

## Document: Seafood policy

### OUR COMMITMENT

Pick n Pay is committed to transforming all seafood & fish related operations to ensure that our seafood products procured are *either*:

1. certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) for wild-caught products or by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) for farmed products,  
OR
2. categorised as Green by WWF SA's Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative,  
OR
3. sourced from fisheries or farms that are actively engaged in credible, time-bound improvement projects to achieve either MSC or ASC certification or SASSI Green List status.

Pick n Pay, with the assistance of WWF-SA, will determine the credibility of these improvement projects on a case-by-case basis and will provide guidance to fisheries/aquaculture facilities as to what constitutes a credible, time-bound improvement project.

### General Guidelines for All Our Seafood Products

- All products must be sourced from commercial fishers with valid commercial fishing rights *for that particular species*.
- Pick n Pay has committed to only selling MSC/ASC certified, SASSI Green-listed species or products which are sourced from fisheries/farms which are engaged in credible improvement projects.
- In the absence of adequately certified sources or assessed species, products will only be considered for procurement if suppliers can provide sufficient information to verify the sustainability of the products until such time as a SASSI assessment can be completed for that species.
- For the products that are not yet in compliance, we have developed strategies that involve constructive engagement with suppliers and fishermen to foster responsible environmental governance and sustainable fishing practices.

### Traceability and Species Verification

As a minimum requirement, Pick n Pay suppliers have to ensure that products are traceable to the country of origin through various means. In a case where pre-processed products (e.g. fish fillets) are traded and identification is not possible, suppliers are required to

independently verify the species identity by providing DNA analysis done by an external, independent company.

### **Products Sourced from Local Fisheries/Farms**

- Pick n Pay will preferentially procure MSC/ASC certified and SASSI Green-listed species and will not procure any SASSI Orange or Red listed species unless they originate from fisheries/farms engaged in credible improvement projects.
- No seafood may be bought from any fishers in possession of only recreational fishing permits.
- Any fish designated as “no-sale” or as “specially protected” by the Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA) may be sourced.
- All species procured (finfish, rock lobsters and shellfish) must conform to any minimum size limits that may apply.

### **Products Sourced from Foreign Fisheries/Farms**

- Pick n Pay will preferentially procure MSC/ASC certified and SASSI Green-listed species and will not procure any SASSI Orange or Red listed species unless they originate from fisheries/farms that are engaged in credible improvement projects.
- Suppliers need to be in possession of valid import permits for each species imported as issued by the applicable relevant authorities.
- International trade permits must be supplied for species where applicable (e.g. CITES permits for caviar; abalone)
- Imported species which are categorized as “no-sale” or “specially protected” by South African legislation, or are below the legal size limits in South Africa for such species will not be procured;

Some fishing sectors may be restricted to the species they may catch and sell. Information provided should include evidence that the species is harvested at sustainable levels, does not incur significant environmental impacts on the associated ecosystems, and is managed under an effective management regime.

Pick n Pay will continue to work closely with WWF-SA to achieve our sustainable seafood commitments and to provide customers with the best environmental choices.