

BOLTON FOOD SHARK FINNING POLICY

BOLTON FOOD condemns shark mutilation:

BOLTON publicly assumes as its own the commitment contained in the Conservation Measure 3.1(a) (CM 3.1(a)) of ISSF and adheres unreservedly to the policy of "express prohibition of any type of commercial activity and / or relationship with other companies that carry out, promote or defend the mutilation of sharks for commercial use exclusively of its fins ("shark finning").

The ISSF board of directors, in a meeting held in Miami, FL, USA., during the month of January 2012, has adopted Resolution 12-01 (now CM 3.1(a)) by which it urges the member companies of the Foundation to prohibit the so-called "shark finning", that is, the mutilation of live sharks for commercial use of fins (returning the rest of the specimen to the sea). The reasons that have led to the adoption of CM 3.1(a) are the following:

- It should be remembered that the objective of the ISSF is to facilitate, in support of the RFMO mandates, the effective conservation and management of both tuna resources and the ecosystem of which they are part.
- The practice of "shark finning" contravenes the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, as well as the resolutions of other international marine organisms, all of which require waste reduction and discards.
- Shark finning has contributed significantly to increasing uncertainty about the value of total biomass and the composition of shark species caught.
- Several countries have already enacted national laws that suppress finning.
- ISSF Resolution 11-03 on the establishment of multi-year commitments for the Strengthening of conservation measures and management of tuna resources for the purse seine fleet (ISSF Res. 11-03 to Establish Multi-Annual Commitments to Strengthen Purse Seine Vessel Conservation and Management Measures for Tuna Resources) adopted in 2011, promoted the conservation on board of the whole body of sharks caught by purse seiners (except individuals of prohibited species or those released alive and without mutilating) from January 1st, 2014.

BOLTON FOOD requires all its tuna suppliers to ban shark finning, to require tuna vessels to keep the entire bodies of the captured sharks disembarked and to report their capture, except for the species that are prohibited by laws or regulations of the RFMOs, or those individuals which are released alive.

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BOLTON FOOD, in accordance with the ISSF requirement, does not carry out commercial transactions with companies that own vessels that practice shark finning, or with companies that have not made public a policy that prohibits this activity.

In order to determine if a tuna vessel is carrying out finning activities, BOLTON FOOD will be based on the conclusions of the investigations carried out by the RFMOs and by the national governments. After a period of 2 years from the date of the conclusion of the investigation, BOLTON FOOD may resume operations with vessels involved in shark finning activities, provided there are no new incidents.