

## Marks & Spencer Position on Indian Ocean Tuna

At Marks & Spencer, we have a longstanding public commitment to source seafood responsibly. Not only is it the right thing to do, but our customers expect it of us. We've had a Sustainable Seafood Policy in place for over 20 years, and we are one of the only retailers who's policy covers every single piece of fresh and frozen fish and seafood on our shelves—whether in a sandwich, a ready meal or a can.

Marks & Spencer sells two species of tuna from the Indian Ocean; skipjack and yellowfin tuna sourced from small scale fishing communities in the Maldives and Sri Lanka, with whom we have worked for over two decades. Our approved suppliers only use line caught tuna and are committed to improving the sustainability of the fisheries. Marks & Spencer has supported a collaborative Fishery Improvement Project in Sri Lanka since its inception. We have also co-funded other social projects to continually support the livelihoods of fishing communities in the Maldives.

Like many migratory species, tuna presents one of our biggest challenges in terms of meeting this commitment. Effective management of tuna fisheries has proven very difficult for it requires international cooperation and agreement. In the Indian Ocean, management of tuna fisheries falls under the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). With the next IOTC meeting scheduled for 2 November 2020, we urgently advocate IOTC party states to agree on more robust fisheries management to support sustainable development for Small Island Developing countries in the region.

To support the small-scale coastal fishing communities in our supply chain, we hold a strong belief that our continuous commercial leverage and brand power are essential to advocate, engage and support necessary improvements on sustainability and human rights for these tuna fisheries. We have directly appealed to the United Kingdom, Maldivian and Sri Lankan IOTC delegations, outlining our position and asks in the table below.

Working with WWF and our suppliers, we will continue to undertake risk assessments for the sourcing of Indian Ocean tuna fisheries, review our sourcing decisions and further support to small coastal fisheries communities by incorporating the outcomes of the IOTC meeting in November.

M&S's specific asks of the IOTC are aligned with those of the GTA, and set out below:

High-level ask	Detailed ask
Yellowfin rebuilding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We call on the IOTC to agree on the <b>adoption of an effective recovery plan</b> for yellowfin tuna and implement <b>a catch reduction of 25%</b> relative to the catch in the year 2017. This reduction should have no exemptions (other than for subsistence fisheries).</li><li>• We call on the IOTC to implement <b>FAD management measures to reduce significant juvenile yellowfin</b></li></ul>

	<b>mortality</b> that impairs recruitment and poses a serious threat to stock.
Skipjack Harvest Control Rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We call on the IOTC to <b>monitor and control</b> catches of skipjack to <b>ensure catches do not exceed the limit set by Resolution 16/02</b>.</li> <li>• We call on the IOTC to <b>implement mandatory precautionary measures to reduce on-going population decline</b> of skipjack tuna.</li> </ul>
Fishery Observer Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We call on the IOTC to <b>reinstate observers following the concerning relaxation of observer coverage requirements</b> due to COVID-19.</li> <li>• We call on the IOTC to <b>ensure that the Scientific Committee develops electronic monitoring standards</b> to strengthen critical oversight of tuna fisheries.</li> </ul>
Fishery Observer Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We call on the IOTC to <b>implement the International Observer Bill of Rights (IOBR)</b> and alongside the IOBR, to support the <b>adoption of the WCPFC mandatory observer safety reforms</b>.</li> </ul>
Reforming the Regulations of at-sea Transshipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We call on the IOTC to <b>require 100% scientific observer coverage (human and/or electronic) on all industrial tuna vessels by 2024</b> and adopt amendments to existing transshipment regulations (to bring in line with <u>GTA's best practices</u>).</li> </ul>

Please see the following links for further information:

1. [GTA's overarching and RFMO asks](#)
2. [GTA's management advice on Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna](#)
3. [WWF's position for the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the IOTC](#)