

Tuna fishery and industry sustainability

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About SFP

- Started end 2006
- Registered as charity in US
- \$6 million / annum, ~ $\frac{2}{3}$ from US Foundations
- Created the Fisheries Improvement Partnership (FIP) 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.



i'm lovin' it®



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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/seafood-sectors/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 5 – Relative fishing mortality rate | < 6 | | | |
| | ≥ 6 and < 8 | BFT SO BFT WAO | ALB SAO | ALB IO ALB SPO BET WCPO |
| | ≥ 8 | ALB NAO | BFT EAM YFT AO YFT EPO | ALB NPO BET AO BET EPO BET IO SKJ EAO SKJ EPO SKJ IO SKJ WAO SKJ WCPO YFT IO YFT WCPO |
| | | < 6 | ≥ 6 and < 8 | ≥ 8 |
| 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.
- Cannerys
 - Refuse to buy from catchers not meeting the above requirements
 - Develop then implement specs that encourage catcher best practices.
- Catchers, cannerys, 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 Echebatar 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 transshipment, 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*