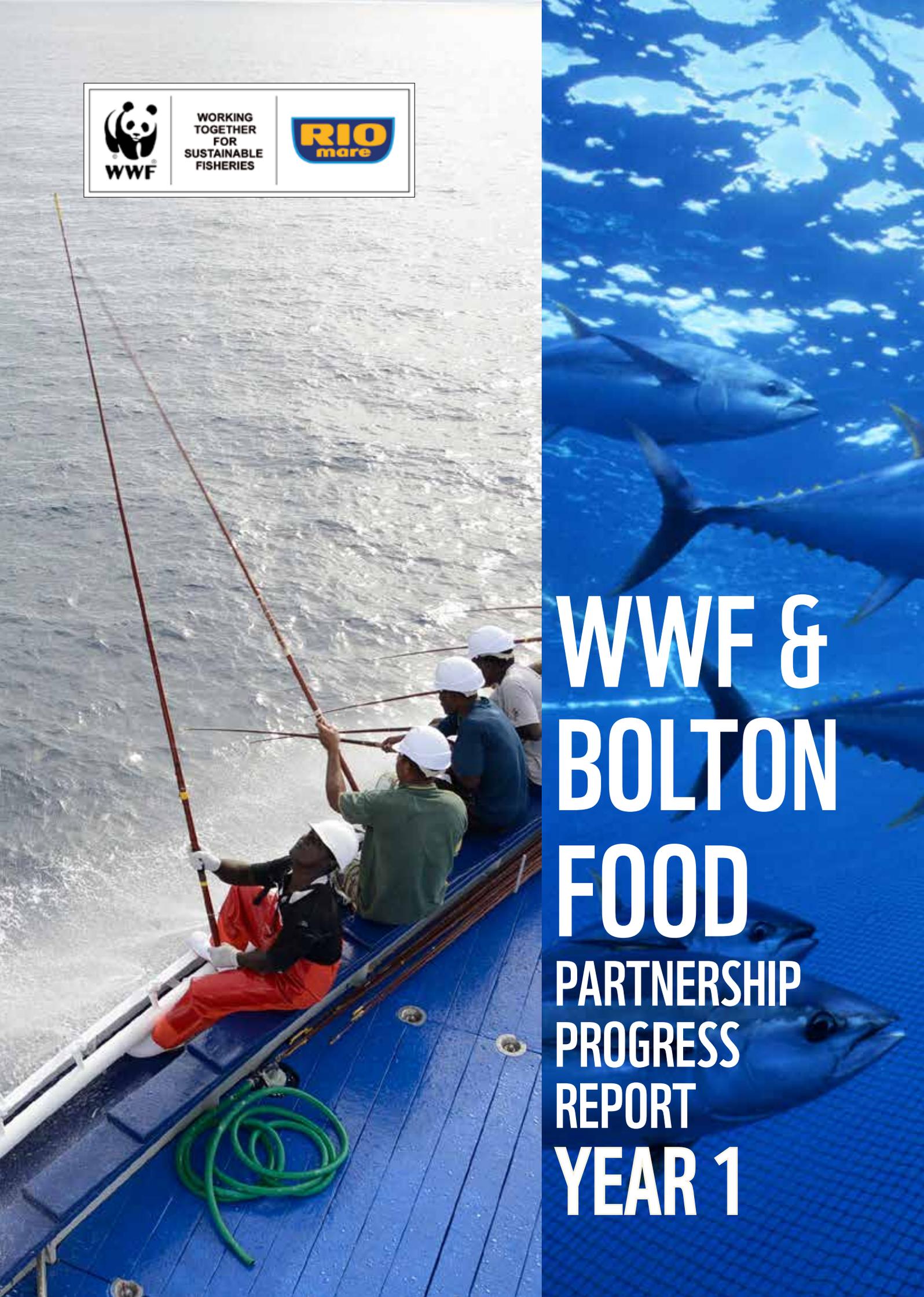




WORKING  
TOGETHER  
FOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
FISHERIES

The background of the page is a composite image. The left side shows a high-angle view of a fishing boat's deck, which is painted blue. Several crew members wearing white hard hats and work clothes are visible, some holding long wooden poles. A coiled green hose lies on the deck. The right side of the page is a vertical strip showing an underwater scene with several large blue tunas swimming in clear blue water.

# WWF & BOLTON FOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT YEAR 1



© Brian J. Skerry / National Geographic Stock / WWF

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This report refers to the first year results of the international partnership between WWF Italia onlus, WWF - International and Bolton Alimentari S.p.A (including Bolton Alimentari and Saupiquet). The timeframe of reference of this report is January 2017 - June 2018. Today Bolton Food is the new Bolton Group Business Unit, active in the food sector, and includes Bolton Alimentari, Saupiquet and Garavilla. Garavilla is not yet included in the scope of the partnership.



# FOREWORD



“The WWF & Bolton Food international partnership is a great platform for affecting positive change within the tuna supply chain, delivering large scale impacts and influencing the way seafood businesses operate. By sharing best practices, we aim at contributing to well-managed fisheries and healthy oceans and inspiring other seafood companies to embark on the road to sustainability. Together we will provide consumers across Europe with the information they need to make informed purchasing choices and to opt for certified sustainable seafood.”

**Gaetano Benedetto**  
CEO of WWF Italy

“We believe that a company like Bolton Food has the responsibility to commit to sustainable fishing and healthy oceans. This collaboration with WWF is a concrete demonstration of our commitment to do our part and work with others undertaking credible long-term actions in order to change the market for the better.”

**Giuseppe Morici**  
CEO of Bolton Food





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# INTRODUCTION: A PARTNERSHIP TO CHANGE THE MARKET

**H**ealthy ecosystems are vital to our survival, well-being and prosperity. WWF's vision for fisheries is to attain a global shift towards healthy ecosystems that support sustainable seafood production and consumption and benefit people, livelihoods and businesses that depend on them.

Seafood is the most traded food commodity globally. This is a critical moment, and in this sector many things are beginning to change: consumers are increasingly interested in where and how their seafood is sourced; industry players are paying more attention to the integrity and sustainability of their supply chains; and governments are waking up to the need to end the exploitation of our oceans and stop Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and its negative impacts on the ocean ecosystem, operators and coastal communities.

In June 2017 WWF and Bolton Food with its brands Rio Mare, Saupiquet and Palmera launched a transformational international partnership to find solutions to move the company towards sustainable production and sourcing practices. In particular, this collaboration aims at increasing the amount of sustainably sourced seafood available, support well-managed fisheries, foster transparency along the seafood supply chain and increase consumer's awareness of the importance of sustainable seafood. The company is also working on strengthening its policies to ensure that labour standards are respected along the supply chain.

Now is an opportune time to educate the public and influence decision makers and other suppliers about the importance of sustainable and fully traceable seafood. By sharing best practices, the partnership will inspire other seafood companies to embark on the road towards sustainability.

This report summarizes the progress made during the first year of the WWF & Bolton Food partnership towards sustainability and outlines the activities undertaken to develop the first important steps towards improving the environmental sustainability of the company's production and supply chain.

# THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WWF AND BOLTON FOOD

WWF and Bolton Food have formed a partnership to help safeguard the marine environment, its wildlife and the livelihoods of people who depend on them, through the definition of a shared roadmap of improvements.

## WWF's work with the corporate sector

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. As WWF's *Living Planet Report 2018* demonstrates, the challenges that the global environment is facing today are too big, too interconnected and too urgent for any organization to solve alone.

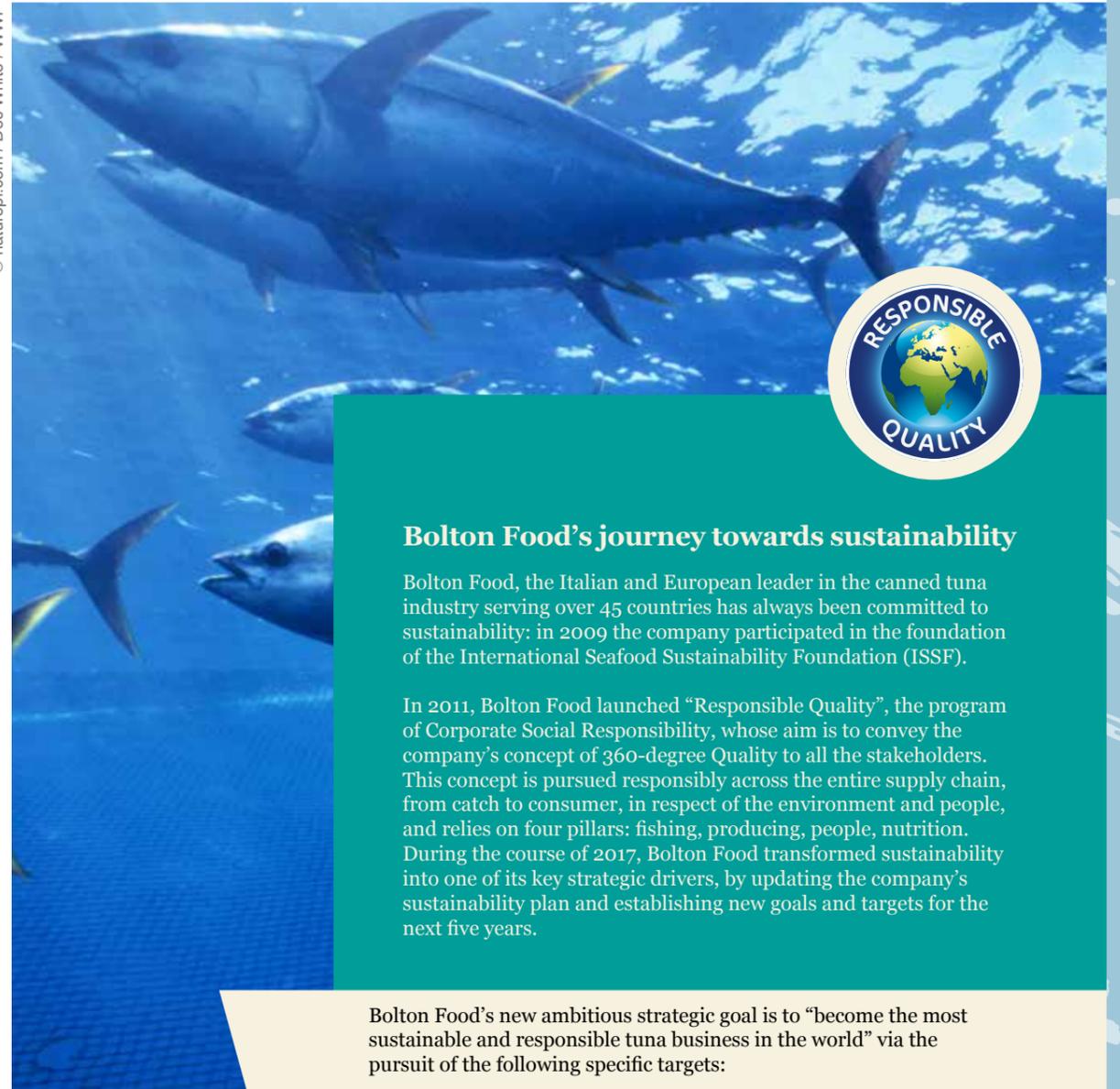
That is why WWF works with those who have the greatest potential to reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth and together find solutions to conservation challenges such as deforestation, over-fishing, water scarcity and climate change.



Business drives much of the global economy, and WWF considers that companies have a specific responsibility to ensure that the natural resources and ecosystems are used sustainably.

The partnership with Bolton Food helps to improve the sustainability of the company's business practices and to deliver large-scale impacts to help safeguard the marine environment.

© naturepl.com / Doc White / WWF



## Bolton Food's journey towards sustainability

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

In 2011, Bolton Food launched "Responsible Quality", the program of Corporate Social Responsibility, whose aim is to convey the company's concept of 360-degree Quality to all the stakeholders. This concept is pursued responsibly across the entire supply chain, from catch to consumer, in respect of the environment and people, and relies on four pillars: fishing, producing, people, nutrition. During the course of 2017, Bolton Food transformed sustainability into one of its key strategic drivers, by updating the company's sustainability plan and establishing new goals and targets for the next five years.

Bolton Food's new ambitious strategic goal is to "become the most sustainable and responsible tuna business in the world" via the pursuit of the following specific targets:



1. Adopt and promote sustainable fishing;
2. Produce in low environmental impact facilities;
3. Develop employees' wellbeing and generate positive social impacts across the supply chain;
4. Manufacture premium-quality products for a varied, balanced diet.

This partnership will allow Bolton Food to implement its sustainable sourcing roadmap with the technical advice and support provided by WWF, showing the commitment of the company to pursue a steady course towards sustainability.

## Why we are working together

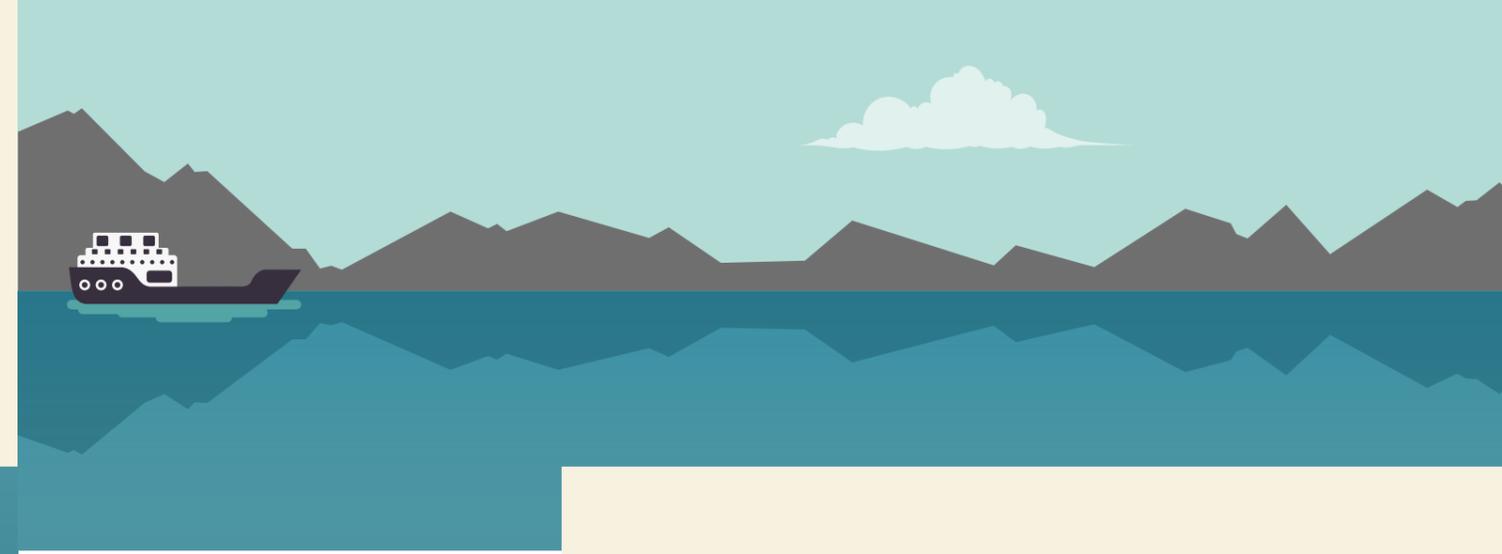
WWF and Bolton Food began working together in 2017, starting an ambitious transformational program to increase the sustainability and traceability of seafood products.



**The goal for the company is to purchase 100 per cent of its tuna from Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)-certified fisheries or from robust Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) aimed at becoming eligible for MSC certification, by 2024.**

A similar commitment has also been made for other fish species in their supply chain such as salmon, mackerel and sardines and eventually include all of the company's production.

**By signing this international partnership WWF and Bolton Food will play a leading role in environmental issues within the seafood sector and beyond.**



## The partnership's goals



### **1. Increasing production and sourcing of sustainable seafood**

The objective of the company is to continuously increase the amount of certified sustainable seafood products, to be able to supply 100 per cent 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 such as salmon, mackerel and sardines. For farmed salmon the objective will be to supply 100 per cent from Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certified farms or from robust Aquaculture Improvement Projects (AIPs).



### **2. Increasing traceability and transparency**

The company has committed to providing full transparency and traceability of 100 per cent of their supplying vessels by the end of 2017. 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. Advocating for social and labour standards**

Bolton Food has committed to developing a robust Human Rights policy aligned with International best practices which they will incorporate into the company's management system and into the company's sustainability reporting.



### What is the Marine Stewardship Council?

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is a global, voluntary, independent certification scheme

that rewards sustainable fishing practices and sets environmental standards for sustainable seafood.

The MSC chain of custody system enables traceability from 'dock to shelf' and reduces considerably the probability of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. 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 the MSC certification as the best available certification scheme for wild-caught seafood.

### What are 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 scheme that currently meets WWF's minimum criteria for wild-caught seafood is the Marine Stewardship Council.

FIP stakeholders should include fishers/producers, nongovernmental organisations (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.

#### A FIP is robust when:

- there has been a scoping document and MSC pre-assessment completed by an independent third-party auditor,
- an action plan has been set,
- the FIP is publicly launched and
- the fishery is making progress according to the action plan designed to reach a level consistent with the MSC standard within the agreed timeframe (max. 5 years).



FIPs utilize private-sector power and market forces to incentivize fisheries to shift to sustainable practices.

# ASPECTS OF THE SEAFOOD MARKET AND TRADE



### What is the Aquaculture Stewardship Council?

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.

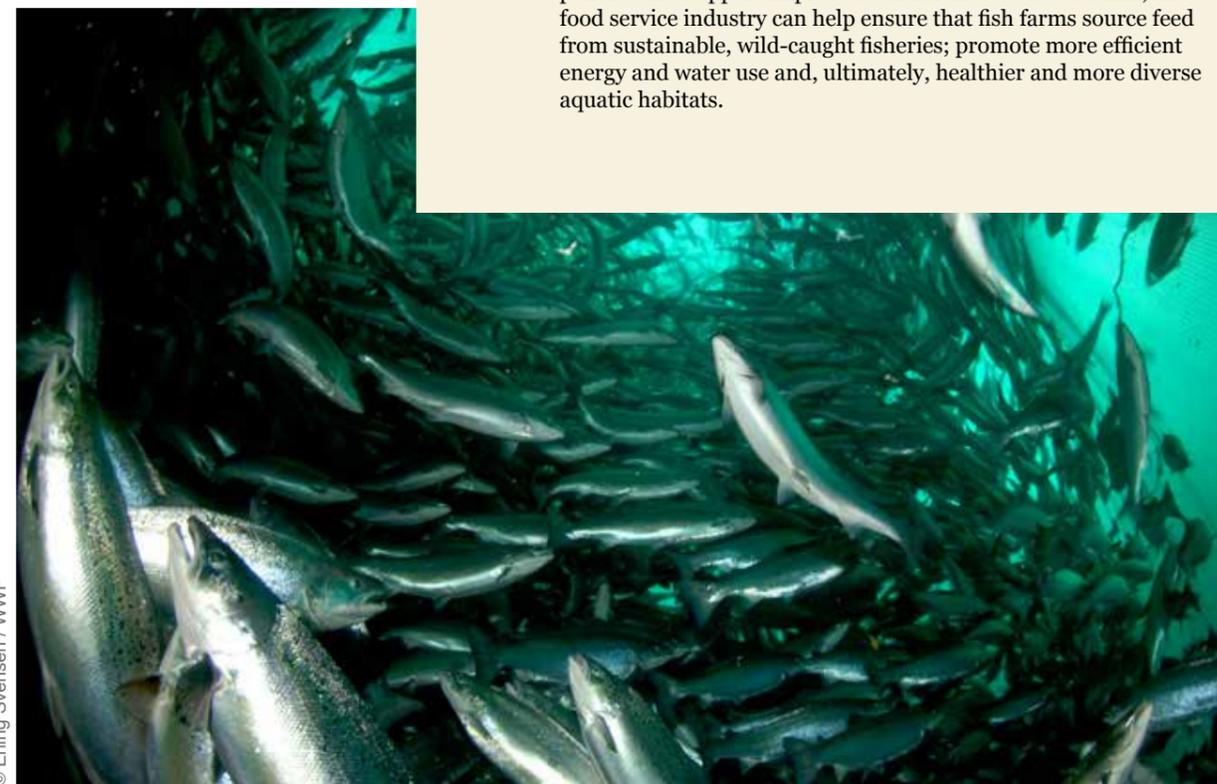
ASC works with aquaculture producers, seafood processors, retail and foodservice companies, scientists, conservation groups and consumers to: recognize and reward responsible aquaculture through the ASC aquaculture certification programme and seafood label; promote best environmental and social choice 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.

### What are 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; promote more efficient energy and water use and, ultimately, healthier and more diverse aquatic habitats.



© Erling Svensen / WWF

## What are Regional Fisheries Management Organisations?

RFMOs are international organisations formed by countries with fishing interests in an area. Some of them manage all the fish stocks found in a specific area, while others focus on particular highly-migratory species, notably tuna, throughout vast geographical areas.

The organisations are open both to countries in the region (“coastal states”) and countries with interests in the fisheries concerned. While some RFMOs have 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 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)
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

WWF is involved in the main tuna organisations and holds the role of observer and active stakeholder at advocacy level. This includes producing position papers which cover conservation and management recommendations.

## What is IUU fishing?

**Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU)** fishing is a serious threat to the sustainable management of fisheries worldwide – depleting fish stocks, undermining responsible management, destroying marine ecosystems and threatening the livelihoods of coastal communities. An estimated 20 per cent of the global catch comes from IUU fishing activity, with a global value of US\$10-23 billion a year. Multiple sources make clear that it occurs in all oceans and threatens nearly all fisheries and species. Reports detailing IUU fishing across the globe have documented violations for many and varied species. While imports to the EU are controlled and regulated, there have been some reports of IUU seafood entering the EU market.

The recent report on this issue “*The impact of the EU IUU Regulation on seafood trade flows*” was published in early 2018 to support the work of the Environmental Justice Foundation, Oceana, The Pew Charitable Trusts and WWF. The report is the first detailed analysis to show that shifts in seafood import flows towards the EU have occurred since 2010 that appear directly related to the EU IUU Regulation adoption, in terms of the likelihood that products were caught in contravention of applicable fisheries rules.

Traceability is therefore critical in ensuring the responsible sourcing and legality of seafood.

# PROJECT RESULTS YEAR 1

Marking the first anniversary of the partnership, WWF and Bolton Food have made important progress towards achieving their first set of milestones. Through the partnership, Bolton Food aims to accomplish measurable sustainability targets that reduce the company’s environmental footprint, raise awareness on the importance of sustainable seafood production and sourcing, and support WWF’s fisheries conservation work to safeguard fish for future generations.



## 1. INCREASING PRODUCTION AND SOURCING OF SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

The project involved an initial analysis of Bolton Food’s supply chain to understand the current situation of Bolton Food’s purchasing and identify the priorities to increase sourcing from sustainable certified fisheries and robust fisheries improvement projects. Several activities have been completed in the first year of the partnership:

### • Baseline species assessments

WWF used its internal Common Assessment Methodology (CAM) for the analysis of all of Bolton Food’s species supply chains (tuna, salmon, mackerel, sardines) to establish a sustainability baseline for the raw materials of Bolton Food’s products and set priorities and work streams towards the achievement of the partnership objectives;

### • FIPs development

starting from the CAM results and others strategic evaluations the partners identified the sites for potential FIPs within Bolton Food’s supply chain. During the first year of the partnership, a meaningful increase insourcing from sustainable fisheries has been reached, thanks to Bolton Food’s support and participation in FIPs.



© shutterstock



### FIPs progress in 2017

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



As a result of the partnership, during the year 2017 52,4per cent of tuna procured by Bolton Food was sourced from MSC-certified fisheries (12,5per cent) and from robust and credible FIPs (39,9per cent).

# FIP EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN 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:

- Gruppo Tuna Conservation (TUNACONS): born from the cooperation among tuna companies operating in the area (Negocios Industriales Real NIRSA, Eurofish, GrupoJadran, Servigrup e Tri Marine)
- WWF Ecuador - FIP facilitator
- Ministry of aquaculture and fishing of Ecuador
- National Fishery Institute (INP)
- Foundation Fishery School of the EPO (EPESPO)
- Experts in fisheries management

#### Fishery:

45 purse seine vessels (about 18per cent of the fleet in the region)

#### Goal:

Achievement of MSC certification by the end of 2020

Several active participants in the fishery participate in the project and are committed to reducing the environmental impact of their activities and supporting the sustainability of fisheries in the region.

The initiative involves 45 purse seine vessels, which represent 18per cent of the fleet operating in the area.

The FIP is managed by the Tuna Conservation Group (TUNACONS) in cooperation with WWF Ecuador and with the support of the Ministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador, the

National Fisheries Institute, EPESPO, CIAT and other fisheries experts. TUNACONS is a group of leading tuna companies (Real Industrial Businesses NIRSA, Eurofish, GrupoJadran, Servigrup and Tri Marine) formed with the purpose of implementing a solid Fishing Improvement Project to guide them towards the achievement of 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 the meeting and cooperation between the parties. NIRSA started the process with a pre-assessment of the fishery, and then together with Eurofish and Jadran, they were the pioneers of this initiative. Later, new actors like TriMarine and Servigrup joined together, strengthening TUNACONS even more.

In particular, WWF coordinates the annual review process of the FIP, which is carried out by an independent consultant to evaluate the results achieved during the years.

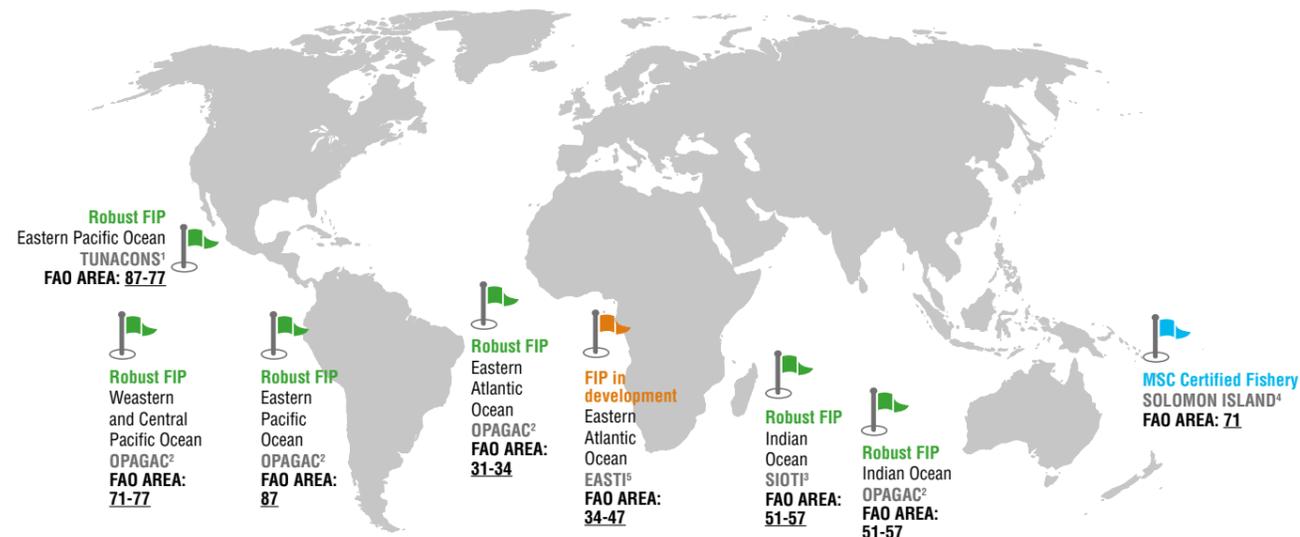
From a more general perspective, WWF puts its experience and knowledge at the service of the FIP, promoting sustainable fisheries governance policies at the national and regional levels. TUNACONS is becoming a working model for fishing companies around the world. This initiative shows how the private sector, working in coordination with the public sector and civil society organizations, works in coordination in conservation actions of marine species and their ecosystems.

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

Tri Marine is the main supplier of Bolton Food; its participation in the project is the best guarantee of Bolton Food fulfilling its commitments. Considering the commitment assumed within the partnership with WWF, Bolton Food contributes to the FIP through a budget dedicated to WWF fieldwork and the development of some specific activities.



### Fishery Status



<sup>1</sup> and <sup>4</sup> through BF strategic partner Tri Marine

<sup>2</sup> through BF owned company Grupo Conservas Garavilla

<sup>3</sup> through BF supplier Princes Ltd.

<sup>5</sup> through BF owned company Saupiquet

[www.fisheryprogress.org](http://www.fisheryprogress.org)

# FIP EASTERN ATLANTIC OCEAN EASTI



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

**Geographical Area:**  
Eastern Atlantic Ocean (EAO), Ghana and Ivory Coast

**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.

**Fishery:**  
Purse seine fishing vessels

**Goal:**  
Achievement of MSC certification by February 2023

The Atlantic Ocean produces around 350,000 tonnes of tuna every year - about 10 percent of the world's tuna catch - which are caught mainly

in areas of the Eastern Atlantic where large currents converge off the coast of Gabon and where there are upwelling deep waters and nutrients off the coast of Guinea. The goal of the FIP is to achieve measurable and verifiable improvements in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna fishery. These improvements, which are implemented over a five-year period, will allow the fishery to become fully compliant with MSC standards. The project will utilise the collective power, resources and efforts of the participants to bring about positive improvements to the way the fishery is managed.

The FIP will strive to support the development of robust harvest strategies for tuna, ensure management measures are in place to maintain target and secondary species above biological limits, and provide a framework to manage the ecosystem impacts associated with purse seine fishing. The participants in the FIP will also work to ensure the resolutions and recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) are followed and adhered to with regards to the management of skipjack tuna.

In June 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the participants and in November Saupiquet, together with the other processing companies, purse seine fleets and their associations and with the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of Ivory Coast and WWF all signed the agreement that formalized the launch of a tuna Fishery Improvement Project in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

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



## 2. INCREASING TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

One of the main objectives of the partnership is to increase traceability and transparency of seafood supply chain and products. We have undertaken several activities in Year 1:

### • Illegal Unreported Unregulated fishing risk analysis completed for Bolton Food's tuna supply chain.

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. The partners involved an independent third-party auditor, MRAG, who performed a desk analysis to assess the threat of IUU fish entering Bolton Food's supply chain.

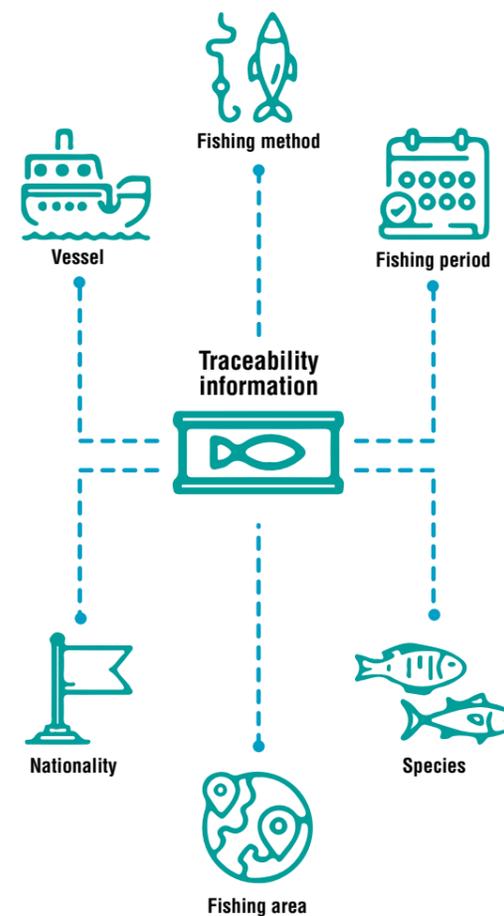
The objective of this project was to evaluate:

- How different countries comply with their responsibilities as flag States (who fish or who issue licenses under their own flag for others to fish);
- How port States (where fish are landed) perform when they are controlling and inspecting foreign or national fishing vessels and whether they are complying with their port State responsibilities;
- How market States (where fish are processed, sold and consumed) act to ensure that strong verification systems are in place to examine the accuracy of information.

The analysis was based on the IUU Risk Assessment tool for high-risk species developed by MRAG with the support and advice of WWF Germany. It is helping to align the company's policy objectives and the sourcing roadmap according to WWF's IUU and traceability standards. The overall aim of this activity was to support the development of concrete actions to be included in the partnership activities.

### • Benchmarking of Bolton Food's Traceability System against WWF's Traceability Principles

Bolton Food has already developed an advanced traceability system, among the first in the world, certified by an independent certification body, DNV\_GL, in accordance with the ISO 22005:2008 standard. The system allows tracing back every single can of tuna produced by the company from the supermarket shelf to the fishing area and boat.



Bolton Food's traceability system is audited and certified by third party assessors with comprehensive and sufficient results to ensure robust traceability. Therefore, it was decided that another assessment exercise would not be necessary to achieve the traceability objectives. In order to improve its overall transparency, the company is working to extend this traceability system to the other seafood it commercializes.

### • Increase transparency of fishing operations

All the large-scale purse seiner vessels supplying Bolton Food are registered in the Proactive Vessel Register (PVR). PVR helps to monitor that those vessels comply with International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) resolutions for sustainable fishing and undergo annual audits by third parties (MRAG) to check compliance with these resolutions. The PVR is used as a tool to verify good practices, including training skippers about sustainable fishing, the presence of on-board observers to monitor fishing operations and the use of Non-entangling FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices).

Bolton Food is committed to registering its owned vessels on **transparentsea.org** and to influencing its seafood suppliers to do the same. *Transparentsea.org* is a platform developed by WWF and Navama, a German technology company, where fisheries voluntarily share their AIS, VMS or GPS track to make fishing activities transparent.



### SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC ADVOCACY AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

### • Bolton Food signed the WWF Global Seafood Charter

Bolton Food began working together with WWF in 2017 by signing WWF's *Global Seafood Charter for companies*. This charter is a guide for companies looking to source and promote sustainable seafood.

The WWF Global Seafood Charter is integral to WWF's marine and seafood work which, through better production, equitable resource governance and ecosystem integrity, aims to help deliver the organisation's vision for healthy and thriving oceans. Specifically, the Charter supports these objectives by:

- Supporting 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.

### • Partnership presented during major WWF event in Naples (Italy)

To raise awareness of the partnership among a broad audience, the project was presented during a major WWF event on 7 June with invited guests and media at the Anton Dohrn Zoological Station in Naples, one of the country's most prestigious research institutions. The event which took place before World Oceans Day was dedicated to the topic: "Who can save our seas?" and presented concrete actions of WWF and its various partners (including Bolton Food) to increase marine protection.

Various ocean stakeholders including fishers, scientists, managers of protected areas, sportspeople and representatives from Bolton Food shared their experiences and endeavours to save our oceans. Bolton Food presented the goals of the partnership, emphasising that the cooperation with WWF was a further confirmation of the company's strong commitment to the sustainability of fishing.

### • Call for action to improve management of tropical tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean

WWF worked on important recommendations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) around the sustainable management of the Atlantic tuna stocks. With the support of 20 companies – with Bolton Food among others – representing major seafood retailers and suppliers that source tuna globally, WWF sent a letter to ICCAT, asking for a number of measures to be taken to ensure sustainable fisheries management for all tropical tuna populations.

The letter asked the Contracting Parties to agree on important

## 3. ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL AND LABOUR STANDARDS

As an essential element of all corporate activities, Bolton Food believes that respecting human rights is a key pillar of a sustainability strategy. For this reason, the company is proactively committed to guaranteeing the protection of these rights both within its company and across the entire supply chain. Bolton Food suppliers are required to sign and comply with the **Bolton Group Code of Ethics** and **Human Rights Policy published in October 2016**.

In 2017 the company worked to reinforce this policy along the supply chain by sending a self-assessment questionnaire to all the seafood suppliers. The results of this activity will be used to define the auditing program.

Directly concerning the fishing sector, all Bolton Food suppliers are also required to sign and comply with the **Tuna Supply Policy** that includes specific requirements on human rights standards on vessels.

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

Furthermore, all the vessels that supply Bolton Food with tuna loins must comply with the **Tri Marine Ethical Sourcing Policy** (Tri Marine is the main Bolton Food tuna supplier). 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.

Tri Marine, together with many important seafood players, is part of the working group for the development of the **Seafood Taskforce Code Conduct and Standards** related to Human Rights in the fishing sector. Bolton Food is committed to adopting them as soon as they are available.

steps for the improvement of stock health including improved data reporting and compliance with rules and catch limits across all gear types. The letter highlighted the necessity of ensuring robust precautionary strategies being adopted for all tropical tuna stock as soon as possible. Other measures to be taken concerned the improvement of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures to ensure illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) free supply chains.

ICCAT is a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO). Established 51 years ago, ICCAT is composed of 51 Contracting Parties which have the mandate to monitor and sustainably manage the stocks of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

- **WWF and Bolton Food publicly commit to partnership goals at the Our Ocean conference**

On 5 and 6 October 2017, the European Union hosted the 4th edition of the “Our Ocean” conference in Malta, where ocean leaders were called upon to commit to change. Participants from the public and private sector debated measures and activities to tackle the critical issues of overexploitation, fighting IUU fishing, and helping to manage fisheries resources at sustainable levels. With 100 commitments from the corporate sector, the 2017 conference for the first time mobilised at scale the business community in ocean conservation.

Bolton Food and WWF participated in the conference and introduced the partnership. In the framework of formal and important international commitments from various countries, NGOs, foundations, research institutes, international organisations and companies, Bolton Food publicly announced its commitment to the partnership objectives to increase the sustainability and traceability of seafood products.

- **Bolton Food advocacy activities through ISSF**

Bolton Food is also one of the founding members of the 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 eco-system, and the reduction of bycatch. ISSF cooperates with and supports RFMOs and vigorously advocate 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 at other subjects, including large-scale retail trade, with the aim of increasing the sustainability level of the offer.

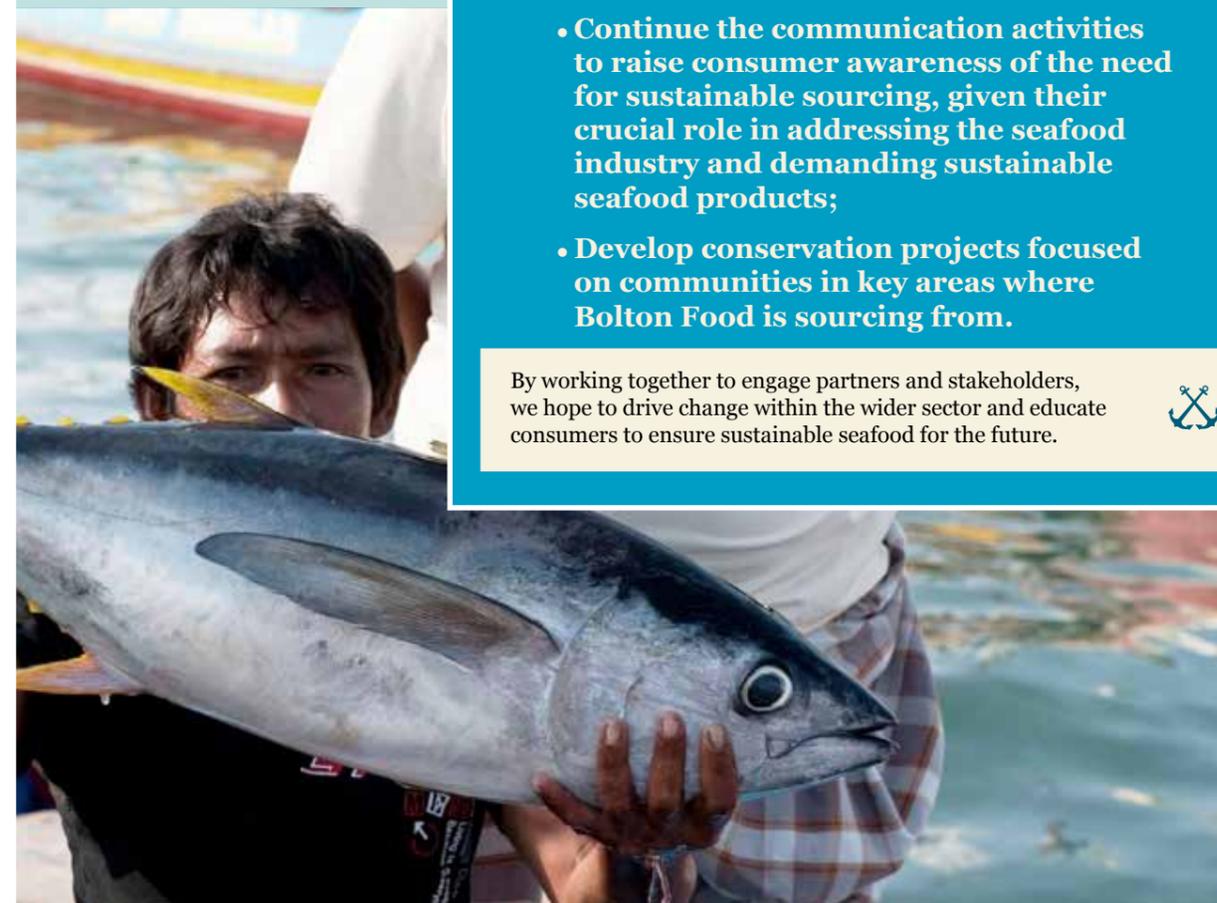
## NEXT STEPS

WWF and Bolton Food remain committed to the goals of the partnership and the two organizations will continue with their efforts to drive, together, meaningful change in the seafood sector.

In the near future the partnership aims to advance in the following areas of work:

- **Finalize the roadmap for the other seafood species sourced by Bolton Food like salmon, sardines, and mackerel to achieve 100per cent sourcing from MSC-certified fisheries or ASC-certified farms or from robust FIPs or AIPs by 2024;**
- **Extend the geographical scope of Bolton Food’s Fishery Improvement Projects to include Indonesian supply chains;**
- **Continue the communication activities to raise consumer awareness of the need for sustainable sourcing, given their crucial role in addressing the seafood industry and demanding sustainable seafood products;**
- **Develop conservation projects focused on communities in key areas where Bolton Food is sourcing from.**

By working together to engage partners and stakeholders, we hope to drive change within the wider sector and educate consumers to ensure sustainable seafood for the future.



# RESOURCES

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

Rio Mare and WWF - a new partnership  
<http://partnership.riomare.com/>  
<https://www.wwf.it/news/?30960/WWF-e-Bolton-alimentari>

WWF and Bolton Alimentari partnership  
[http://wwf.panda.org/get\\_involved/partner\\_with\\_wwf/business\\_partnerships/bolton\\_alimentari/](http://wwf.panda.org/get_involved/partner_with_wwf/business_partnerships/bolton_alimentari/)

WWF and Bolton Food partnership (Italian site)  
[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>

Bolton Food announces launch of the partnership at Our Ocean 2017 Conference, Malta  
[http://ourocean2017.org/sites/default/files/ooe-2017-list-of-commitments\\_en.pdf](http://ourocean2017.org/sites/default/files/ooe-2017-list-of-commitments_en.pdf)

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)

The Ecuadorian tuna FIP  
<https://tunacons.org/upgrade/>

Eastern Atlantic tuna FIP  
<https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/new-fishery-improvement-project-launches-eastern-atlantic-ocean>

WWF Report on IUU Fishing  
[http://www.wwf.eu/campaigns/living\\_land/?uNewsID=322611](http://www.wwf.eu/campaigns/living_land/?uNewsID=322611)

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-a-guide-for-companies-towards-sustainable-sourcing>



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## CONTACT

**WWF**  
**Isabella Pratesi**

Conservation Director WWF Italy  
 seafoodmarkets@wwf.it

**Bolton Food**  
**Luciano Pirovano**

Sustainable Development Director Bolton Food  
 lpirovano@boltofood.it



## WWF & BOLTON FOOD PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT YEAR 1 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.

In October 2018, WWF and BF have drafted a Partnership Progress Report Year 1 (the 'Report') that summarizes the progress made during the period between January 2017 and June 2018 of the WWF & Bolton Food partnership towards sustainability and outlines the activities undertaken to develop first important steps towards improving the environmental sustainability of the BF's production and 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 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 VeriSustain audit protocol of DNV GL, which is based on our professional experience and international assurance best practice (among which the ISAE 3000).

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 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 first year do 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.

### 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 toward 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), 26 October 2018



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

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