The Wild Planet Perspective: MERCURY CONTENT IN TUNA

Extensively Testing our Tuna

Wild Planet has extensively tested the pole and line caught albacore and skipjack tuna it uses in its tuna products. Throughout our 15 year history, we have performed over 500 mercury tests. The conclusion we have reached is that younger, migratory albacore and skipjack, that are caught at the surface with pole and line and trolling methods are lower in mercury than older, deep-dwelling tuna caught by long-lines. This pole and line low-mercury tuna conclusion is third-party corroborated by the academic study done by the Oregon State University (OSU)*.

No Need to Test Each Individual Tuna

It is not necessary or helpful to test every fish, as the range of variance is very low between these young pole and line caught tuna.

Albacore Tuna

The data in the Wild Planet albacore tests and the OSU study show a range of 0.1-0.4ppm and 0.03-0.3ppm respectively. Based upon our mercury testing, the tuna we source contain an average of 0.17ppm. This is **six times lower than the FDA mercury action level of 1.0ppm**. The FDA tests show a mercury content range of canned albacore tuna in the U.S. market to be <0.1 - 0.85ppm. For reference, Wild Planet sent 100 cans for testing by third party AMTEST which gave an average of 0.17ppm for Albacore.

Skipjack Tuna

Skipjack tuna (or referred to as "Elite" by other brands) is a fast-growing, shorter-lived tuna species. Essentially all brands of Skipjack tuna are especially lower in mercury since Skipjack is a lower-mercury species. Wild Planet's average mercury content in its Skipjack tuna is 0.076ppm. This number is nearly **13 times lower than the FDA mercury action level of 1.0ppm**.

In Summary …

Controlling the mercury content of canned tuna is as simple as controlling the size and age of the fish used. This is something the folks at Wild Planet have been rigorously doing since 2001.

http://www.wildplanetfoods.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/OSU_Mercury_Study.pdf

http://www.heads-up.net/csi/Hg_Review_080905.pdf

WILDPLANETFOODS.COM (707) 840-9116
1585 Heartwood Drive, Suite F, McKinleyville, CA 95519