

## PRESS RELEASE



### **"Thai Tuna Reveals Sustainable Vision at THAIFEX 2024, Aiming to Develop the Seafood Industry to International Standards, While Supporting Thailand-EU FTA Negotiations and IPEF Cooperation."**

**Bangkok: 11:30 AM,** May 28, 2024 - The Thai Tuna Industry Association participated in the THAIFEX - Anuga Asia 2024 exhibition at IMPACT Muang Thong Thani from May 28 to June 1, 2024, showcasing its vision for sustainable development of Thailand's seafood processing industry.

**Dr. Chanintr Chalisarapong**, President of the Thai Tuna Industry Association, stated, "Thailand's seafood processing industry is significant, producing quality products for global exports. It is now necessary to adapt to social trends, environmental concerns, and labor issues for sustainability and international acceptance." **The association has outlined sustainable development strategies for the entire supply chain.**

➤ **The association supports the country's aquatic products** in line with the policy of Capt. Thamanat Prompow, the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, to raise the prices of aquatic products, increase farmers' income, and control illegal imports. The association agrees on **creating price balance and fairness in the supply chain**, from fishermen, industries, wholesalers, retailers, to consumers, by **collaborating with member factories in the southern and Samut Sakhon regions to purchase tuna, sardines, mackerel, from Thai vessels in compliance with the law**, and *set TTIA's guidelines for purchasing raw materials from commercial fishing vessels in Thai waters for the canned fish industry*. This includes three principles: (1) Fishing and transporting aquatic animals in compliance with the law, traceable (2) Marine resource conservation, and (3) Ethical labor practices (crews). Furthermore, the association **promotes raising the prices of local fishing products and encourages them to enter retail and wholesale stores**, restaurant chains in hotels, such as sea bass or products with a geographical indication (GI) and collaborates with the Thai Chamber of Commerce to **establish a central coordination and promotion center for aquatic products**, to promote legally and qualitatively sourced aquatic products from Thailand's fisheries.

➤ **The seafood processing industry must consider the environment and human rights: *Environmental perspective*** the oceans cover about 70% of the Earth's surface, helping to absorb up to 90% of carbon dioxide. The association promotes ocean waste management and proposes the Thai government support for technology and knowledge in waste management and recycling, as well as creating tax incentives for products that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the tuna industry benefits from 100% of fish by-products to create value-added products such as pet food, animal feed and fish

oil. **Labor perspective** the association collaborates with the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Labor to continuously promote labor ethics, a globally recognized effort. Furthermore, the association supports the use of the mechanism of the welfare committee arising from elections as a channel for receiving grievances and resolving issues for workers. It also promotes the implementation of Good Labor Practices (GLP) in industry and throughout the tuna supply chain.

➤ **The association supports Thai-EU FTA Negotiations and cooperation within the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)** for the benefit of Thailand's agriculture and food, which is Thailand's main business. The goal is to strengthen the country's competitiveness, exchange technology innovations, research, and development, which benefits Thailand. *In these two frameworks, there is an opportunity to negotiate a reduction in tariffs for processed seafood products from Thailand, such as canned tuna, with the European Union and the United States, which are important markets. Import tariffs are currently as high as 24% and 35% respectively.* If the tariffs can be negotiated lower, it will benefit the entire tuna supply chain. The difference in reduced tariff revenue can be used to help the Pacific Island countries stabilize their income and increase their natural resource richness. Thailand imports more than 60% of its total imports from these sources. Furthermore, in these negotiations, both parties must respect international principles on environmental standards, sustainability of natural resources and marine resources, as well as protect labor rights, which require joint discussions from all relevant sectors.

**In conclusion, Dr. Chanintr said, "the various challenges related to enforcing regulations, promoting sustainable fisheries, and protecting marine resources, as well as improving labor standards, require strong cooperation from all sectors, including the government, industry, and civil society, and must be carried out efficiently and continuously."**

**Table: Thai Exports of Canned Fish and Pet food to the World in 2021-2023**

No	Product / H.S. Code	Quantity (Ton)			%Growth		%Share 2023	Value (Million Baht)			%Growth		%Share 2023	Value (Million USD)			%Growth		%Share 2023
		2021	2022	2023	22/21	23/22		2021	2022	2023	22/21	23/22		2021	2022	2023	22/21	23/22	
1	Canned / Pouch Tuna + Tuna Loin 1604.14	471,026	514,082	444,589	9	-14	37	60,328	79,409	71,990	32	-9	47	1,918	2,284	2,087	19	-9	47
2	Sardine 1604.13.11	45,046	44,625	40,689	-1	-9	3	3,388	4,095	3,934	21	-4	3	108	118	114	9	-3	3
3	Salmon 1604.11.10	15,203	14,976	9,649	-1	-36	1	3,465	3,764	2,754	9	-27	2	110	109	80	-1	-27	2
4	Mackerel 1604.15.10	17,467	18,407	16,078	5	-13	1	1,773	2,111	1,804	19	-15	1	56	61	52	9	-14	1
	Total canned fish no 1-4	548,742	592,088	511,006	8	-14	42	68,954	89,378	80,481	30	-10	53	2,192	2,572	2,334	17	-9	53
5	Dog/cat food for retail sale 2309.10	720,795	818,279	698,413	14	-15	58	65,391	85,211	72,250	30	-15	47	2,074	2,461	2,092	19	-15	47
	Grand total no 1-5	1,269,537	1,410,367	1,209,419	11	-14	100	134,345	174,589	152,731	30	-13	100	4,266	5,033	4,426	18	-12	100

Source : www.moc.go.th Prepared by Thai Tuna Industry Association