

Pacific Ocean tuna – longline FIP (StarKist)

Waste Management Policy

Introduction

The Pacific Ocean tuna longline FIP (StarKist) targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*T. obesus*) and yellowfin tuna (*T. albacares*). The pelagic longline vessels are flagged to Taiwan, China, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Fiji, American Samoa, French Polynesia and Panama and fish on the high seas (and occasionally in the national Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)) in the Pacific. The fishery is managed regionally by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and by the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).

Globally, millions of tons of waste enter the sea each year, the majority of which comprises oil, fishing gear, packaging, raw plastics, and convenience items. On fishing vessels, waste does not include fresh fish or parts of fresh fish that are left over from processing catch. Plastic fishing gear can cause marine animals to become entangled and either suffocate or drown. Larger plastic items, including oil containers, food packaging and bottles can break down in the ocean and produce microplastics. These tiny plastic pieces can be mistaken as prey items for smaller marine organisms and can be ingested. Once inside the body, it is possible that the plastic leaches out toxins and chemicals into the organism's blood stream, poisoning it and the humans who eat it. Alternatively, ingested plastics can cause false satiation in the animal, which prevents it from eating and causes starvation. This can also detrimentally affect the stock size of fish populations and cause the CPUE of fishing vessels to decrease. A decrease in fish abundance as well as quality will also lead to a decline in economic compensation for the fish catch.

The Pacific Ocean tuna longline seine FIP (StarKist) understands this issue and endeavours with this policy to minimise the fishery's impact on the ecosystem. In accordance with MARPOL Annex V, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and Key Traceability, the fishery must comply with the following:

- All areas, especially the deck, is to be kept as clear of rubbish as possible to avoid it being washed overboard.
- Waste disposal facilities are to be in proximity to the port where the vessels land and allocated crew are to be responsible for disposing of waste at the facility upon arrival.

MARPOL Annex V:

- All noxious liquids including oil and petrol is to be kept on board and disposed of in port.
- Untreated sewage must not be discharged at sea and pumped out in port.
- Plastics may not be discharged into the ocean anywhere at any time. This includes items that have any plastic component including synthetic fishing gear and must be collected on board to be disposed of when the vessels come into port or incinerated on the vessel.
- Paper and cardboard are to be collected and incinerated on board.
- All incinerated matter is to be kept on board and disposed of at port.
- Outside 12 nautical miles of land, it is permitted to dump organic matter.



WCPFC CMM 2017-09:

- CCMs are encouraged to prohibit their fishing vessels operating within the WCPFC Convention Area from discharging:
 - a) oil or fuel products or oily residues into the sea;
 - b) garbage, including fishing gear, food waste, domestic waste, incinerator ashes and cooking oil; and
 - c) sewage, except as would be permitted under applicable international instruments.

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