



## Discards

Discarding (ie. the disposal of fish at sea) is an area of acute concern to our business. We believe that effective measures to control discarding are necessary achieving sustainable management for wild caught fisheries. This position is entirely in accordance with our Fish for Life approach and Ten Principles for Responsible Fish Procurement, both of which are freely available on our website.

We support the initiative of the EU to introduce a policy to reduce unwanted by-catches and eliminate discards in European fisheries (March 2007) and fully support the impact assessment and consultation process designed to bring this to reality. We are also closely participating in the Seafish industry Authority working group which is working to develop practical discard reduction proposals and promote best practice within UK fisheries.

The definition and means of measuring discarding is not currently uniform and we recognise the need to work with scientists, fishery managers and fishermen in developing a greater common understanding of this subject in order to fully realise the absolute biological significance of discarding and to work for effective controls at both regulatory and market levels.

We particularly support research into enhanced technical conservation measures at sea to minimise the wider ecological impact of fishing activities. We also encourage wider use of research which can aid the reduction of discarding by providing better understanding of individual fisheries, such as the use of environmental mapping and better consideration of factors such as species migration and spawning activity.

As well as supporting wider industry initiatives, we are actively developing our own projects in some of our key supply fisheries. For instance a new research project (initiated July 2007) with Glasgow University to trial new trawl gear within the Stornoway langoustine fishery in the Hebrides and the introduction of 'turtle friendly' circle hooks to our line caught tuna supply base in the Indian and Pacific oceans.

