



STATEMENT

Excessive and unregulated fishing practices threaten the health of the Indian Ocean, which is why Bolton Food, Business Unit Food of Bolton Group, as a European leader in the production of canned tuna, in accordance with the criteria established in the ISSF Position Statement 2021-02 and with CM 1.3, has decided to take prompt action by exercising its individual responsibility by making explicit the following commitments set out in its "Responsible Quality" program and in the "Bolton Food Tuna Sourcing Policy":

1. Bolton Food will source yellowfin tuna caught in the Indian Ocean exclusively from vessels whose flag State commits to implement the catch limits decided at the next IOTC meeting in June 2021. In particular, Bolton Food will not source from IOTC CPC vessels whose flag State is, or will be, 100% exempted from any catch reduction.
2. Bolton Food commits to follow the precautionary principle and to encourage the fastest possible rebuilding of the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock, for which Bolton Food will self-impose a progressive and significant reduction in its use of yellowfin tuna caught in the Indian Ocean, reaching a reduction of at least 20% in 2024 compared to its average supply in the period 2017-2019.
3. Following the transparency criteria that are a fundamental pillar of their sustainability strategic plan, Bolton Food will annually publish the degree of implementation of these commitments.

*"As a market leader, we feel it is our duty to be the first to concretely change our practices, to set a good example for all players in the sector to follow. – states **Luciano Pirovano, Global Sustainable Development Director of the Food Business Unit of Bolton Group** – Therefore, we are committed to buy tuna from stocks that are healthy and support fishing activities that minimize their environmental impacts. This means rethinking our sourcing when necessary and demanding stronger regulations on fisheries management to allow for tuna stock rebuilding and recovery, such as in the case of the Indian Ocean. All our efforts are projected into the future, our desire is to give future generations a healthy ocean and a world where sustainability is the norm, not just a trend".*

*"The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and its members failed to achieve consensus and adoption of a rebuilding plan for the overfished yellowfin tuna during the special session last March. WWF welcomes Bolton Food's commitments are now loud and clear in supporting ambitious conservation and management measures that are an important reminder to IOTC to act urgently to save the yellowfin tuna stocks from collapsing", said **Umair Shaid, Indian Ocean Regional Tuna Manager of WWF.***

For more information

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