

TTIA’s Position on Sustainability, Labor Protection, and the Enforcement of the Fisheries Act Amendment Act B.E. 2558 (2015) B.E. 2568 (2025)

1. Sustainable Fisheries and Traceability

The Association is firmly committed to the principles of sustainability, legality, and full traceability. We work closely with the government and civil society to remove obstacles within the industry *without compromising transparency standards*. We also promote supply-chain collaboration mechanisms to ensure market stability and the sustainable management of marine resources.

2. Labor Protection in Accordance with Human Rights Principles

The Association has zero tolerance for forced labor and any form of human rights violations within the supply chain. We support ILO principles and actively promote the application of Good Labor Practices (GLP). We work proactively with the government, international organizations, and civil society, while encouraging our members to adopt a *fair recruitment cost responsibility policy* to eliminate risks of forced labor—an approach that exceeds the requirements of Thai law.

3. Food Safety and Fish Quality

The Association places the highest priority on hygiene and safety throughout the supply chain. We ensure alignment with international standards and the requirements of importing countries. In cooperation with government agencies, we monitor quality control measures, strengthen traceability systems, support research, and enhance the registration of export facilities to comply with destination-country regulations. Furthermore, the Association has developed quality guidelines for members, such as the *TTIA’s Guideline Quality Standard for Frozen Raw Tuna 2016* and procurement guidelines for purchasing fish from commercial fishing vessels operating in Thai waters. These guidelines aim to elevate Thailand’s tuna industry and reinforce confidence among trade partners and consumers. At the same time, we strictly observe internationally recognized standards and regulations—including the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system, Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), and management system standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

4. Environmental Stewardship

The Association is committed to environmentally responsible business practices by managing resources efficiently and maximizing the value of all raw materials and by-products. Through innovation and processing, these materials are converted into high-quality ingredients for the pet food and animal feed industries, contributing to a zero-waste production approach. In addition, the Association is advancing the industry toward a low-carbon economy through the Carbon Footprint Organization (CFO) initiative conducted in collaboration with Chulalongkorn University, aimed at establishing a reliable data foundation. We are implementing plans to reduce carbon emissions by 20–30% by 2030, with the long-term target of achieving Net Zero by 2050.

5. Promotion of Trade Negotiations and International Cooperation

The Association supports trade negotiations that expand export opportunities *without compromising standards* in fisheries, labor, or environmental governance. We work closely with government agencies, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, and the Board of Trade of Thailand to provide policy insights to negotiating partners and to promote key Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that enhance Thailand’s competitiveness. We also maintain active communication with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, foreign embassies, and international media to reduce misunderstandings and to foster mutual benefits for all trading partners.

Concerns of the European Union and Trade Partners Regarding the Fisheries Act Amendment Act B.E. 2558 (2015) B.E. 2568 (2025)

The Association recognizes that the European Union and international trading partners are closely monitoring Thailand’s amendment of its fisheries legislation, given the experience in which Thailand received a “yellow card” related to IUU fishing. Regarding the Fisheries Act Amendment Act B.E. 2558 (2015) B.E. 2568 (2025), which will enter into force on 8 November 2025, the Government’s intent is to revise the law to ensure greater fairness for small-scale and commercial fishers. The amendment introduces structural changes across several dimensions. Once the amended law has been implemented for a period, the Government plans to conduct a public consultation process to evaluate its effectiveness and pursue further improvements as needed. The Association will actively contribute technical information and recommendations to help prevent legal loopholes that could negatively affect marine resources or allow risks of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Moreover, all Association members continue to comply with the stringent requirements of foreign trading partners—many of which exceed domestic legal standards. These include full supply-chain traceability, robust labor and human rights protections, and environmental standards. Such commitments ensure that Thai tuna products remain trusted and widely accepted in global markets.

Evidence-Based Progress: Advancements in Thailand and the Tuna Industry

Over the past decade, Thailand has undertaken substantial reforms in fisheries management, including:

- Becoming a Party to the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Ratifying the Work in Fishing Convention, C188 of the International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Enforcing comprehensive labor and anti-human trafficking legislation
- Implementing the PIPO system, VMS, Thai Flagged Catch Certification, and the PPS system for foreign vessels
- Establishing full traceability systems for aquatic animals and fishery products throughout the supply chain
- Cooperating with the International Labour Organization (ILO), with support from the European Union, under the Ship to Shore Rights South East Asia Program to strengthen labor protection in the fishing and seafood processing sectors, including promotion of Good Labour Practices (GLP)

Role and Responsibilities of the Thai Tuna Industry

The Thai tuna industry imports approximately 750,000–800,000 metric tons of tuna raw material annually and utilizes around 60,000 metric tons of domestically sourced other small tuna species (including kawakawa, frigate tuna, and bullet tuna). This supports the production of more than 600,000 metric tons of processed tuna products for export to global markets each year.

The Association therefore reaffirms that:

- All raw materials used in production are covered by traceability systems capable of verifying their origins.
- Manufacturers comply with Thai laws as well as international labor and human rights standards.
- The Thai tuna industry adheres to the requirements of major customers, key markets, and applicable national regulations.