Tuna fishery and industry sustainability

ANFACO, September 7th 2015

Jim Cannon

CEO, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

About SFP

- Started end 2006
- Registered as charity in US
- \$6 million / annum, ~⅔ from US Foundations
- Created the <u>Fisheries</u>
 <u>Improvement Partnership</u>
 <u>(FIP)</u> model
- Help retailers develop and achieve sustainability policies, by working with their supply chains to deliver industry-lead FIPs, and encourage continued sourcing from FIPs creating positive change.







Sainsbury's



Publix.











Demand for Sustainability

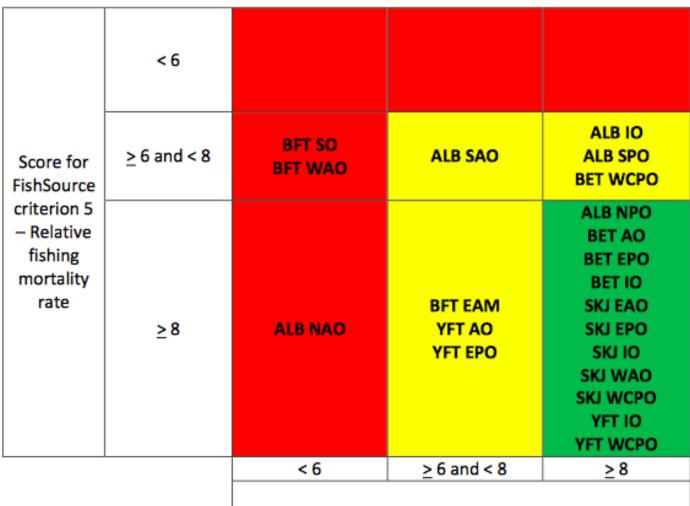
- Most "advanced" in the UK, Germany, Holland and Scandinavia.
- Quite strong in North America.
- Growing in many other countries, starting with:
 - The subsidiaries of main EU and US retailers. Global brands are concerned about protecting their brand globally.
 - Suppliers in other markets that wish to supply some EU and US customers.
 - But also increasing "naturally" with a growing and more environmentally aware middle class.

SFP and Tuna

- SFP aims to get 75% of tuna fisheries by weight into FIPs (Fisheries Improvement Partnerships)
- For "cooked tuna", the largest fisheries are in the Pacific
- SFP runs several "Supplier Roundtables", assists FIPs, and recommends procurement spec advice to partners.
- Most of our advice on tuna is public at:
- http://www.sustainablefish.org/global-programs/seafoodsectors/seafood-sectors-tuna

SFP Tuna Evaluations

Fisheries
evaluations
similar to
those of
ISSF (some
of the work
on bycatch
is shared).



Score for FishSource criterion 4 - Relative biomass

What is the Future?

Good signs:

- Demand for seafood going up, as human population grows and becomes more wealthy.
- Fisheries can be well-managed, most SKJ and YFT stocks still in good shape

Concerns:

- We know companies are investing quickly and competing for catch
- Can all RFMOs control E, F and C, given notable problems like continued overfishing of BET WCPO, concerns over YFT EPO

• Difficulties on path forward:

 Access, allocation and equity issues, RFMO decision-making, some technical gear / fishing technique questions

Opportunity:

Targeted improvements, via FIPs

WCP: Reduce BET bycatch¹

- Purse seiners
 - Use best available technologies / techniques to cut BET bycatch, fishing on FADs.
 - Use best technologies to identify species landed, report bycatch.
- Canners
 - Refuse to buy from catchers not meeting the above requirements
 - Develop then implement specs that encourage catcher best practices.
- Catchers, canners, major buyers:
 - Encourage national delegations to WCPFC to ensure an effective FAD management plan is put in place.
- IF FAD-fishing cannot demonstrate adequate reductions in BET bycatch, then campaigns targeting customers will increase, along with other pressure to ban FAD-fishing.
- 1 This slide discusses purse seine fishing only. Long liners are must reduce F also.

Indian Ocean: Introduce HCRs

- Objection to Echebastar MSC succeeded because an HCR (Harvest Control Rule) was not "in place"
- HCR = "a set of well-defined, pre-agreed rules or actions used for determining a management action-in response to changes in indicators of stock status with respect to reference points."
- E.g. IF biomass below "X", THEN reduce fishing by "Y".
- "in place" = binding at IOTC
- Catchers, canners, major buyers:
 - Encourage national delegations to IOTC to ensure work continues to put an effective HCR in place.

All tuna fisheries: remove IUU

- Many vessels and flag states are failing to report their activities appropriately.
- Vessels fishing illegally are "laundering" their catches through transhipment, or misleading about who caught the fish and where.
- Working conditions on some vessels are similar to those already exposed in other fisheries.
- Existing EU, new US approaches, and fisheries-specific catch documentation schemes are emerging in importer nations.
- Catchers, canners, major buyers:
 - Use "control documents" to ensure your raw material was caught legally, by vessels in full compliance with RFMO and flag-state requirements (and nation states, when inside EEZs).
 - Participate in ISSF PVR

Pain, but for whom?

- Whether FAD management plans, or HCRs, implicit is a shift in who has access to fish tuna, where, and how much they pay for that access.
- And regardless of the success of conservation measures, if capacity is not managed, there will be pain anyway
- The canners face their own deep uncertainty, with shifting tariffs, actual and potential EU red cards for different catching and importing nations etc.
- Difficult, multi-stakeholder dialog is required, to work through these issues and agree on effective management measures.

Fisheries Improvement Partnerships (FIPS): A Big Opportunity

- Fisheries not going to be sustainable overnight, and requires industry leadership to get there.
- FIP scope could be a group of boats, perhaps under a company, or that share a common flag, or gear and coastal state fishing ground.
- FIPs can work together as necessary, for instance to engage an RFMO, or national delegates.
- FIPs create opportunities for industry to discuss and negotiate economic aspects of improvement needs.
- Bonus: FIPs help keep existing markets and access new ones.

Fisheries Improvement Partnerships (FIPS): A Big Opportunity

- FIPs are accessible to all any catcher or processor can do a FIP:
 - Carry out an assessment of their fishery sources (evaluations by ISSF, SFP's FIshSource program etc. make this cheap!)
 - Identify key problems, discuss possible solutions and decide a course of action, publish a workplan and then report progress publicly.
- Paso a paso se llega lejos
- Gracias