

# URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY: UPHOLDING SUSTAINABLE SOURCING OF AQUATIC FOOD RESOURCES

In line with its dedication to environmental sustainability and responsible consumption, Urdaneta City University (UCU) has established a policy ensuring that all food products sourced from aquatic ecosystems and served within the campus are sustainably harvested. This initiative reflects the university's firm commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water, which promotes the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources.

The university recognizes the vital role of aquatic resources in ensuring food security and ecological balance. Through this policy, UCU seeks to promote the responsible procurement of seafood and other aquatic-based food products, prioritizing suppliers and partners who adhere to sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices. This approach not only supports marine biodiversity but also discourages overfishing and the exploitation of endangered aquatic species.

As part of its implementation, UCU encourages campus food concessionaires, canteens, and catering services to source their aquatic food ingredients from verified and sustainable suppliers. The university also promotes awareness among students, faculty, and staff about the importance of consuming sustainably harvested seafood, integrating these values into campus events and advocacy programs.

Moreover, UCU supports research and education initiatives focused on sustainable aquaculture and ecosystem preservation. By engaging the academic community in studies and discussions about responsible aquatic resource management, the university helps foster a deeper understanding of how everyday consumption choices impact marine environments.

Through this proactive policy, Urdaneta City University not only contributes to sustainable campus operations but also serves as a model for environmental responsibility in higher education. By ensuring that food sourced from aquatic ecosystems is obtained ethically and sustainably, UCU continues to champion a culture of conservation protecting life below water for present and future generations.

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## URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY

### Policy on Upholding Sustainable Sourcing of Aquatic Food Resources

Policy Created: 2023

Policy Reviewed: 2024

#### 1. Policy Statement

Urdaneta City University (UCU) is committed to promoting the sustainable use and sourcing of aquatic food resources to protect marine ecosystems and ensure the long-term availability of seafood and related products. This policy underscores the University’s role in advancing environmental sustainability and supports **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Life Below Water**, which calls for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources.

UCU recognizes that responsible sourcing of aquatic food not only safeguards biodiversity but also supports local fishing communities and ethical food supply chains.

#### 2. Objectives

- To ensure that all aquatic food products sourced, served, or sold within the university are obtained from sustainable and legal sources.
- To promote awareness among students, faculty, and staff about the importance of sustainable fisheries and marine conservation.
- To support local, small-scale, and environmentally responsible fishers and aquaculture producers.
- To integrate sustainable seafood sourcing into the university’s food procurement and catering systems.

#### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all university operations involving food procurement, canteen management, catering services, and events where aquatic food resources (fish, shellfish, seaweeds, and other marine-based products) are served or distributed.

#### 4. Policy Guidelines

##### 1. Sustainable Sourcing

- The university shall only procure aquatic food products from suppliers that adhere to sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices, certified by recognized bodies or compliant with national fisheries regulations.
- Preference shall be given to locally sourced fish and seafood to reduce carbon footprint and support local economies.
- Suppliers engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing practices are strictly prohibited.

##### 2. Environmental Responsibility

- UCU shall promote responsible consumption of marine products to help prevent overfishing and protect endangered species.
- The university canteens and food concessionaires must avoid serving or purchasing species listed as threatened or overexploited by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

##### 3. Education and Advocacy

- The University shall integrate marine conservation awareness into environmental programs and student activities.
- Information campaigns, posters, and seminars shall be conducted to encourage responsible seafood consumption among the campus community.

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## 4. Partnerships and Community Engagement

- UCU shall collaborate with local fisheries, government agencies, and environmental organizations to promote sustainable aquaculture and fishing practices.
- The University may engage in community-based projects that support coastal and marine resource management.

## 5. Procurement and Supply Chain Compliance

- All catering and food service contracts shall include clauses requiring compliance with sustainable seafood sourcing standards.
- The Procurement Office shall verify supplier sustainability credentials and maintain documentation for transparency.

## 5. Responsibilities

- The Environmental and Sustainability Office shall oversee the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this policy.
- The Procurement Office shall ensure that all seafood suppliers meet sustainable sourcing criteria.
- The Canteen Management Committee shall ensure that university food services adhere to this policy.
- All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to support and practice responsible seafood consumption.

## 6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Annual audits shall be conducted to evaluate compliance with the sustainable sourcing standards.
- Data on seafood procurement shall be included in the university's Sustainability Report, highlighting progress and challenges in implementing this policy.
- Non-compliance by suppliers shall result in review or termination of contracts.

## 7. Policy Review

This policy was created in 2023 and reviewed in 2024 to ensure consistency with updated national fisheries laws, global sustainability standards, and UCU's environmental goals.

## 8. Alignment with SDG 14

This policy directly supports SDG 14: Life Below Water, particularly the following targets:

- **14.2:** Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems.
- **14.4:** Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing.
- **14.7:** Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources.

Through this policy, Urdaneta City University upholds its commitment to responsible seafood sourcing, marine biodiversity protection, and sustainable consumption practices, ensuring that aquatic food resources are preserved for future generations.

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