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Image: SFP / FIS

World's Largest Tuna Company Leads Call for Restoration of Endangered Species



WORLDWIDE

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Thai Union Group PLC, one of the world's leading seafood producers and one of the largest producers of shelf-stable tuna products, announced today its commitment to only source from vessels that are implementing best practices to protect ocean wildlife from bycatch. Thai Union's action is based on research by **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP)** on the risks to sharks, seabirds, turtles and other marine wildlife in the fisheries that supply the company and an analysis by **Key Traceability** of Thai Union's tuna fishery improvement projects and in the highest risk fisheries that were identified in the audit.

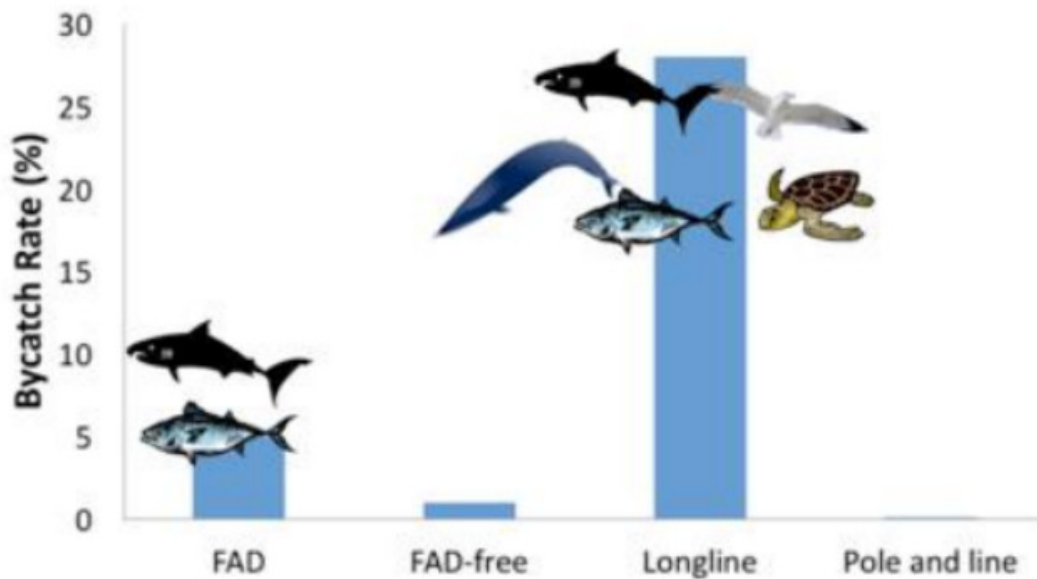


Figure 1 – Bycatch rates (percent of total catch) by fishery (global estimates)(credit Tom Pickerell)

Fuente: SFP

"Environmental organizations are pointing to the biodiversity and species loss crisis that the planet is facing. The report by SFP notes the significant loss of ETP species in the Western Central Pacific Ocean region," **noted Adam Brennan, group director, sustainability at Thai Union.** "We want to do more to ensure that we are sourcing from vessels that are doing everything they can to avoid and reduce bycatch."

Thai Union is known for top-selling, household-name tuna brands, including Chicken of the Sea and John West. As part of a panel at Seafood Expo North America, the largest seafood trade show in North America and second in the world, **Thai Union highlighted a new 2030 commitment for its fisheries, building on its larger seafood sustainability efforts over the past seven years. Specifically, Thai Union will:**

- By 2030, all vessels to implement best practices to protect endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species; and
- Fulfill its existing commitment (by 2025) of 100 percent observer coverage (human or electronic) on tuna vessels through direct work with its suppliers and service providers.



Adam Brennan

Director of Sustainability
Thai Union



Kathryn Novak

Biodiversity & Nature Director
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

"Biodiversity loss is the greatest threat to fisheries sustainability," **said Kathryn Novak, biodiversity and nature director at SFP.** "Thai Union is setting new expectations for the seafood industry to protect endangered, protected and threatened species by looking at their supply chains and only sourcing from vessels actively working to address bycatch."

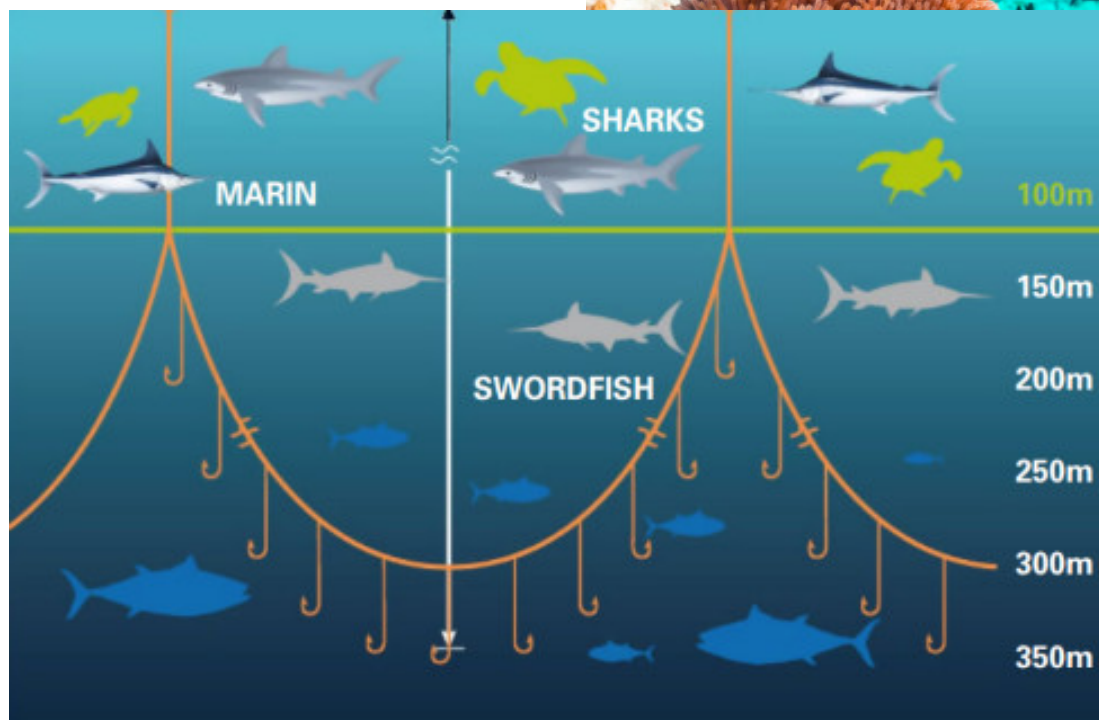
A recent report by SFP on the impacts of commercial tuna longline fishing in the Western Central Pacific Ocean on ETP species found a profound loss of nature and the decline of an estimated 70 percent of several species of shark, seabird, and sea turtle populations. This region provides more than 50 percent of the world's tuna

production, most going to North America and Japan. As a result, tuna buyers are well-positioned to drive improvements to restore nature loss and rebuild populations of vulnerable marine wildlife, particularly sharks and seabirds.

Photo: SFP -->

Thai Union's "bycatch audit" was undertaken as part of SFP's Protecting Ocean Wildlife initiative, an international, industry-led effort to address marine wildlife bycatch. SFP conducted a review and assessment of Thai Union's source fisheries using existing sustainability data to determine risks, overlaps with the company's key products, and where the most impacts can be made to reduce ocean wildlife bycatch.

The research identified tuna longline fisheries as high risk for sharks, sea birds, and sea turtles, and recommends implementing more gear modifications to reduce the interaction rate and mortality risks associated with these fisheries. The research also found insufficient observer coverage in Pacific Ocean fisheries, consistent with Thai Union's commitment for 100 percent observer coverage in its tuna fisheries.



Depth distribution of target and bycatch species in pelagic longline fisheries. Source SFP

Key Traceability examined if best practices to reduce bycatch are being taken by vessels in Thai Union's fishery improvement projects (FIPs). The analysis found that many of these fisheries have documented actions around ETP management and meet or exceed the audit report recommendations.

Source: PR News



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