

	Joseph Robertson Fish and Seafood Sourcing Policy	Issue date	Mar 24
	Authorised by :		S Robertson

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this policy is to ensure that fish and seafood is sourced through a responsible and sustainable supply chain system. We aim to source fish which is caught or farmed using methods which are the least detrimental to the marine environment, observing good welfare for farmed fish and legal, safe and equitable to the people involved in the supply chain.

SCOPE

This policy is applicable to wild caught and farmed fish and seafood, including feed used in farmed operations that supply into raw materials sold to Joseph Robertson. Products containing Isinglass, fish gelatine and fish glue as an ingredient are out of this scope.

LEGALITY

Joseph Robertson condemns the use of illegal practices and will take all reasonable precautions to ensure illegal material does not enter the supply chain. All fish and seafood purchases are fully assessed against the risk of IUU (Illegal, Unregulated and unreported) fishing and other legal requirements.

TRACEABILITY

Joseph Robertson commits to a fully traceable seafood supply chain back to the fishery (including vessel) or hatchery (including fish species and soy in feed). We commit to 3rd party certification chain of custody schemes, which are maintained and documented through to point of pack (maintaining a summary of all fish and seafood and final products that hold a Chain of Custody (CoC) certification).

Joseph Robertson is aware of the need for control throughout the supply chain to ensure food integrity. We have procedures in place to identify and rectify instances of food fraud which can take many forms including the fraudulent and intentional substitution, dilution or addition, or misrepresentation to a product or raw material, for the purpose of financial gain, by increasing the apparent value of the product or reducing the cost of its production.

SUSTAINABILITY

As members of the Sustainable Seafood Coalition (SSC) Joseph Robertson is continually working towards the vision that 'all fish and seafood sold in the UK is from sustainable sources'. All purchases made outwith the UK must also be assessed for sustainability with the aim of sourcing only MSC accredited wild fish or a GSSI (Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative) accredited scheme for farmed seafood.

Ethical and social responsibility is key to guaranteeing that all workers throughout the supply chain are treated fairly. Joseph Robertson expects and supports suppliers to put in place appropriate due diligence to monitor compliance against the Ethical Trade Initiative Base Code. As members of the Seafood Ethics Action Alliance (SEAA) we work closely with customers and competitors on this issue.

Joseph Robertson commits to providing data to the public, available on the Fish Choice website.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Purchasing Department is overall responsible that all suppliers adhere to this policy and fish and seafood are risk assessed.

The Technical Department is responsible for ensuring that all documentation from suppliers is valid and updated and that Specifications are reviewed and updated annually. The CSR Department is responsible for ensuring Fish and Seafood Risk Assessments are completed and reviewed annually. All Certification must be kept up to date, when a certificate runs out a new one must be requested.

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REQUIREMENTS

Wild Caught

- No sourcing of any species classified as being from endangered (listed on IUCN Red List, overfished stocks; or are threatened with extinction by international scientific organisations).
- No sourcing of any species from a known or suspected Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing area.
- No sourcing from vessels which are listed on Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO) or NGO IUU blacklists.
- Companies that supply to JR must not have direct involvement with the commercial whaling industry.
- We support the Responsible Fishing Vessel Scheme (RFVS) for vessels. Where other code of practice/certifications are available they will be reviewed as part of the assessment.
- Sourcing of species rated 1, 2 and 3 on the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Good Fish Guide and will only source species rated 4 and 5 where supporting evidence is provided that has been independently assessed and verified or is included within a formal credible fishery improvement project (FIP) or ITMs (In Transition to MSC) fisheries. Progress of these schemes will be followed and an assessment made of progress and continued sourcing.
- Risk assess by species, fishery and catching method to determine appropriate control measures. The risk assessment is in line with the SSC sourcing guidelines, high risk and medium risk may only be sourced with appropriate management actions agreed with JR. Low risk will be sourced and subject to annual review. Risk assessment criteria are detailed in the risk assessment form JR 422.
- Source fish and seafood certified by Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and other national or regional certification or management schemes that operate within fisheries recognised as being in compliance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries by the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative benchmarking scheme.
- The use of Fish Aggregating Devices are prohibited
- Shark finning is not permitted on any vessel within the supply chain

Farmed

- Risk assessed by species, farm, hatchery and feed, full criteria is detailed in the risk assessment form JR 424.
- Source fish and seafood certified by any GSSI accredited scheme e.g. Global Aquaculture Alliance Best Aquaculture Practice with 3 stars or above, Global G.A.P., and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) and source RSPCA Assured farmed Scottish salmon where possible.
- No sourcing from genetically modified or hormone treated animal feed.
- Fishmeal or fish oil for wild fish must not contravene the policy for wild caught fish.

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LINKS

- <http://www.sustainableseafoodcoalition.org/>
- <http://www.iucnredlist.org>
- <http://www.goodfishguide.org/fishfinder.php>
- <https://oceandisclosureproject.org/>
- <https://www.msc.org/>
- <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search>
- <https://www.ethicaltrade.org/eti-base-code>
- <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1900e/i1900e00.htm>
- <https://www.rspcaassured.org.uk/>
- <https://www.asc-aqua.org/>
- <https://www.bapcertification.org/>
- <https://www.globalgap.org/>
- <https://seaa.org/>