



G-FAST

Tuna are among the world's most commercially valuable fish. This strong global demand for tuna and the overcapacity of fishing fleets will likely cause stocks of the seven major commercial tuna species to decline if management strategies are not improved.

WWF has spent the last decade helping to mobilize the global tuna industry around a set of common conservation objectives to improve the status of the world's twenty-three managed tuna stocks. According to the FAO (2017), among the seven principal tuna species, one-third of the stocks are estimated to be fished at biologically unsustainable levels.

While WWF has primarily engaged in sustainability efforts with major global tuna brands, retailers and consumers, the G-FAST model aims to improve sustainability practices from the very beginning of the supply chain through directly engaging with tuna fishing vessel owners.

Working with the regional fleets of the vessels that catch the most tuna focuses improvements for greatest impact, including setting the example for other fleets, vessels, and gear types to follow.

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Global FIP Alliance for Sustainable Tuna (G-FAST)



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Advocacy

Being at the beginning of the supply chain, vessel owners are uniquely positioned to develop best practice improvements and implement them broadly.

G-FAST fosters leadership around four conservation priorities:

- Establishing precautionary harvest strategies for tuna species that avoid potential negative future outcomes, such as overexploitation and biodiversity loss.
- Reducing the environmental impact of fishing activities by developing, implementing and supporting measures, incentives, technology and techniques to mitigate bycatch of non-target species.
- Promoting fair, transparent, and effective enforcement to eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and trafficking.
- Improving the quality and quantity of fishery data through comprehensive observer coverage (human and/or electronic) on vessels. This includes measures to ensure on-board observer safety and security.

Progress

To date, G-FAST includes **ten** fisheries currently in fishery improvement projects (FIPs) to receive certification from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) to use its ecolabel on commercial products.

The annual combined total catch of tuna from these FIPs is more than **960,000 metric tons**—that's approximately **20%** of all global catch and represents an increase of over 50% in the 1.6 million MT of tuna that is already MSC certified or in full assessment.

More than **180 major purse seine vessels** are participating in G-FAST, representing over **20%** of the world's major tuna purse seiners.

Beyond implementing change onboard, vessel owners in G-FAST work with their national governments and industries to support the adoption of new standards and practices at regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs).

A world map with a dark teal background. Six circular images are placed over different ocean regions: 1. Top left (Pacific): A blue and silver tuna swimming. 2. Top center (Atlantic): A pile of small, silvery fish. 3. Top right (Indian Ocean): A large fish hanging from a wooden structure. 4. Bottom left (Atlantic): A fishing boat on the water. 5. Bottom center (Indian Ocean): A large, dark, textured fish. 6. Bottom right (Pacific): A group of tuna swimming underwater.

Participating Fisheries

The fisheries participating in G-FAST to accelerate their commitments to a sustainability standard cover all oceans of the world:

- The United States Pacific Tuna Group FIP fishes by purse seine for tropical tuna species across the eastern, central, and western Pacific Ocean.
- The four OPAGAC FIPs operate in all oceans and is the largest tuna fleet in the world to apply for MSC certification.
- The Atlantic Ocean tuna - purse seine FIP fishes for tropical tuna off the coasts of seven West African countries.
- The WCPO tuna - purse seine (Dongwon Industries) FIP fishes off the waters of Pacific island nations and the high seas.
- The Eastern Pacific Ocean Tropical Tuna Purse Seine (TUNACONS) FIP covers the international waters of the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of 7 countries.
- The tuna species under the Eastern Atlantic Purse Seine Tuna (EASTI) FIP are mainly fished off of the coast of Gabon and the nutrient-rich waters of Guinea's coast.
- The Indian Ocean Tuna (SIOTI) FIP covers the catch of skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye tuna species from vessels owned by French, Spanish, Italian, Mauritian, and Seychellois companies.

Join G-FAST

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