



Position paper
on the sustainable purchase of fish,
shellfish and their by-products



Contents

- 1. Our vision** **3**
- 2. Our objective** **3**
- 3. Our position** **4**
 - 3.1 Responsibly structured assortment 4
 - 3.2 Origin, transparency and traceability 5
 - 3.3 Farming and feeding 6
 - 3.4 Use of medication and its impact on the environment and animals 6
 - 3.5 Development of the assortment and relationships with external organisations 7



1. Our vision

“In conducting our daily business, we assume economic, social and environmental responsibility.”

With this business principle Lidl Malta expresses its responsibility towards nature and humankind. Through the position paper on the sustainable purchase of fish, shellfish and their by-products, Lidl Malta supports a responsible approach towards marine organisms and fish products and is committed to protecting and preserving marine ecosystems worldwide. “A better tomorrow” is the motto that Lidl Malta uses to support the principles of sustainable fishing, conscious of its role as a link between producers and consumers.

2. Our objective

Our commitment is to exert our influence in favour of sustainable fishing and aquaculture. Our position paper on the sustainable purchase of fish, shellfish and their by-products is transparent and available to the public, and applies to all Lidl-brand products in our assortment: gourmet fish, canned fish, frozen and fresh fish.

The Lidl Malta position paper can be viewed by the public and is regularly updated.

We also discuss the implementation of the paper with non-governmental organisations and suppliers.

For Lidl Malta, the position paper is binding both internally and for suppliers. In addition, Lidl Malta asks its suppliers to sign a commitment to implement the Code of Conduct drawn up on the basis of the ILO (International Labour Organisation) standards on working conditions. Important objectives include the prohibition of forced labour and child labour. The overall objective is the protection of people and their rights in the processing of fish, shellfish and their by-products.

Lidl Malta favours the purchase of fish products that meet the requirements of the position paper.

The objective is to continue developing the position paper and to enhance it with new goals. Together with our suppliers we will document all the progress achieved and we will develop and establish new measures to be adopted. Such measures will then be binding for the suppliers. In case of deviation from the objective, corrective measures will need to be established.

3. Our position

The areas for which we have actively developed new solutions are discussed below.

3.1 Responsibly structured assortment

Lidl Malta, as a commercial company aware of its ecological responsibilities, wants to offer its customers products that reflect these responsibilities. The company is committed to promoting MSC-certified fish products and has dedicated itself to expanding this sector in the last year. Continuing this policy of expansion, the company will progressively increase the number of products with MSC and Friend of the Sea certifications, so as to obtain a fish assortment that is in large part certified.

To reduce the impact of fishing on the ecosystem of the oceans, the assortment of wild caught fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen and canned fish) offered by Lidl Malta will in large part include MSC- and Friend of the Sea-certified products by the end of 2020.

To further protect dolphins and to decrease accidental catches during tuna fishing, a large part of tuna-based products in the Lidl Malta assortment will be certified Dolphin Safe by the end of 2020.

By the end of 2020, in all sectors of the aquaculture fish and shellfish product assortment (gourmet fish, canned fish, frozen fish, fresh fish) of Lidl Malta, a large part of the products will be ASC certified.

Our assortment will favour fish species not at risk of extinction, not over-exploited or with low recovery resilience, and those not among the protected species. For this reason Lidl Malta pledges not to sell the following species of fish if not accompanied by MSC certification: eel, lobster, spiny dogfish, orange roughy, bigeye tuna, shark, halibut, bluefin tuna, haddock, snapper, swordfish, angler, sole, loach, turbot, perch.

Lidl Malta favours fish and shellfish caught using sustainable methods that minimise the capture of juveniles and using environmentally-friendly techniques. Unsustainable fishing practices must be excluded or minimised.

By the end of 2020, the assortment of canned tuna will be enriched by tuna caught by using sustainable fishing methods without the use of FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices) or with the sustainable line or pole & line methods.

3.2 Origin, transparency and traceability

We require complete information on the origin of fish and shellfish and demand traceability throughout the entire supply chain. This allows us to provide transparent information on the fishing period, the fishing area and the boat, as well as the place of processing, to ensure that our rules are followed at all stages. We distance ourselves from any Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, as well as illegal methods of fishing. That is why we also ask our suppliers to adopt procedures that avoid these risks, which therefore eliminate the use of food products originating from IUU fishing.

Lidl Malta does not sell any type of fish from areas with no regulations governing the protection and management of fishery resources at the hands of the relevant regional organisations. Fishing should never be carried out by vessels registered under flags of convenience or in the so-called EU Blacklist. In addition, Lidl Malta does not sell any species of fish or seafood subject to transshipment and without traceability or whose transshipment in exceptional cases has not been explicitly authorised by Lidl Malta.

To ensure complete transparency of Lidl-brand fish products, the packages of wild caught fish and aquaculture fish have a yellow label in which the following information is shown:

- **Wild caught fish**

Italian name, Latin name, fishing area, sub-area of catch (if any), fishing methods

- **Aquaculture**

Italian name, Latin name, country of origin

Our commitment is to promote the consumption of sustainable fish products and to raise awareness among our customers. In addition to publicity leaflets and on the website www.lidl.com.mt, we promote products from natural fisheries or sustainable aquaculture in our stores.

3.3 Farming and feeding

Lidl Malta mainly works with suppliers that promote more sustainable fishing and production. Our wild caught fish comes in large part from suppliers who decline fishing in vulnerable deep-sea habitats such as coral reefs, seamounts, canyons and the like.

To ensure this, we oblige our suppliers to commit in writing to apply the Lidl Code of Conduct and to fulfil a series of requirements established specifically for this purpose.

For aquaculture fish, Lidl Malta is committed to ensuring adequate standards for animal welfare. The farming of genetically modified fish is not allowed.

Our suppliers are required to take certain measures against epidemics amongst livestock on fish farms and are required to prepare and implement a plan of action to reduce the outbreak of disease.

We request our suppliers to favour the use of fish product waste as feed and to minimise the amount of feed from industrial fishing. At the same time, feed for the fish must be obtained as much as possible from more sustainable fisheries. This is why we are actively working to ensure that vegetable feeds and those derived from fish processing are used more and more.

3.4 Use of medication and its impact on the environment and animals

We expect a responsible approach in the use of drugs and the procedures for application of the methods of treatment from our suppliers.

Farming must be conducted in such a way as to prevent the outbreak of diseases or pest infestations in aquaculture or in wild species nearby.

Our suppliers also must only use authorised chemicals that do not fall under the REACH regulation of the European Union. Proper handling of waste water and refuse should be guaranteed.



3.5 Development of the assortment and relationships with organisations

Lidl Malta is committed to promote sustainable fishing methods and to certify the largest part of its fish assortment by the end of 2020. This means that, in order to reduce the impact of fishing on the ecosystem of the oceans, the assortment of wild caught fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen and canned fish) offered by Lidl Malta will in large part include MSC- and Friend of the Sea-certified products. The Lidl Malta fish assortment from aquaculture (gourmet fish, canned fish, frozen fish, fresh fish) will comprise fish and shellfish from ASC-certified aquaculture. In order to promote the protection of dolphins in tuna fishing, Lidl Malta pledges to favour buying tuna products certified Dolphin Safe.

Lidl supports prestigious organisations such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), which works for the development of responsible fishing practised by appropriate methods, the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), committed to the spread of responsible farming of fish and shellfish, and Friend of the Sea, founded with the aim of preserving and protecting the marine habitat.

We continue to commit ourselves to constructive dialogue. We are in contact with various NGOs and with suppliers to develop new solutions for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and for the certification and traceability of fish products.

