

Giant Eagle Tuna Procurement Policy

Recommendations for the Ecologically Sustainable Sourcing of Tuna Products

Overview:

Our goal is to source tuna only from healthy (not overfished, not listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List, and demonstrating good management quality) and well-managed stocks, from fisheries using the most current best practice in methods, bycatch reduction and environmentally responsible, socially responsible, Non GMO, BPA free and priced reasonably for our consumers. We will work with our vendors to ensure that the product labels clearly identify the sustainable efforts to make it easy for our customers to choose sustainable products. As part of achieving this goal we are working to improve transparency and will implement an audit process including quarterly meetings with suppliers. We will support the ISSF's common ground philosophy for supporting tuna sustainability ([link to download http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=544](http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=544)). We will make a concerted effort to actively promote the products that meet or exceed the benchmarks set in this procurement policy. We will also work with other stakeholders such as the fishing industry, the community, environmental conservation groups and the Government to achieve our goals of sourcing sustainable tuna. We are proudly working with Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and other industry stakeholders to implement sustainability standards for procurement practices of canned tuna.

*A commitment date of March 2016 has been set to meet all of the criteria outlined in the policy.

Our Partnership:

We are collaboration partners with Sustainable Fisheries Partnership. SFP is a NGO that operates in sustainable seafood through two main principles: information and improvement. Through our partnership with SFP we are able to collect key information about source fisheries to better understand the sustainability specific product and species. The information collected and evaluated includes scientific names of the species, location of harvest, type of gear used and fishery certification information. For additional information on SFP please visit <http://sustainablefish.org>. For additional information on tuna please visit the SFP website <http://www.sustainablefish.org/global-programs/seafood-sectors/seafood-sectors-tuna>.

Our Policy:

Gear Type:

Purse seine:

We will work towards sourcing from fishing vessels that target free-swimming tuna schools or use non-entangling FADs. We support improved management at the RFMO level for FAD use. We will not source from purse seines that conduct transshipment at sea. We support 100% observer coverage and must have acknowledgement of management.

Pole-and-line

We support Pole-and-line fisheries when possible as a sustainable option for tuna fisheries. Fisheries supplying bait are identified and have a public assessment. Pole-and-line fisheries have nominal bycatch. However, the fisheries that supply pole-and-line fisheries with bait, can have problematic ecological effects, including bycatch and overexploitation of target baitfish species therefore we support the use of sustainable bait.

Longline

We support sourcing from longline fisheries that employ full bycatch mitigation devices and have proven to reduce bycatch to current best practices levels. We do not support transshipment at sea and will work to source only from vessels not engaging in at-sea transshipment. We support 100% observer coverage.

Trolling

We support troll fisheries as a sustainable option for tuna fisheries and will work to increase our range of lower impact fishing methods like trolling.

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FAD (Fish Aggregating Device):

Current research suggests that harvest methods including the use of FADs (natural or artificial floating objects) may result in a much higher bycatch. Bycatch can include sharks, dolphins, juveniles and sea turtles among others. Therefore we support non-entanglement FAD and FAD free tuna, no transshipment at sea w/o observer. We support sourcing as much non-entanglement FAD and FAD free tuna as possible.

Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs)/Species/Stock status:

We will support and make a concerted effort to purchase from existing and/or help facilitate new FIPs for species of concern including Albacore, Yellowfin, Bigeye and Skipjack tuna whenever possible. The FIPs from which we will source will meet the standards of the Conservation Alliance.

Observer coverage/ Transparency/Transshipment at sea/ Compliance with fishery closures:

Our program includes sourcing through fisheries whose fishing practices can be maintained without reducing the species ability to populate. The fishery must also be protective of the environment and not adversely impact any other species in the marine ecosystem. This includes accidental kill, removing their food sources, or damaging their environment. Product will be traceable back to its origin/fishing area. This includes traceability back to the boat if wild caught, and back to the farm if farm caught. Suppliers must be able to guarantee the fishing method used. We will provide annual staff training which will result in improved consumer education. We will offer transparency to consumers by way of assuring all products are labeled with species common name, and the country of processing. We support no transshipment at sea, request fishing vessels to be compliant with fishery closures, and vessels operating with observers on board. We request that source fisheries are independently audited for traceability and will conduct third-party audits against the sourcing requirements contained within this policy.

Supplier/Vessel identification/ Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported (IUU):

We ask all of our suppliers to provide tuna according to our policy. We support not sourcing from fishing vessels known for IUU and will source from ISSF participant suppliers whenever possible. We request all supplying companies to be in compliance with all of ISSF's Conservation and Management Measures and all supplying vessels are registered on ISSF's Pro-Active Vessel Register (PVR) and to be in full compliance with relevant PVR commitments. We will not source from companies that have been listed on the Greenpeace Blacklist, which includes all official RFMO Blacklists.

IUU Fishing Vessel List is a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities.

<http://iss-foundation.org/2013/06/28/search-an-rfmo-iuu-list/>

ISSF participant Suppliers:

<http://iss-foundation.org/about-us/participants/>

Social Responsibility:

We will ensure that our tuna supply chains are socially responsible at each link. This means ensuring safe and fair working conditions, ensuring fishing agreements are equitable and maintaining strict human rights standards for all products sourced.

Consumer Education:

Consumer education will be part of our sustainability marketing plan. Policy will be posted on our website, www.gianteagle.com