

Albertsons Companies Requirements for Sourcing from Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs)

Albertsons Companies recognizes that fishery improvement projects (FIPs) play an important role in addressing management and environmental challenges in fisheries. As stated in our Responsible Seafood Policy¹, we will source from fisheries or farms making measurable and time-bound improvements that meet the requirements detailed in this document.

What is a fishery improvement project (FIP)?

FIPs are a way for the market to recognize multi-stakeholder efforts to improve fisheries with environmental and/or management challenges. A FIP leverages the influence of retailers, processors, producers, etc. to incentivize improved practices and policies that support environmental sustainability long-term. The majority of fisheries involved in FIPs are uncertified, and/or unrated or Red rated by Monterey Bay's Seafood Watch. Given that products from FIPs have inherent environmental risks, Albertsons Companies requires that Vendors, and their suppliers, adhere to the following guidelines.

How will a FIP meet Albertsons Companies' Responsible Seafood Policy?

Products meet Albertsons Companies' Policy when sourced from FIPs that satisfy the criteria detailed below and when a Vendor meets the outlined data and engagement requirements. These requirements compliment and build on those found in Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions' [Guidelines for Supporting Fishery Improvement Projects](#)².

To meet Albertsons Companies' Policy, each of the following criteria must be met:

A FIP must:

- Be at "Stage 3 - FIP Implementation" or higher;
- Maintain a progress rating score of "C - some recent progress" or better; and
- Publicly report on progress every 6-12 months using:
 - FisheryProgress.org (preferred);
 - Other easily accessible industry website

FIP stage, progress rating score, and public reporting requirements will ideally be assessed by [FisheryProgress.org](#)³. For FIPs not using FisheryProgress, FishWise will assume assessment responsibilities using the same methodologies.

In the case that there are serious concerns about a FIP outside of the scope of those being addressed by the FIP work plan, such as illegal fishing, human rights violations,⁴ or misrepresentation of product sold, Albertsons Companies may choose to discontinue sourcing from that FIP/Vendor even if the above criteria are met.

¹[https://www.albertsonscompanies.com/content/dam/minisite/pdfs/Albertsons Companies Responsible Seafood Policy Commitment2.pdf](https://www.albertsonscompanies.com/content/dam/minisite/pdfs/Albertsons_Companies_Responsible_Seafood_Policy_Commitment2.pdf)

² http://solutionsforseafood.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FIP_report_screen-final_revised_september.pdf

³ <https://fisheryprogress.org/>

⁴ For instances in which forced labor, human trafficking, or other human rights violations have been identified, Albertsons Companies will request additional information from the FIP implementer regarding the remediation of any violations.

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What information does Albertsons Companies require from its Vendors?

Albertsons Companies Vendors must:

- Provide the official FIP name and name of the FIP implementer within Trace Register for every PO;
- Either demonstrate⁵ your company is an official “FIP Participant”; **OR**
- Provide documentation⁶ that proves one or more of your suppliers is an official “FIP Participant”
 - Additional information (e.g. specific fishery management zones including in the FIP) and/or verification measures may be required to confirm FIP sourcing and/or participation

What are Vendor responsibilities if they want to source from a FIP?

Albertsons Companies Vendors must engage in the following ways:

- Sign Albertsons Companies Supplier Expectations letter, which acknowledges receipt of the Responsible Seafood Policy and Vendor Code of Conduct
- Ensure the FIP meets the criteria above and notify Albertsons Companies if the FIP goes a year without publicly reporting on progress
- Engage in the FIP through one of the below options:
 - *Preferred:* Join the FIP and in doing so become an official “FIP participant”
 - Sign FIP MOU and directly implement FIP workplan activities and/or financially support the FIP through direct or “in-kind” contributions
 - *Alternative:* If becoming an official FIP participant is not possible, join and maintain membership in an appropriate [Supply Chain Roundtable](#)⁷ for the FIP species

What if a FIP does not meet Albertsons Companies Policy?

If a FIP or vendor does not meet the criteria listed above, the product does not meet the Responsible Seafood Policy and will not qualify for the Albertsons Companies Responsible Choice logo. Please contact Anthony Snow (Anthony.Snow@albertsons.com) to discuss alternative sourcing options.

What about traceability and human rights in FIPs?

Albertsons Companies encourages FIP implementers to adhere to the traceability and social responsibility guidelines detailed in the Conservation Alliance’s [Common Vision for Sustainable Seafood](#).

⁵ Companies can demonstrate official FIP Participant status in several ways: 1) Provide official company listing on FisheryProgress.org or other recognized FIP profile; 2) Provide a signed copy of the FIP memorandum of understanding (MOU); 3) Provide a signed letter from the FIP Implementer stating the company is in good standing.

⁶ Acceptable documentation in preferential order: 1) Supplier to the vendor is listed as an official FIP participant on FisheryProgress.org; 2) FIP Implementer provides official letter stating that the supplier to the vendor is an official FIP participant in good standing;

⁷<https://www.sustainablefish.org/Programs/Improving-Wild-Fisheries/Seafood-Sectors-Supply-Chain-Roundtables>