

Earth Island Institute

<http://www.earthisland.org/dolphinSafeTuna/consumer/>

Dolphin Safe Tuna

Consumers



Earthviews

Find out about tuna on your own store's shelves and what you can do to help dolphins!

Earth Island Institute monitors tuna companies around the world to ensure the tuna is caught by methods that do not harm dolphins and protect the marine ecosystem. Our standards prevent harm to dolphins and are adhered to by more than 90% of the world's tuna companies.

In order for tuna to be considered “Dolphin Safe”, it must meet the following standards:

1. No intentional chasing, netting or encirclement of dolphins during an entire tuna fishing trip;
2. No use of drift gill nets to catch tuna;
- 3. No accidental killing or serious injury to any dolphins during net sets¹;**
- 4. No mixing of dolphin-safe and dolphin-deadly tuna in individual boat wells (for accidental kill of dolphins), or in processing or storage facilities;² and**
5. Each trip in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) by vessels 400 gross tons and above must have an independent observer on board attesting to the compliance with points (1) through (4) above.

¹ According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, thousands of dolphins may be dying in the eastern Atlantic tuna fisheries. Also, a recent scientific study of the central and western Pacific tuna fishery, where most tuna in the U.S. market is sourced, more than a thousand dolphins are killed or injured in the course of fishing. Yet ALL of this tuna is considered “dolphin safe” by the United States AND is so certified by Earth Island Institute.

² When dolphins die in the capture of tuna outside of the ETP (virtually all tuna in the U.S. market today), there is no requirement for the segregation of catch and there is no system for tracking that dolphin deadly tuna anywhere along the production stream.

Chicken of the Sea

The Mermaid Cares - Dolphin-Safe Policy

Chicken of the Sea® implemented “The Mermaid Cares” dolphin-safe policy in April 1990 and is among the industry’s leaders in implementing programs to prevent accidental dolphin mortality. **All tuna purchased, processed and sold by Chicken of the Sea is dolphin-safe... period³!** There is no flexibility in our policy. All the suppliers of our raw tuna and all suppliers of finished goods must be 100% dolphin-safe. None of the tuna we purchase is caught in association with dolphin.



Our commitment to help solve the dolphin mortality problem has been long-standing, and we at Chicken of the Sea can truly say, “The Mermaid Cares.”

http://chickenofthesea.com/dolphin_safe.aspx

Starkist

What is StarKist's Dolphin-Safe Policy?

Submitted by StarKist on 05-07-2010

StarKist Co. is committed to protecting the dolphins and was the first company to adopt a dolphin-safe policy in April 1990. We are proud to share with you our worldwide policy to save dolphin lives. This policy states that:

StarKist will not purchase any tuna caught in association with dolphins.

StarKist continues its practice of refusing to purchase tuna caught with gill or drift nets, which are known to be dangerous to many forms of marine life. StarKist condemns the use of these indiscriminate fishing methods that trap dolphins, whales, and other marine life along with the intended catch of fish.

*StarKist was the first major American tuna canning company to make this commitment to the public. **We remain committed to this policy and require certification that all tuna we purchase is dolphin-safe⁴.** Our dolphin-safe policy includes StarKist tuna, as well as all of our branded and private label products. StarKist tuna is labeled with a special "Dolphin-Safe" logo.*

<http://www.starkist.com/faq/what-starkists-dolphin-safe-policy>

³ This is an inaccurate claim that Chicken of the Sea cannot possibly back up. In the ETP the multilateral AIDCP program provides for the absolute tracking and verification of the dolphin safe status of tuna. But the tuna processed and canned by the company comes from fisheries outside of the ETP where scientific studies and the U.S. government acknowledge thousands of dolphins are being killed and injured. Yet Chicken of the Sea calls that “dolphin safe.”

⁴ This is an inaccurate claim that Starkist cannot possibly back up. Except for the tuna Starkist may source from the ETP, where the multilateral AIDCP program provides for the absolute tracking and verification of the dolphin safe status of tuna, the company cannot make this claim. A majority of the tuna processed and canned by the company comes from fisheries outside of the ETP where scientific studies and the U.S. government acknowledge thousands of dolphins are being killed and injured. Yet Starkist calls that “dolphin safe.”

Bumble Bee

Dolphin-safe

- What does the Dolphin Safe logo on your label mean?
 - Bumble Bee Foods remains **fully committed to the 100% dolphin-safe policy**⁵ we implemented in April 1990. This policy guarantees the following: Bumble Bee will not purchase tuna from vessels that net fish associated with dolphins. Our purchasing agreements require certification of dolphin-safe fishing practices from all tuna suppliers.
 - Bumble Bee **will not purchase tuna caught with gill or drift nets as use of these nets can sometimes entrap dolphins, other marine mammals, or birds**⁶.
 - We continue to strictly adhere to our 100% dolphin-safe policy.
- What is Bumble Bee's dolphin-safe policy?
 - We are pleased to inform you that **Earth Island Institute has confirmed our dolphin-safe policy, and it is approved by several conservation organizations**⁷. We have developed open lines of communication with the environmental community on this issue. Dolphin-safe is defined by the following factors:
 - - Drift nets are not used.
 - There are no purse seine sets made on dolphin through an entire fishing trip.
 - An observer from the National Marine Fishery Service and/or the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission flies fishing vessels and trips in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

Fishing methods considered dolphin-safe are long line, pole and line, and the purse seine method in the Eastern Tropical Pacific with certification only.

All of our tuna products on the shelf today are **certified**⁸ **dolphin-safe** and the labeling on our products proudly don the dolphin-safe indication symbol.

<http://www.bumblebee.com/fags>

⁵ **This is an inaccurate claim that Bumble Bee cannot possibly back up. In the ETP the multilateral AIDCP program provides for the absolute tracking and verification of the dolphin safe status of tuna. But the tuna processed and canned by the company comes from fisheries outside of the ETP where scientific studies and the U.S. government acknowledge thousands of dolphins are being killed and injured. Yet Chicken of the Sea calls that "dolphin safe."**

⁶ **The methods of capture used to capture Bumble Bee tuna, including FADs, are scientifically proven to result in the death and serious injury to thousands of dolphins in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna fishery, all of which Bumble Bee labels dolphin safe. There is no system for segregating tuna caught with mortalities to dolphins, and there is no requirement for the fishermen to even report those mortalities under the current U.S. law.**

⁷ **This confirms the deception of both Bumble Bee and Earth Island. If dolphins are proven to be dying in the capture of the tuna, how can they call it dolphin safe?**

⁸ **The certification has not been done by the U.S. government, a state government, or any accredited international authority. It is the unsupported and unsupportable claim by the Earth Island Institute.**