Packaged Seafood Products Direct — Settlement Summary

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Packaged Seafood Products Antitrust Litigation – Tuna Direct Purchaser Settlement

Summary

This class action alleges that major packaged tuna manufacturers — including Chicken of the Sea, Bumble Bee, StarKist, and others — conspired to fix, raise, and maintain prices paid by direct purchasers of packaged tuna products in violation of antitrust laws. Settlements totaling $38,650,000 in cash plus $26,100,000 in StarKist-branded products have been reached with StarKist, DWI, and the Lion Companies. Payments to eligible claimants were issued on March 17, 2026.

Announcements

- **March 17, 2026 — Payments Issued:** Payments were issued to all eligible claimants on March 17, 2026. Claimants who need a reissue should contact the Claims Administrator directly.
- **November 22, 2024 — Final Approval Granted:** The Court approved the StarKist and Lion Companies Settlements on November 22, 2024.
- **Filing Deadline Passed:** The claim filing deadline of October 18, 2024 has passed. No new claims are being accepted at this time.

Settlement Amount

- **Cash Component:** $38,650,000 total from StarKist, DWI, and the Lion Companies (collectively the "Settling Defendants").
- **Product Component:** $26,100,000 in StarKist-branded products (at StarKist's national price list prices) available for distribution to class members with valid claims.
- **Per-Claimant Estimate:** Not published on the settlement website. Each eligible claimant receives a pro rata share of both the cash and product components.
- **Prior Settlement:** A separate earlier settlement with COSI and TUG (Chicken of the Sea International and Thai Union Group PCL) was previously reached and is now final. Claimants who filed under that settlement did not need to re-file for this settlement.

Class Period

June 1, 2011 through July 31, 2015.

Filing Deadline

October 18, 2024 (PASSED). The claim filing deadline has passed. Payments were distributed on March 17, 2026. Claimants needing a payment reissue should contact the Claims Administrator.

Who Qualifies

You are a Settlement Class Member if you or your company **directly purchased** Packaged Tuna Products within the United States, its territories, or the District of Columbia from any Defendant at any time between **June 1, 2011 and July 31, 2015**.

- **Packaged Tuna Products** means shelf-stable tuna sold for human consumption and packaged in cans or pouches.
- Tuna salad kits and cups and salvage purchases are *excluded* from the product definition.
- Claimants who previously submitted a claim in connection with the COSI/TUG Settlement did not need to submit a new claim — their prior submission was used to calculate benefits under these settlements as well.
- This settlement covers *direct* purchasers only. Indirect (end) purchasers should visit www.TunaEndPurchaserSettlement.com.

Who Is Excluded

- All governmental entities.
- Defendants and any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate thereof.
- Defendants' officers, directors, employees, and their immediate families.
- Any federal judges or their staffs.
- Any person or entity excluded from the Class pursuant to the Court's Order at ECF No. 3097, which incorporates the list of entities at ECF No. 3095-1.

How to File

The claim filing deadline of October 18, 2024 has passed and the distribution has been completed. No new claims are currently being accepted. The following steps applied during the active claim period:

- Complete and submit a valid claim form by the October 18, 2024 postmark deadline.
- Class members who previously filed a claim under the earlier COSI/TUG Settlement did not need to submit a new claim — the prior filing was automatically applied to these settlements.
- Upon final approval, eligible claimants received a pro rata cash payment and a pro rata allocation of StarKist-branded products.
- **Product orders** must have been placed within 180 days after Final Approval of the StarKist and DWI Settlement, or 90 days after the Claims Administrator provided StarKist with the pro rata product allocation — whichever is later. The full product allocation period is 3 years from the same triggering event.
- Product allocations may not be transferred to another party prior to delivery. Orders must be placed in truck-sized quantities (or the full remaining allocation if less than a truckload remains) to qualify for free shipping.
- Claimants may elect to donate their product share to Feeding America, Feed the Children, or another approved 501(c)(3) cy pres recipient by notifying StarKist in writing.
- For payment reissues, contact the Claims Administrator at 1-866-615-0970 or info@TunaDirectPurchaserCase.com.

Defendants

- **Tri Union Seafoods LLC d/b/a Chicken of the Sea International ("COSI")** — settled earlier (COSI/TUG Settlement, now final).
- **Thai Union Group PCL ("TUG")** — settled earlier (COSI/TUG Settlement, now final).
- **Bumble Bee Foods LLC ("Bumble Bee")** — filed for bankruptcy; no settlement payment from Bumble Bee under this settlement.
- **StarKist** — Settling Defendant; agreed to cash and product settlement.
- **DWI** — Settling Defendant.
- **Lion Capital LLP, Lion Capital (Americas), Inc., and Big Catch Cayman LP (collectively, the "Lion**

Companies") — Settling Defendants.

All Defendants are alleged to have conspired to fix, raise, and maintain prices paid by direct purchasers for Packaged Tuna Products. All Settling Defendants deny liability but agreed to settle to avoid the uncertainties of further litigation.

Case History

- **2015** — Multidistrict litigation consolidated as Case No. 3:15-md-02670 in the U.S. District Court (Southern District of California).
- **Class Period:** June 1, 2011 – July 31, 2015.
- **Earlier Settlement:** COSI/TUG Settlement reached and finalized (date not specified on source page).
- **Bumble Bee bankruptcy** — Bumble Bee Foods LLC filed for bankruptcy; no settlement recovery from Bumble Bee under this action.
- **Settlements reached** with StarKist, DWI, and the Lion Companies.
- **October 18, 2024** — Claim filing deadline.
- **November 22, 2024** — Court granted final approval of the StarKist and Lion Companies Settlements.
- **March 17, 2026** — Payments issued to all eligible claimants.

Source

www.TunaDirectPurchaserCase.com (Packaged Seafood Direct Purchaser Home Page)

Last Updated

2026-09-22

Reviewer Flags

- **Article status:** First draft.
- **Source page:** All information drawn from the single monitored page: "Packaged Seafood Direct Home Page" (TunaDirectPurchaserCase.com home page).
- **Potential contradiction — no per-claimant estimate:** The settlement amounts (cash and product) are published, but no individual claimant estimate or allocation formula detail is provided on the source page. Flagged as "Not published" accordingly.
- **Potential contradiction — DWI identity:** "DWI" is named as a Settling Defendant throughout the source page but is never defined or expanded. Reviewer should confirm full legal name of DWI for accuracy.
- **Bumble Bee status:** The source page states Bumble Bee went bankrupt but does not clarify whether any recovery from Bumble Bee's bankruptcy estate was obtained. This detail may need follow-up.
- **COSI/TUG Settlement finalization date:** The source page states the COSI/TUG Settlement "is now final" but does not provide a specific date. Listed as unspecified.
- **Product order deadlines:** The source page describes product order deadlines in relation to "Final Approval" and the Claims Administrator's pro rata notification — specific calendar dates for these product ordering windows are not published. FRS clients holding product allocations should confirm current deadlines directly with the Claims Administrator.
- **Reissue availability:** The March 17, 2026 payment announcement and reissue language are sourced from the home page update notice.