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## Mitsubishi Corporation's Position on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

Mitsubishi Corporation (MC) strives to preserve the global environment and pursue sustainable development through all aspects of our business activities. Through our Living Essentials Group we trade in products and develop businesses that support the daily lives of consumers in fields relating to food, clothing and housing, and we are a major supplier of seafood to the Japanese market. Conserving fish species, therefore, is essential both to the long-term success of our business and to ensuring the availability of seafood for future generations.

Our activities include the purchase, processing and wholesale of Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) and as a key link in the supply chain between those who catch tuna and the retailers that make BFT products available to consumers, we take our responsibilities for sustainable sourcing seriously.

### *Our Principles*

MC acknowledges that the BFT stocks in the Mediterranean are over-fished, and in all of our BFT businesses, we are committed to proactively working with all concerned parties to improve the conservation of BFT stocks. Our goal is to source all of our BFT in an environmentally sustainable manner and from sustainably managed fisheries. More concretely, sourcing BFT sustainably requires that we adhere to the following commitments:

- ***Maintaining healthy bluefin tuna populations*** : We do not give precedence to short-term gains over the long-term sustainability of BFT populations and through our supply chain management we will support practices and policies that protect healthy stocks and enable the recovery of threatened populations. We therefore support and urge that, as a minimum, scientific recommendations are strictly followed in the management of tuna populations. To the extent we believe measures need to be taken above and beyond International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) agreed upon actions to protect the long-term sustainability of the BFT population, we will take those measures voluntarily and unilaterally.
- ***Minimizing By-catch*** : We seek to purchase BFT only from suppliers who pay particular attention to minimizing by-catch of non-target species, marine mammals and sea birds.
- ***Monitoring systems*** : We regularly review and evaluate our suppliers' practices to ensure that their operations comply with applicable laws and regulations.
- ***Stakeholder engagement*** : We carry out our activities transparently and responsibly, while proactively engaging with interested parties to ensure the future viability of BFT populations.
- ***Supporting scientific research***: In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the BFT and the fishery that depends on it, sound scientifically-based management is of the highest priority. We will continue our support of scientific research wherever possible.

- ***Endorsing Bluefin Tuna Spawning Sanctuaries:*** We endorse calls for the establishment of a BFT spawning sanctuary around the Balearic Islands and an immediate ban on BFT fishing around the Islands as another control measure to reduce the catch quantity of BFT and protect important spawning ground ecosystems. In support of this commitment, MC has ceased purchasing BFT caught in this region since the 2009 fishing season and is committed to taking similar steps as scientific evidence validates the creation of other sanctuaries in the Mediterranean.
- ***Reducing Purchases:*** We pledge to reduce our overall purchase of BFT in order to help realize a sustainable fishery that is managed according to scientific advice. As part of this effort MC has taken steps to reduce its purchase of BFT caught in 2010 to a level that is more than proportional to the reduction in TAC (Total Allowable Catch) from 2009 to 2010.

#### ***Our Call on all Related Parties***

While MC will continue to work within its own capacity to help improve the state of the BFT and the fishery that depends on it, one company alone can not solve all the problems that have plagued the industry over the years. It is for this reason that we call on all related parties to do their part to ensure the long-term sustainability of the BFT. Specifically:

- **ICCAT**

It is imperative, now more than ever, that a new and more responsible ICCAT, one that is capable of taking hard-line stances and making dynamic decisions aimed at realizing the sustainability of the BFT species, emerges at this crucial juncture. Furthermore, in order for ICCAT to function effectively it is also essential that all member states endorse and strictly enforce the management measures decided on by ICCAT.

- **JFA**

MC also calls on the Japan Fisheries Agency (JFA) to not back down from the leadership role that the global community now expects it to fulfill in order to ensure that a new and more responsible ICCAT emerges, and that it implements scientifically validated measures necessary to ensure the sustainability of the BFT fishery in the long term.

#### ***Continuous Engagement***

We recognize that the issues associated with the sourcing of BFT are complex. We welcome dialogue on the issues and will work with all interested parties to achieve our goal of sustainable BFT sourcing.