

## Guidelines for Purchasing Fish from Commercial Fishing Vessels in Thai Waters for the Canned Fish Industry, April 4, 2024, by the Thai Tuna Industry Association

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### 1. Principles and rationale

The Association’s members, as purchasers of fish to process for domestic sales and export, must comply with Thai laws and international obligations. Therefore, the Association has developed guidelines for purchasing fish from commercial fishing vessels in Thai waters for the canned fish industry. These guidelines serve as considerations for purchasing raw materials, with principles and key criteria aligned with sustainable fishing practices. This includes monitoring for illegal fishing activities and transshipment of aquatic animals, ethical labour practices, environmental conservation, and management of aquatic resources to ensure sustainability.

### 2. Types of aquatic animals and fishing tools in Thai waters

**2.1 Types of aquatic animals:** Mackerel, Indian mackerel, longtail tuna, kawakawa, frigate tuna, bullet tuna, mackerel scad, goldstripe sardinella

**2.2 Fishing gears:** surrounding nets, falling nets, otter board trawls, pair trawls, anchovy purse seine, anchovy falling nets, gillnet

*(Ref: Thai Fisheries Statistics, B.E. 2565, Statistics of Commercial Saltwater Fish Capture Fisheries, B.E. 2565)*

### 3. Guidelines for domestic fish purchase comprise three following parts: Part 1 Fishing practices in Thai waters, Part 2 Environmental aspects, and Part 3 Labour on vessels

No.	Topics	Guideline
<b>Part 1 Fishing practices in Thai waters</b>		
1	<b>Fishing license, vessel registration, and fishing gears (types of mesh)</b>	Every fishing vessel must possess a valid fishing license certified by the Department of Fisheries or CA-certified agencies. Additionally, they must obtain a permit for vessel registration specifically for fishing in Thai waters. The vessel registration

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		information, vessel type, and fishing gear type must align with the details specified in the approved license.
2	<b>Fishing period</b>	Each vessel must fish only within the authorized period in accordance with the law. Fishing is prohibited during the spawning season or any other periods necessary for the conservation of aquatic animals, in accordance with the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) values announced by the Department of Fisheries. Fishing is also prohibited during bay closure periods.
3	<b>Commercial fishing zones</b>	All fishing vessels must operate within designated fishing zones as stipulated by law, avoiding IUU fishing activities and refraining from fishing in conservation areas or closed bays.
4	<b>Prohibition of at-sea transshipment</b>	Fishing vessels and transport vessels are prohibited from engaging in at-sea transshipment unless conditions specified by law are met. This aims to prevent the transshipment of IUU aquatic animals or illegal labour practices.
5	<b>Logbook</b>	Every fishing vessel must maintain a logbook containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vessel name</li> <li>- Vessel registration/identification mark</li> <li>- D/M/Y of departure for fishing – embarkation port – province</li> <li>- D/M/Y of return to port – disembarkation port – province</li> <li>- In case of using transship vessels: identification mark of the transship vessel - date/month/year of loading aquatic animals onto the transship vessel -transshipment area (latitude, longitude)- quantity of transshipped aquatic animals (in kilograms)</li> <li>- Total quantity of aquatic animals caught during the fishing operation (in kilograms)</li> <li>- Types of aquatic animals (in kilograms)</li> <li>- Encounters with rare marine animals: turtles, whales, dolphins, whale sharks</li> </ul>

No.	Topics	Guideline
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bringing aquatic animals to port: port name, province, quantity (in kilograms)</li> </ul>
6	<b>Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) installation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commercial fishing vessels with a gross tonnage of 30 tons or more must have a vessel monitoring system installed and operational throughout the fishing operation, from departure to return to port.</li> <li>- Commercial fishing vessels with a gross tonnage of less than 30 tons must submit a logbook upon request.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Reporting from Port In - Port Out. Controlling Center (PI-PO) by Certification Authority (CA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commercial fishing vessels with a gross tonnage of 30 tons or more must report their entry and exit through the PI-PO (Port in – Port out) center and maintain a logbook.</li> <li>- Fishing vessels with a size of 10 gross tons or more that utilize fishing gears such as bottom pair trawls, bottom otter trawls, beam trawls, surrounding nets, anchovy surrounding nets, and anchovy falling nets must report their entry and exit through the PI-PO (Port in – Port out) center and maintain a logbook.</li> <li>- Commercial fishing vessels with a gross tonnage of less than 30 tons and low-efficiency equipment must submit a logbook upon request.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Traceability</b>	<p>In compliance with Thai fishing laws and regulations, all vessels must compile data as requested to establish a database for traceability.</p>
9	<b>Health standards on fishing vessels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commercial fishing vessels with a gross tonnage of 30 tons or more</li> <li>- Fishing vessels with a size of 10 gross tons or more that utilize fishing gears such as bottom pair trawls, bottom otter trawls, beam trawls, surrounding nets, anchovy surrounding nets, and anchovy falling nets</li> </ul> <p>must establish health standards on board and ensure the proper handling and preservation of aquatic animals. The caught fish must be properly preserved, meeting cleanliness and safety</p>

No.	Topics	Guideline
		criteria without contamination. Additionally, they must obtain certification of compliance with the standards from the Department of Fisheries (Form No. 3).
<b>Section 2 Environmental aspects</b>		
10	Recording of encounters with marine mammals	Every vessel must record encounters with marine mammals in Thai waters. Marine mammals should not be brought onto the vessel except in cases requiring urgent assistance, supported by verifiable evidence.
11	Prohibition of capture, trade, cultivation, possession, and bringing on board a fishing vessel aquatic animals listed in the Wild Animal Conservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2562 (2019) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora: CITES	Every fishing vessel is prohibited from capturing, trading, cultivating, possessing, or bring on board a fishing vessel prohibited aquatic animals. Examples of prohibited species include whales, dolphins, sea turtles, dugongs, whale sharks, corals, giant clams, gorgoniidae, sea anemones, bowmouth guitarfish, manta rays, sawfishes, and devil rays, among others.
<b>Section 3 Labour on vessels</b>		
12	Employment contract	There must be two copies of an employment contract that is written in a language understandable to workers and specifies the living and working conditions on board the vessel. One copy is kept by the employee and the other by the employer.
13	Working hours	Employers must ensure that employees have at least 10 hours of rest within a 24-hour work period and not less than 77 hours within a 7-day work period. Records of rest periods must be maintained for labor inspection.
14	Payment of wages	-Payment of wages and holiday pay must comply with legal requirements, with payment at least once a month. If there is a mutual agreement with proportional remuneration based on the

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		<p>value of the catch, payment should be made within three months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Employers must pay wages monthly. The wages must not be below the minimum wage.</li> <li>- Wages must be paid through a bank account, with the employer responsible for transfer fees.</li> </ul>
15	<b>Grievance mechanism</b>	There must be a grievance mechanism accessible to fishing workers, labour unions, or any stakeholders for matters related to vessel safety and health hazards.
16	<b>Working environment</b>	Fishing vessels must have certification verifying living conditions and working environments according to legal standards. Clean food and drinking water, sanitary facilities, basic medical supplies and first aid, and safety equipment must be provided on board.
17	<b>Age of seamen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The minimum age for hired fishing labor is 18 years.</li> <li>-Fishing vessel owners may allow their heir(s) aged not less than 16 years to undergo a fishing apprenticeship, as certified by law.</li> </ul>
18	<b>Non-discrimination</b>	Discrimination based on factors such as origin, ethnicity, language, gender, age, disability, physical condition, personal status, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation is prohibited.
19	<b>No forced labour</b>	No coercion or intimidation to perform work or provide services, such as through threats to life, freedom, reputation, property, use of force, confiscation of documents, or unauthorized imposition of debt.
20	<b>No human trafficking</b>	No procuring, buying, selling, vending, detaining, confining, abducting, through abuse of power, or procuring, buying, selling, vending, bringing from, for the purpose of exploitation.