

TO: All holders of the Fish Products Inspection Manual

SUBJECT: USE OF THE TERM "DOLPHIN FRIENDLY" AND SIMILAR NON-MANDATORY STATEMENTS ON LABELS

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform manual holders of the guidelines to be followed when statements such as "Dolphin friendly", "Dolphin safe", etc., are placed on labels of canned tuna.

Section 27 of the Fish Inspection Regulations reads: "No person shall package any fish or mark or label any container of fish in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive."

It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that all information contained on labels of canned tuna is truthful. All importers of canned tuna who wish to place such statements on the labels must develop their own procedure to ensure that the tuna they distribute was harvested using methods not injurious to dolphins. Upon request, documentation providing proof of these methods must be available to an Inspector of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. In instances where the importer cannot provide proof that the statements are accurate, the lot in question is to be rejected for false labelling.

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