

Facts about five major tuna suppliers

Mitsubishi Corporation (UK/Japan)

Ricardo Fuentes e Hijos (Spain)

Dongwon Industries and Dongwon F&B (Korea)

Moon Marine (Taiwan/Singapore)

Azzopardi Fisheries (Malta)

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The facts

1) Mitsubishi Corporation (UK/Japan)

The world's largest tuna trader! In 2006, it was responsible for 35% of the world trade in sashimi-grade tuna. Its tuna trading subsidiaries include Tōyo Reizo and Sanyo Foods Co. Ltd. Mitsubishi is involved in overfishing of tuna in the Mediterranean Sea and in Indonesia, with roughly 20 to 30 percent of fresh tuna from Indonesia sold at Japanese auction markets through Toyo Reizo. Mitsubishi subsidiaries are also widely involved in tuna ranching of blue fin tuna in the Mediterranean. Tuna Queen, a Toyo Reizo Co Ltd. subsidiary, is by far the largest operator of specialised tuna reefers (refrigerated cargo vessels that collect tuna from vessels at sea). Such transfers at sea are the major way that tuna can be "stolen" as tuna is transferred without any monitoring or control.

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2) Ricardo Fuentes e Hijos (Spain)

Through a number of joint ventures this group controls 60% of the Mediterranean bluefin tuna production both at fishing and farming levels. Fuentes is the biggest company involved in bluefin tuna ranching worldwide and dominates the bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean Sea. The company runs four tuna ranching plants in the Mediterranean, with a total capacity of 1950 tons, in Murcia, Cadiz and Azohia (Spain). Additionally, the Fuentes co-owns are involved in the business of eleven further tuna ranches in Turkey, Croatia, Cyprus, Italy, Tunisia, Malta, Spain and even in Panama. The Fuentes group has its own fishing fleet for bluefin tuna, which is owned through subsidiary companies and partnerships with other tuna-fishing fleets, buying their Mediterranean bluefin tuna catches.

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3) Dongwon Industries and Dongwon F&B (Korea)

The Dongwon family of companies include large fishing interests, mainly involved with tuna fisheries. These companies own more than 50 fishing vessels including purse seine and longliners. The Korean food giant Dongwon F&B is also heavily involved in the tuna trade and tuna processing. In 2007, Dongwon canned tuna had more than 75% of the market share in the local Korean market.

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4) Moon Marine (Taiwan/Singapore)

Moon Marine is an international seafood company with offices in many Asian countries and in the US. Moon Marine specialises in tuna and other tropical fish species. It operates its own large fleet of fishing trawlers and long-liners and has tuna and other seafood processing factories in Taiwan, India and Indonesia.

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5) Azzopardi Fisheries (Malta)

Azzopardi Fisheries is the main Maltese fish merchant, and handles 45% of all fish caught by the Maltese fishermen. Azzopardi Fisheries was the pioneer of the tuna farming industry in Malta. The partnership runs its bluefin tuna farm located at two sites in Malta with a combined annual capacity of 3000 metric tonnes making it the largest tuna farming operation in the Mediterranean.

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