

The People Behind Your Seafood

PROCESSING: Thailand

Thailand processes approx. 25% of the world's canned tuna.

VESSEL OWNERSHIP: Taiwanese company

Taiwan has the world's second largest distant water fishing fleet, with more than 1,100 vessels.

FISHING REGION: International waters of the western & central Pacific Ocean

Tuna caught in the western and central Pacific Ocean region accounts for over half of global tuna consumption.

CONSUMPTION: US, EU

Vessels like this often fish for tuna, supplying canned product to the US and EU.

In the EU, consumption of canned fish totaled 1.6 billion pounds (727,000 tonnes) in 2018, with much of that likely being tuna.

In the US about 1 billion pounds (454,000 tonnes) of canned and pouched tuna is consumed annually. That's a lot of tuna!

CREW NATIONALITIES: Taiwan, Philippines, Indonesia

Taiwan's distant water fishing vessels employ over 30,000 migrant fishers, mostly from Indonesia and the Philippines. Migrant fishers hired overseas and working in international waters do not have the same labor protections as Taiwanese national fishers.

PORT VISITED: Tarawa in Kiribati

Tarawa is the busiest fishing port in the western and central Pacific Ocean region.

VESSEL FLAG: Vanuata

Vanuatu is a "flag of convenience" (FoC) with 140 vessels registered in the western and central Pacific Ocean. FoCs often do not fulfill basic flag state responsibilities, undermining the enforcement of regulations and - in the event of vessels "hopping" between different flags - long-term accountability regarding vessel activities.