishment of a small ecotourism lodge has enabled the **Tetepare Descendant Association (TDA)** to integrate nature-based tourism with biodiversity conservation.

However, despite the efforts of the TDA, the challenges of a growing population and the community's need for income-generating opportunities and demand for natural resources are putting Tetepare's remarkable coastal and marine biodiversity at risk. Local communities are increasingly turning to Tetepare's coastal and marine ecosystems to generate income. The TDA proposes registering the entire island as a protected area under the new nationally legislated and implemented Protected Areas Act and Regulations. As such, the TDA considers the need to develop a new Management Plan and secure the necessary resources to ensure the proper management and monitoring of the natural resources on and around Tetepare Island.

### • **Solution: legalize Tetepare Island Conservation Area under the National Protected Areas Act**

This project aims to register the designated Tetepare Island Conservation Area as a Protected Area under the National Protected Areas Act of the Solomon Islands.

This will require **the development of a robust but adaptable Protected Area Management Plan for Tetepare Island** that meets the criteria required under the Protected Areas Act.

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

### • **Specific project objectives**

1. To reach TDA's community consensus on Tetepare Island to become a legally recognized Protected Area;
2. To develop a new Tetepare Protected Area Management Plan, based on Tetepare's former and existing Resource Management Plans, Tetepare Resource Management Order and community inputs;
3. Endorsement of the Tetepare Island Protected Area Management Plan by the TDA Board and Government Annual General Meeting;
4. To register Tetepare Island as a Protected Area under the National Protected Areas Act.

Bolton Food's contribution is being managed by WWF Solomon Islands according to WWF International's Financial and Administration procedures. Interim financial reports have been prepared by WWF Solomon Islands' Finance Manager on standard WWF reporting templates and based on quarterly acquittals from the TDA. Mid-year and end-of-year technical progress reports will be prepared by the TDA and submitted to WWF Solomon Islands.

## Tetepare Island and the Coral Triangle

**The Coral Triangle is one of the world's hotspots 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 that 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. It is also called the "Amazon of the seas" and covers 5.7 million square kilometers of ocean waters.

Inside this area, Tetepare Island is the largest uninhabited tropical island in the Southern Hemisphere and is known as the '**Last Wild Island**': supporting exceptional biodiversity, the island has been recognized as of high conservation value by the Solomon Islands government and many international organizations.

Tetepare Descendants' Association (TDA) officially represents the legal owners of Tetepare and includes the descendants of the survivors of the last headhunter raids in the 1800s. TDA is a large landowner charitable organization in the Solomon Islands with nearly 4,000 members, many of whom live on adjacent islands.

## ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

Bolton Food designed marketing and communication activities targeting consumers to promote sustainable purchasing behaviour and responsible choices, and to increase general knowledge of ocean conservation issues. These activities concentrate on **raising the awareness of consumers** regarding the importance of sustainable fishing practices and of safeguarding the oceans' natural resources.

### Marketing and communication campaign

In summer 2018 the communication project **"Together for the Oceans"** was launched in Italy on World Oceans Day (8 June). Bolton Food organized a conference to discuss marine conservation with scientific experts and to present the partnership, its first results and the communication campaign to stakeholders and the public. WWF Italy's CEO and Sustainable Development Director outlined the partnership project in detail, along with the corporate contribution to the conservation project. A further marketing activity was launched in

June 2018 when, with the participation of large-scale retailers, **in-store promotion was developed to introduce Rio Mare's MSC-certified products to consumers.** The new certified products were clearly identified with specially designed packaging with information on the company's commitment to sustainable fishing goals and the partnership project. Each participating retailer was supplied with a dedicated display for the products, with additional information materials, and promotional staff. This activity created a direct link to the public, providing simple and understandable information regarding the company's journey towards sustainable business and the need for more responsible, transparent and regulated fishing practices within the supply chain to protect the ocean environment.

This was supported by communication activities including tv and printed advertisements to coincide with World Oceans Day and the days around it, to introduce the corporate engagement within the partnership. There were also online communication activities and up-to-date information on the Rio Mare website. The whole communication campaign was entitled "Together for the Oceans".

Follow-up communication activities took place in November/December 2018. To describe the company's commitment more fully, a narrative approach was adopted, focusing on the conservation project and the environmental benefits of sourcing sustainable seafood. The narrator is Ondina, a child experiencing the environmental effects of unregulated fishing activity in the Coral Triangle sea. The story was spread via digital channels and the Rio Mare website (with a video and a display advertising activity) and cinema projections of the short promotional film **"The little girl and the Ocean"**.



TOGETHER  
FOR THE  
OCEANS

Bolton Food credits

Bolton Food credits

In 2019 the in-store marketing promotion was repeated, with the involvement of large-scale retailers displaying Bolton Food's MSC-certified products and with the support of communication activities as part of the "Together for the Oceans" campaign.

All the marketing activities referred to above can be summarised as follows:

- promotion activities related to MSC-labelled cans, in Italian supermarkets
- launch of the 15" tv advertisement which describes the partnership
- printed advertising released on World Oceans Day
- updating of Rio Mare website and digital content strategy

### Extending marketing activities abroad

In 2019 we had the opportunity to **expand the activities of the partnership to other countries such as Slovenia, Croatia and Austria**, where marketing focused on "The little girl and the Ocean" communication campaign. Countries launched their national campaigns between May and June 2019 through a big opening PR event.

© Fren Photography



© Katharina Shiffi



Bolton Food credits



## PARTNERSHIP PROGRESSES

	RESULTS IN YEAR 1	RESULTS ON YEAR 2
<b>Seafood sourcing</b>	52.4% tuna from MSC certified fisheries or Robust FIPs	65.5% tuna from MSC certified fisheries or Robust FIPs
<b>Traceability and transparency</b>	All the large-scale purse seiner vessels supplying Bolton Food are registered in the PVR	Bolton Food transparency webpage is public and embedded in the WWF and Navama transparency platform, transparentsea.org
<b>Social and labour standards</b>	Bolton Food performed a self-assessment questionnaire on all the seafood suppliers	All of Bolton Food's suppliers are required to respect the Vessel Code of Conduct for Tuna Suppliers

## NEXT STEPS

**WWF and Bolton Food are enforcing their commitment to reach the partnership goals together. During the coming months the partnership will focus on the following areas:**

- Follow progress made so far in the Tuna FIPs towards complete sourcing from MSC-certified or Robust FIPs by 2024;
- Finalize the roadmap for salmon, mackerel and sardines sourced by Bolton Food to achieve the objective of sourcing from MSC/ASC-certified fisheries or farms or from Robust FIPs/AIPs by 2024;
- Create new transparency services for consumers;
- Continue communication activities aimed at consumers, to raise their awareness of the need for sustainable sourcing, given their crucial role in demanding sustainable seafood products and influencing the seafood industry;
- Complete the activities planned within the company's support to the conservation project;
- Include Garavilla in the scope of the agreement.

## RESOURCES

You can follow the progress of the partnership by visiting our websites:

**Rio Mare and WWF - a new partnership**

<http://partnership.riomare.it/>  
<https://www.wwf.it/news/?30960/WWF-e-Bolton-alimentari>

**WWF and Bolton Food partnership**

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

**WWF and Bolton Food partnership (Italian website)**

[https://www.wwf.it/chi\\_siamo/partners/bolton/](https://www.wwf.it/chi_siamo/partners/bolton/)

**WWF's Living Planet Report 2018**

[http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge\\_hub/all\\_publications/living\\_planet\\_report\\_2018/](http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/all_publications/living_planet_report_2018/)

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

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

**Letter of support signed by Saupiquet and other companies to IATTC**

<http://mediterranean.panda.org/?uNewsID=316813>

**WWF Brochure Fishery Improvement Projects**

[http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf\\_brochure\\_fisheries\\_improvement\\_projects\\_final\\_19\\_4\\_16.pdf](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](http://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/>

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/what\\_we\\_do/oceans/fighting\\_illegal\\_fishing/](http://www.wwf.eu/what_we_do/oceans/fighting_illegal_fishing/)

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](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>

WWF's position paper on Tuna commission IOTC  
<https://www.iotc.org/documents/wwf-position-23rd-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission-iotc>

WWF's recommendations to seafood companies at the conclusion of the IOTC annual meeting (June 2019)  
[https://wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_news/press\\_releases/?348907/Statement-from-WWF-at-the-conclusion-of-the-23rd-annual-meeting-of-the-Indian-Ocean-Tuna-Commission-IOTC-in-Hyderabad-India](https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/press_releases/?348907/Statement-from-WWF-at-the-conclusion-of-the-23rd-annual-meeting-of-the-Indian-Ocean-Tuna-Commission-IOTC-in-Hyderabad-India)

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



## CONTACTS

### WWF Isabella Pratesi

Conservation Director WWF Italy  
[i.pratesi@wwf.it](mailto:i.pratesi@wwf.it)

### Bolton Food Luciano Pirovano

Sustainable Development Director  
Bolton Food  
[lpirovano@boltonfood.com](mailto:lpirovano@boltonfood.com)

Graphic Design: Letrè Roma  
Cover image credits: © SOMKKU/Shutterstock  
Released on November 2019

## WWF & BOLTON FOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT YEAR 2 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, supporting well-managed fisheries, fostering transparency along the seafood supply chain and increasing consumer's awareness of the importance of sustainable seafood.

In November 2019, WWF and BF have drafted Partnership Progress Report Year 2 (the 'Report') that summarizes the progress made during the period between January 2019 and July 2019 towards sustainability and outlines the activities undertaken to develop steady steps towards improving the environmental sustainability of the BF's supply chain.

DNV GL Business Assurance Italia Srl ('DNV GL') 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 commissioned work, 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 GL'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 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.

It is worth noting the clear commitment of Bolton Food to continue with the roadmap agreed with WWF to influence the entire sector towards better sustainability standards and to support consumers to make more informed choices.

### DNV GL's Competence and Independence

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

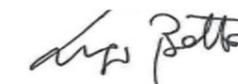
DNV GL maintains complete impartiality towards stakeholders interviewed during the verification process.

DNV GL 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 GL Business Assurance Italia Srl



Fabrizio Foglia  
Lead Verifier



Luigi Bottos  
Reviewer

Vimercate (MB), 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019



**Why we are here**

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[panda.org](http://panda.org)