



# STATEMENT



## BOLTON FOOD CONFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING THE OCEANS AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FISHING REDUCING THE SUPPLY OF YELLOWFIN TUNA FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN BY 30% BY 2025

*Bolton Food confirms its commitment to safeguarding the oceans and promoting increasingly sustainable fishing*

**Milan, 31 March 2023** – Bolton Food, one of the market leaders in the canned fish sector with its Rio Mare, Saupiquet, Isabel and Cuca brands, confirms its commitment to the health of the oceans by further reducing its supply of yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean compared to what was declared in 2021. In fact, by 2025, Bolton Food will decrease its sourcing of yellowfin tuna, whose stock has long been overfished in this region, by 30% (compared to 2020 volumes), preferring areas that are sustainable and healthy.

The decision to reduce sourcing of yellowfin tuna by 30% contributes to meeting the recommendation of the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), an intergovernmental organisation responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean to ensure the conservation and appropriate utilisation of fish stocks and encouraging the sustainable development of fisheries.

In fact, the scientific committee indicated that a 30% reduction in yellowfin tuna catches compared to 2020 catches would imply a 67% of possibility to allow the stock to return to health by 2030 (about two generations).

Bolton Food's commitment to take action to restore yellowfin tuna stocks is also consistent with the positions taken by the Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), Tuna Protection Alliance (TUPA), and WWF in their joint statement released ahead of the next IOTC meeting scheduled for May.

Following the precautionary principle' and scientific advice, Bolton Food has committed to the following measures to promote the recovery of Indian Ocean stocks:

1. Bolton Food will self-impose a gradual and significant reduction in the use of yellowfin tuna caught in the Indian Ocean, achieving an ultimate reduction of at least 30 percent in 2025 compared to its supply in 2020.
2. Bolton Food will not source from vessels flying the flag of IOTC member states that are, or will be, 100 percent exempt from any reduction in catch.
3. Following the transparency criteria that are a key pillar of its strategic sustainability plan, Bolton Food will publish annually the degree to which it is implementing these commitments.

*“We decided to take prompt action to reach our goal of reducing our supply of yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean by 30%. This is an important step that we as leaders feel we must take, both to support and encourage the healthy recovery of stocks of this species through science-based precautionary measures, and to be a virtuous example for other companies in the fish market and thus influence the entire industry”* said **Luciano Pirovano, Global Sustainable Development Director** at Bolton Food. *“Together with WWF, we have been committed for years to promoting responsible fish sourcing to ensure the long-term prosperity of stocks, which is why we believe it is critical to ensure the recovery of those currently in trouble.”*

As a leader, Bolton Food has always believed that it has a responsibility to influence the way companies in the seafood sector operate, encouraging positive change towards better sustainability standards within the supply chain through its own example. An example of this is the transformative partnership with WWF signed in 2016, through which Bolton Food has taken on major transformative projects in order to promote sustainable practices.



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