



TUNA SOURCING ISSUE IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST

A TOOL FOR WWF BASKET MARINE SUSTAINABILITY



Working together



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BACKGROUND

Food production is the one of the biggest threats to our environment. It accounts for nearly 60% of global biodiversity loss and contributes to at least 30% of global greenhouse emissions. To tackle these urgent crises, the WWF Basket¹ was launched in 2021, aiming to halve the environmental impact of average UK supermarket baskets by 2030.

The Basket can support food companies which have responsibilities to help fix the food system to make changes. It covers seven areas and one of the key focuses is marine sustainability. The Blueprint for Action² sets out key priorities in each area and the overall outcome for marine sustainability is that 100% of seafood will be from sustainable sources by 2030.

While there are more than 165 species of seafood consumed in the UK, tuna is among the most popular and widely consumed species. Almost all tuna consumed in the UK is imported and majority of these tuna are caught by long distance fishing vessels, meaning that many of these fishing vessels travel far away to international waters to catch tuna. Furthermore, the management of tuna fisheries is under the jurisdiction of not a single but multiple countries within different tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). This has made the management, monitoring and enforcement of tuna fishing very complicated. Owing to these complexities, concerns over the sustainability of tuna production have been one of the top priorities in the UK and around the world.



JURISDICTIONAL SEASCAPE SOURCING APPROACH FOR TUNA

In 2021, WWF launched its global tuna strategy³ which aims to bring the exploitation of tuna, for food and as a source of revenue by industrial and artisanal fisheries, into balance with its fundamental role in ecosystem maintenance. To transform the future of tuna, WWF has launched the tuna jurisdictional seascape approach⁴ by linking market actors such as retailers and suppliers to the level of governance at which regional fisheries management is decided.

The jurisdictional seascape sourcing approach aims to set preferential sourcing from the “seascapes” or “sea areas” (i.e. within defined jurisdictional boundaries) that are well managed and reward market actors (i.e. value chain stakeholders) who support this new hybrid approach⁵ towards ecosystem based ocean management. This approach encourages value chain stakeholders to advocate for better and improved management both at RFMO level as well as at their supply chain levels.

It is believed that engagement with the market stakeholders can bring about support of fisheries management to become more effective.

A CHECKLIST TO IDENTIFY ISSUES IN INDIVIDUAL TUNA SOURCING SUPPLY CHAINS

The first step to supporting the jurisdictional seascape sourcing approach is to have a better understanding of specific tuna value chains that the companies are sourcing from. This involves checking with the downstream and/or upstream stakeholders to seek evidence, verifying the availability of existing information and identifying any gaps in information.

WWF has developed a checklist of key issues within tuna sourcing which can help tuna value chain stakeholders to identify the strengths and shortcomings of a specific supply chain against selected elements of the seascape approach including:

Topics	Areas
Biology and health of fish stocks	Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB ⁶) and fishing mortality
Fishing activity	Bycatch of Endangered, Threatened or Protected (ETP ⁷) and other species, gear specific best practices, transshipment, observer coverage and fishing activities transparency
Fisheries governance on management and/or conservation measures	Harvest Strategies (HS ⁸), Harvest Control Rules (HCR), complementarity with the High Seas Treaty, Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), fins naturally attached policy
Human rights abuse	Human rights and decent work conditions, International Labour Organisation (ILO) Work in Fishing Convention 188
Value chain stakeholder actions/advocacy	Advocacy toward improving the effectiveness of RFMOs' management, and transparency on sourcing policy and actual sourcing

Excel format of this checklist is available at WWF website:

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/transforming-the-future-of-tuna>

This checklist serves as a one-stop shop that covers almost all known key issues identified in tuna sourcing. These key issues are also important elements to implement the jurisdictional seascape approach where pre-competitive collaborations on advocacy are needed.

It is recommended this checklist is used as a supplementary tool to accompany existing risk assessment tools such as seafood rating guides, sourcing risk assessment guidelines or tuna sourcing certification reports. The checklist also provides useful resources, if available, on these topic areas so that information, best practice actions or recommendations can be found.

As a path for value chain stakeholders to support and work toward the jurisdictional seascape approach for tuna, the checklist lists four scenario stages ranging from the worst to the best case scenarios.

- **The worst case scenario** indicates that either conservation or WWF basket metric targets are not met or there is a lack of evidence, data or information to support claims that targets are met. This implies improvement actions need to be taken and/or require higher transparency at fleet, fisheries and/or regional levels.
- **The best case scenario** indicates that targets are met and there is supporting evidence to demonstrate that these targets are met. The best case scenario is built on the outcomes of established initiatives such as WWF global tuna strategy, WWF positions and other developed projects or guidelines such as those from Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF), International Sustainability Seafood Foundation (ISSF), NGO Tuna Forum, and/or other organisations to allow value chain stakeholders to continue to support good courses. It should be noted that if multiple guidelines on the same issues are available, the most precautionary approach will be adopted in this checklist.

Tuna value chain stakeholders could use the checklist to support their own supply chains and in driving improvements as well as to collaborate with other tuna supply chains within the same jurisdictional boundary (e.g. tuna RFMO) to advocate for regional improvement on tuna resources management.

It is recognised the jurisdictional seascape sourcing is a novel approach, which requires the collaboration of a wide range of stakeholders, not just retailers and suppliers. It is hoped this checklist will provide a concrete tool for the tuna value chain stakeholders to track their progress towards greater sustainability in line with the WWF Basket targets. The ultimate goal of the WWF Basket is to have 100% seafood from sustainable sources by 2030.





AREA	SUBAREA	MEASURE	4 STAGES OF PROGRESSION				USEFUL RESOURCES FOR BACKGROUND OR GUIDANCE
			WORST CASE SCENARIO	MINOR IMPROVEMENT/ PROGRESS	ADVANCED IMPROVEMENT/ PROGRESS	BEST CASE SCENARIO	
Human rights	Human rights and decent working conditions	Alignment with ILO 188 for all vessels regardless of size and voyage length	No policy or no alignment	Some aligned policy and action with ILO 188	Fully aligned policy and actions with ILO 188	Fully aligned policies and actions with ILO 188 and publicly available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishery Progress Social Performance: https://fisheryprogress.org/social-responsibility/our-approach Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) Responsible Fishing Vessel Scheme (RFVS): https://bspcertification.org/ Individual company human rights and decent working conditions policies and audit report
			Not reported			Reported with evidence	
Biology	Stock health	SSB40	SSB under 20	SSB at or above 20		SSB 40 or above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFMO stock assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC): https://www.iattc.org/StockAssessmentReportsENG.htm International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT): https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC): https://www.iotc.org/science Western an Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC): https://www.wcpfc.int/current-stock-status-and-advice Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) final and/or audit report: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ ISSF Status of the Stocks: https://www.issf-foundation.org/tuna-stocks-and-management/our-tuna-stock-tools/status-of-the-stocks/ IPNLF Sourcing Transparency Platform: https://sourcingtransparencyplatform.org/ FishSource profiles: https://www.fishsource.org/ UK Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Good Fish Guide: https://www.mcsuk.org/goodfishguide/ Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch: https://www.seafoodwatch.org/recommendations
			No recent stock assessment (more than 3 years) and/or SSB indicators not reported	Indicators of stock status (e.g. proxy via other stocks) but no target species stock assessment	Indicators of stock status (e.g. proxy via other stocks) but no target species stock assessment	SSB indicators fully reported	
		Fishing Mortality (F/Fmsy) <1	F/Fmsy >1	F/Fmsy ≤1		F/Fmsy <1	
			Not reported			Reported	

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWF Back to Biology report (includes an explanation of SSB40): https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-05/WWF%20-%20Back%20to%20Biology%20report%20%28new%29.pdf • WWF seafood guides: https://wwf.panda.org/act/live_green/out_shopping/seafood_guides/
Fishing activity (supply chain work)	ETP bycatch	100% non-retention If trip was observed, report should come from observers, if not then aggregated log book reports will suffice	No reporting	Reporting a portion of the interactions and retention (e.g. only from some vessels)	Reporting of all interactions and retentions (e.g. submitted to RFMO) but not available to share upon request	Reporting of all interactions and retentions, available to share upon request, proving 100% non-retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFMO bycatch lists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IATTC: https://www.iattc.org/CatchReportsDataENG.htm - ICCAT: https://www.iccat.int/en/bycatch.html - IOTC: https://www.iotc.org/science/wp/working-party-ecosystems-and-bycatch-wpeb - WCPFC: https://www.wcpfc.int/public-domain-bycatch • SFP Best Practices for Reducing Bycatch in Longline Tuna Fisheries: https://fishingliving.files.wordpress.com/2018/08/sfp-best-practices-in-tuna-longline-fisheries-report.pdf • ISSF Bycatch Mitigation Conservation Measures: https://www.issf-foundation.org/tuna-stocks-and-management/our-media-library/infographics/download-info/bycatch-mitigation-conservation-measures-category/
	Other species bycatch	Bycatch handling and mitigation measures For high-interaction fisheries	No implementation of measure or action plan	Partially implemented with gap analysis and action plan	Implemented, but no evidence	Implemented and bycatch encounters reported, reporting available to share upon request, evidence of reduction since implementation	
	Gear Best Practice	Gear loss/ghost gear	No implementation of measures or action plan	Partially implemented with gap analysis and action plan	Implemented, but no evidence	Implemented and reported, reporting available to share upon request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) Data Portal: https://globalghostgearportal.net/login.php • MSC final and/or audit report: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/
		Bait fisheries	No management	Partially implemented with gap analysis and action plan	Implemented, but no evidence	Effectively managed and reported, reporting available to share upon request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSC final and/or audit report: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ • Fisheries Progress.org: https://fisheryprogress.org/ • IPNLF Sourcing Transparency Platform: https://sourcingtransparencyplatform.org/

		Anchored FADs	No management	Partially implemented with gap analysis and action plan	Implemented, but no evidence	Effectively managed, recovered and reported, reporting available to share upon request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSC final and/or audit report: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/
		NGO Tuna Forum FAD management and/or GTA recommendations	No implementation or action plan	Partially implemented with gap analysis and action plan	Implemented, but no evidence	Implemented and reported, reporting available to share upon request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO Tuna Forum FAD management: https://ngotunaforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FAD-Management-Practices-2021.pdf GTA Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Management Best Practices: https://www.globaltunaalliance.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/GTA-FAD-Position-FINAL.pdf
	Transshipment (if transshipment occurs)	NGO Tuna Forum transshipment best practice	No implementation or action plan	Partially implemented with gap analysis and action plan	Implemented, but no evidence	Implemented and reported, reporting available to share upon request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO Tuna Forum transshipment best practice: https://ngotunaforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Aligned-Guidance-At-Sea-Transshipment-Jan2022-V5.pdf ISSF Participating Company Audit Reports: https://www.issf-foundation.org/vessel-and-company-commitments/compliance-results/participating-company-audit-reports//.pdf
	Observer coverage	100% observer coverage	No observer coverage	Up to 50% observer coverage	50-100% observer coverage	100% observer coverage and observer reports available upon request and/or submitted to RFMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided by the fleet/vessel(s) ISSF Participating Company Audit Reports: https://www.issf-foundation.org/vessel-and-company-commitments/compliance-results/participating-company-audit-reports/ any-audit-reports// IPNLF Sourcing Transparency Platform: https://sourcingtransparencyplatform.org/

	<p>Transparency</p>	<p>Vessel list: including vessel's name, size, gear, flag, IMO number</p>	<p>Not available</p>			<p>Available on request</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSC final and annual audit reports: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ • ISSF ProActive Vessel Register (PVR): https://www.iss-foundation.org/vessel-and-company-commitments/proactive-vessel-register/proactive-vessel-register-pvr/ • RFMOs Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing Vessel lists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IATTC: https://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/IUU.aspx?Lang=en - ICCAT: https://www.iccat.int/en/IUU.asp - IOTC: https://www.iotc.org/iotc-iuu-list - WCPFC: https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/wcpfc-iuu-vessel-list • Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) Combined IUU Vessel List: https://iuu-vessels.org/ • FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels: https://www.fao.org/global-record/information-system/en/ • Vessels listed on Fisheries Progress: https://fisheryprogress.org/ • ISSF Vessels in Other Sustainability Initiatives (VOSI): https://www.iss-foundation.org/vessel-and-company-commitments/other-vessel-lists/vessels-in-other-sustainability-initiatives-vosi/vosi-database/ • ISSF Participating Company Audit Reports: https://www.iss-foundation.org/vessel-and-company-commitments/compliance-results/participating-company-audit-reports/ • IPNLF Sourcing Transparency Platform: https://sourcingtransparencyplatform.org/
<p>Governance</p>	<p>Management</p>	<p>Harvest Strategies (HS) - target stock</p>	<p>No HS</p>	<p>Under condition to implement harvest strategy within next 5 years</p>	<p>HS adopted, but not based on SSB40</p>	<p>HS adopted, with SSB40-based target reference points, regularly updated stock assessments (no more than 3 years) and including SSB calculation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFMO Harvest Control Rules and Harvest Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IATTC: https://www.iattc.org/ResolutionsActiveENG.htm - ICCAT: https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html - IOTC: https://www.iotc.org/cmms/basic - WCPFC: https://www.wcpfc.int/harvest-strategy

		Harvest Strategies - other stocks governed by RFMO	No HS	HS adopted, but not for all stocks and not based on SSB40	HS adopted, for all target stocks but not (all) based on SSB40	HS adopted for all stocks based on SSB40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISSF Status of the Stocks: https://www.issf-foundation.org/tuna-stocks-and-management/our-tuna-stock-tools/status-of-the-stocks/ MSC final and/or audit report: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ UK MCS Good Fish Guide: https://www.mcsuk.org/goodfishguide/
		Harvest Control Rules (Conservation Measures)	No HCR	HCR partially adopted, not covering all stocks	HCR adopted, for all target stocks but not (all) based on SSB40	HCR adopted, for all target stocks based on SSB40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch: https://www.seafoodwatch.org/recommendations FishSource profiles: https://www.fishsource.org/ WWF seafood guides: https://wwf.panda.org/act/live_green/out_shopping/seafood_guides/
		Complementarity of the RFMO strategy with the ambitions of the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ)	No			Yes, aligned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFMO PSMA websites (if any): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IATTC: https://www.iattc.org/ResolutionsActiveENG.htm ICCAT: https://www.iccat.int/en/assess.html IOTC: https://www.iotc.org/cmms/basic WCPFC: https://www.wcpfc.int/harvest-strategy
		Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) (<i>landing country</i>)	No	Ratified but not implemented and no action plan	Ratified but not implemented and action plan	Yes, ratified and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN FAO PSMA parties: https://www.fao.org/port-state-measures/background/parties-psma/en/
		Fins Naturally Attached (FNA) policy	No			Yes, policy implemented and evidence available upon request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISSF Participating Company Audit Reports: https://www.issf-foundation.org/vessel-and-company-commitments/compliance-results/participating-company-audit-reports/ MSC final and annual audit reports: https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/

Value chain stakeholder actions	Advocacy towards improving the above measures within RFMOs	Participation in industry groups with a mission related to sustainable tuna management (e.g. ISSF, GTA)	No			Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISSF: https://www.issf-foundation.org/about-issf/what-we-publish/categories/news/press-releases/ GTA: https://www.globaltunaalliance.com/news/ Individual company press releases Letters, email or meeting notes with management authorities and/or catching sector 	
		Independent advocacy (direct meetings, letters, etc) on RFMOs	No	Yes, but not for all relevant RFMOs or not regularly	Yes, all relevant RFMOs	Yes, continuous relationship and pre-all relevant RFMOs		
		Independent advocacy (direct meetings, letters, etc) on CPCs of RFMOs	No	Yes, but not for all relevant CPCs or not regularly	Yes, pre relevant CPCs of the RFMOs	Yes, continuous relationship and pre-all relevant CPCs		
		Direct contact with catching sector (fishing company)	No	Yes, but not regular	Yes, and regular	Yes, joint with the catching sector to have continuous relationship with the flag state(s)		
	Transparency	Sources made public and at least updated yearly through the Ocean Disclosure Project (ODP) or company website	No			Yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ocean Disclosure Project (ODP): https://oceandisclosureproject.org/ Individual company or PO website
		Company sustainability policy publicly available	No			Yes		
		Public annual company reporting on sustainability	No			Yes		

REFERENCES

- 1 WWF Basket: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/basket-metric>
- 2 WWF Basket Blueprint for Action: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-11/WWF-Basket-Blueprint-for-Action.pdf>
- 3 WWF global tuna strategy: https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/tuna_strategy_2021_web.pdf
- 4 WWF Transforming the future of tuna: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/transforming-the-future-of-tuna>
- 5 <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Applying-a-jurisdictional-approach-to-support-Kittinger-Bernard/fa7f7caed637f8b2eec33134b1a7fda771d4e81b>
- 6 FAO Term Portal: <https://www.fao.org/faoterm/en/?defaultCollId=21>
- 7 MSC Vocabulary: https://www.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/for-business/program-documents/chain-of-custody-supporting-documents/msc-msci_vocabulary_v1-2.pdf?sfvrsn=cef284dd_14
- 8 ISSF online glossary: <https://www.issf-foundation.org/tuna-stocks-and-management/tuna-fishing/issf-glossary/>
- 9 Global Tuna Alliance: <https://www.globaltunaalliance.com/>
- 10 International Pole & Line Foundation: <https://ipnlf.org/>
- 11 International Seafood Sustainability Foundation: <https://www.issf-foundation.org/>
- 12 NGO Tuna Forum: <https://ngotunaforum.org/>





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