

## **Responsible Seafood Sourcing Policy**

Overfishing is considered a significant threat to both marine wildlife and habitats. According to the United Nations FAO's 2018 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) report, 33% of global fisheries have been fished beyond sustainable limits.

Bidfood sources seafood products globally, and has a responsibility to source only from fisheries or farmed aquaculture operations that are responsibly managed. Responsible sourcing results in fish populations remaining healthy, with minimisation of environmental impacts and safeguarding supplies for future generations.

Bidfood is committed to sourcing fish and seafood responsibly, and are proud members of the Sustainable Seafood Coalition, aligning with the two voluntary codes of conduct. It is Bidfood's policy to source MSC and ASC certified products wherever commercially viable. This policy applies to all Bidfood Own Brand fish & seafood, including molluscs and crustaceans, including where it is a significant ingredient.

### **Sustainable Seafood Coalition**

Bidfood is a proud member of the Sustainable Seafood Coalition ([www.sustainableseafoodcoalition.org](http://www.sustainableseafoodcoalition.org)) (SSC). This is a progressive partnership of businesses cooperating to address important issues in fish and seafood sustainability.

As a member of the SSC, Bidfood align with the two voluntary codes of conduct:

- 1) The voluntary code of conduct on environmentally responsible fish and seafood sourcing
- 2) The voluntary code of conduct on environmental claims

All of our own brand fish and seafood is fully traceable back to the original fishery or aquaculture source, including all stages of handling, processing and distribution. Our purchasing decision for both wild caught, and farmed fish (aquaculture), is based on risk assessment which is reviewed on an annual basis (minimum).

### **Wild Caught Fish**

Our sourcing decisions of wild caught fish and seafood are based upon risk assessment, as outlined in the SSC voluntary code of conduct on environmentally responsible fish and seafood sourcing, categorised as low, medium and high risk.

This risk assessment has been developed based upon the ratings provided in the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Good Fish Guide, which rates seafood from 1-5, based upon environmental sustainability ([www.mcsuk.org/goodfishguide](http://www.mcsuk.org/goodfishguide)).

Doc ref.	Revision No.	Issue Date	Page 1 of 3
PO001	1.1	24.06.22	

The MCS defines the following ratings: -

- Rated 1                      -            Best Choice
- Rated 2                      -            Good Choice
- Rated 3                      -            OK
- Rated 4                      -            Requires Improvement
- Rated 4.5                   -           Improver
- Rated 5                      -            Avoid

Bidfood has classified products rated as 1-3 as low risk, 4 and 4.5 as medium risk, and 5 as high risk. In the absence of a specific rating being available, Bidfood will utilise similar ratings or advice from other assessment tools and resources, such as “Seafood watch” or the “Risk assessment for sourcing seafood” (RASS) via Seafish.

Bidfood aim to source low risk products (MCS rated 1-3), however recognise that this is not always possible. Where products are categorised medium or high risk (MCS rated 4, 4.5 or 5), Bidfood will only source where demonstrable improvements are being made to reduce the risk of the associated fishery, and improve the product rating. Bidfood will therefore source medium and high risk products where fisheries are enrolled within a comprehensive credible Fishery Improvement Project (FIP), where appropriate progress is being made. This will be monitored through Fisheryprogress.org (www.fisheryprogress.org) where progress ratings A-C (or completed) are deemed acceptable.

Where products are rated as medium or high risk, and insufficient improvement actions or reporting are in place with insufficient or ineffective engagement, Bidfood will review sourcing and potentially cease supply and source alternative products. This includes fisheries not engaged in a comprehensive FIP, or those where progress is scored D or E on fisheryprogress.org. Bidfood will consider alternative documented and monitored engagement/improvement plans on a case by case basis.

For any fisheries that have been in a Fishery Improvement Project for less than six months, where the first progress report is not available, Bidfood will classify as credible and continue to source. Progress will be reviewed following the first progress report and any changes to sourcing will be actioned at this point.

Because the status of fish stocks is constantly changing, Bidfood work closely with the MCS and review ratings assigned to products on a six monthly basis. Ratings for own brand products (1-3) are published on the Bidfood Direct online product catalogue. In the case of a product containing seafood of more than one rating, Bidfood will take and publish the worst case rating (i.e. highest)

Doc ref.	Revision No.	Issue Date	Page 2 of 3
PO001	1.1	24.06.22	

and assign to the relevant risk assessment category. Where products are certified to a third party environmental sustainability standard, e.g. MSC, they are classified as low risk.

### **Aquaculture**

Bidfood recognise a number of independent third party standards for farmed fish, including Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) (minimum 2\*), the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), and Global Gap certification. We require suppliers to source farmed seafood that has been independently certified to internationally recognised GSSI (Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative) standards such as the above, and hold full chain of custody certification, where applicable.

All suppliers of Bidfood own brand farmed fish must have a documented fish welfare policy and environmental management system for farms, which must be routinely audited.

Bidfood support the International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Associations Global Standard and Certification Programme for the Responsible Supply of Fishmeal and Fish Oil (IFFO RS). As a result of this, Bidfood requires that all own brand suppliers work towards ensuring that farmed fish and crustaceans are only fed with material that is MarinTrust certified. This material is produced in MarinTrust Certified plants around the world and operates as a worldwide sustainability programme to aid the marine conservation initiatives that help manage the world's fish stocks.

### **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)**

The Marine Stewardship Council is an international non-profit organisation, who recognise and reward efforts to protect oceans and safeguard seafood supplies for the future. Each MSC certified fishery has been independently assessed on its specific impacts to wild fish populations and the ecosystems they're part of.

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) is an independent, international non-profit organisation that manages the world's leading certification and labelling programme for responsible aquaculture. Standards for responsible aquaculture address the key environmental impacts of farming, set requirements for workers' rights and protect communities surrounding certified farms.

It is Bidfood policy to source MSC and ASC certified products wherever commercially viable. Bidfood holds both the MSC and ASC Chain of Custody standards, which allows us to actively promote and use the MSC and ASC trademarks on our own brand products, as well as show which of our own brand and branded products are MSC and ASC certified in our price list and promotional material.

For the full range of our responsibly sourced fish and seafood visit [www.Bidfood.co.uk](http://www.Bidfood.co.uk)

Doc ref.	Revision No.	Issue Date	Page 3 of 3
PO001	1.1	24.06.22	