

## Tuna processing and distribution chain starts certification process

The Spanish tuna fleet, grouped in OPAGAC, has begun the certification process of the chain of custody of processing and distribution companies of canned tuna by AENOR. In this way, the Spanish tuna fleet develops its commitment announced last October to market the first cans with AENOR certification of Responsibly-Caught Tuna, which will reach Spanish supermarkets before next summer.

The fleet thus closes the circle of this project, adding to the certification of its activity at sea (according to UNE Standard 195006), that of the activity on land and covering the whole process of a tuna can, from the sea to the consumer. The new cans will incorporate APR AENOR Conform certificate.

Thus, the first tuna canning companies will undergo the first audits in the coming weeks to obtain AENOR certificates. It is worth remembering the totally voluntary nature of this certificate that can be requested by any tuna boat and canning company in the world.

The new cans, which will convert Spanish consumers into the first ones in the world who can acquire this product with a certificate of social and environmental sustainability, will be distinguished with the AENOR Conform label, and will also incorporate a QR code through which the consumer can access to diverse information about the product, its origin and responsible processing activity.

The fleet obtained AENOR certificate for its activity at sea in July 2017. The Organization of Associated Producers of Large Freezer Tuna (OPAGAC) groups the 47 vessels of eight companies (Tuna Dune, Calvo Pesca, Ugavi de Túnidos, Albacore, European Tuna Company, Nicra 7, Sant Yago and INPESCA), which fish for tropical tuna in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans.



## What does AENOR Conform guarantee to the consumer?

AENOR Conform logo will distinguish those cans that contain tuna from ships certified under UNE 195006 Standard of APR (Responsibly-Caught Tuna) and that are included in a Comprehensive FIP Program for Improvement of Fisheries. This AENOR Conform APR label is the result of the merger of these two voluntary fleet initiatives developed since 2016.

The first of them (FIP), launched in collaboration with the WWF organization, ensures that the different activities of the ships and their crews are subject to the best practices in terms of environmental conservation, both of species and of the environment in the fishing areas in which the Spanish fleet operates. This initiative implies a close collaboration with the governments and the fishing organisms in charge of managing the different geographical areas of fishing activity in each ocean, known as Regional Fisheries Organizations (RFOs).

For its part, UNE APR norm of Responsibly-Caught Tuna, certified with AENOR, is a unique fact, since it is a pioneer in the world fishing sector that, among other things, guarantees compliance with the working conditions required by the International Organization of Labour in its Convention 188, on board ships. This certificate guarantees distributors and consumers that the tuna that they commercialize and consume from the companies and ships grouped in OPAGAC, is backed by demanding social and labour standards at sea, above the current legal requirements.

According to Julio Morón, OPAGAC managing director, "no fishery has a future if it does not develop its activity sustainably with the sea, responsible with its workers and with the economic and social development of its fishing areas. "With this norm" - Morón adds -"We become the first fleet to certify this way of understanding responsible fishing activity and we put the decision to bet on it in the consumer's hand".

For David Verano, director of the Agrifood and Distribution Industry of AENOR, "AENOR certification of Responsibly-Caught Tuna once again guarantees characteristics of interest to the consumer. The tuna fleet and OPAGAC canning companies have voluntarily submitted to the examination of an independent third party, recognized by





consumers. In this way, they publicly express a firm long-term commitment to sustainability and social responsibility in the fishing activity, in tune with the current values of society."

Finally, it should be noted that, with this initiative, OPAGAC, which is the first fleet in the country to join the United Nations Global Compact, wants to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 International Agenda, with a direct impact on its goals of decent employment, responsive consumption.

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