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Following an investigation by The New Yorker magazine about forced labor in China's seafood supply chain, US retailer Albertsons has stopped purchasing some seafood products origination in China and supplied by High Liner. Photo: melissamn / Shutterstock.com

US retail giant Albertsons halts purchasing of flounder, yellowtail sole from High Liner following New Yorker expose on forced labor in China

Albertsons said it will be partnering with verified third-party auditors to conduct more audits.

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By [Rachel Sapin](#) 

Major US retailer Albertsons confirmed with **IntraFish** Wednesday it has stopped purchasing certain products provided by Canada supplier High Liner, following an [in-depth](#) investigation by *The New Yorker* magazine that implicated the company in purchasing seafood from plants in China that used forced labor.

"In light of High Liner Foods' ties to one of the alleged fisheries, we have made the decision to stop purchases of flounder and yellowtail sole from this supplier," Albertsons told **IntraFish** in a statement. "At the conclusion of our investigation, we will re-evaluate our position."

Albertsons said it has confirmed the origins of all other products it sources from High Liner Foods in China, and will be partnering with verified third party auditors and FishWise, its responsible seafood partner, to conduct unannounced audits of the fisheries and production facilities in China that produce those products. The company said it will assess future sourcing decisions based on those findings.

We expect our suppliers to adopt and comply with comprehensive, transparent and verifiable supply chains that are free of human trafficking and forced labor.

The *New Yorker* story noted High Liner was part of at least "ten large seafood companies in China" that have been associated with factories in China using Uyghur workers since 2018. Uyghur is a Muslim minority group in China.

The investigation noted that since 2018 those ten companies shipped "more than forty-seven thousand tons of seafood—including cod, pollock, shrimp, salmon, and crab" to the United States.

US-based squid supplier Lund's was also interviewed as part of the investigation for purchasing from a Haibo plant in China that used Uyghur workers. A spokesperson from Lund's told the news site the company has begun to investigate the matter. Albertson's confirmed with **IntraFish** it has not dropped Lund's products as of Wednesday.

The products ended up on store shelves at supermarkets across the country, including Walmart, Costco, Kroger, and Albertsons, according to the investigation.

The People's Republic of China has arbitrarily detained more than one million Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in China's far western Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, [according to the US Department of Labor](#). It is estimated that 100,000 Uyghurs and other ethnic minority ex-detainees in China may be working in conditions of forced labor following detention in re-education camps. [\(Copyright\)](#)

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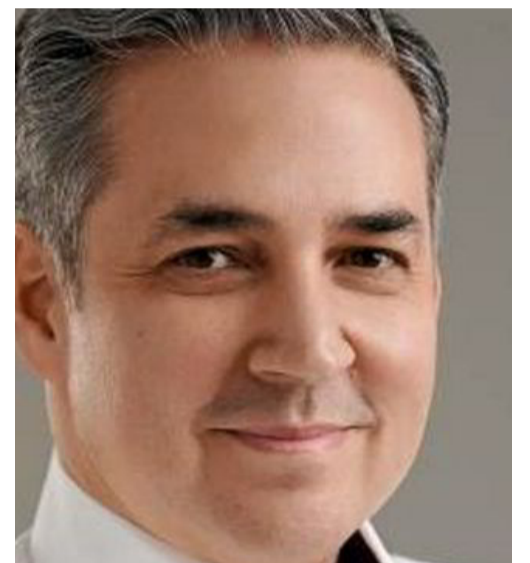
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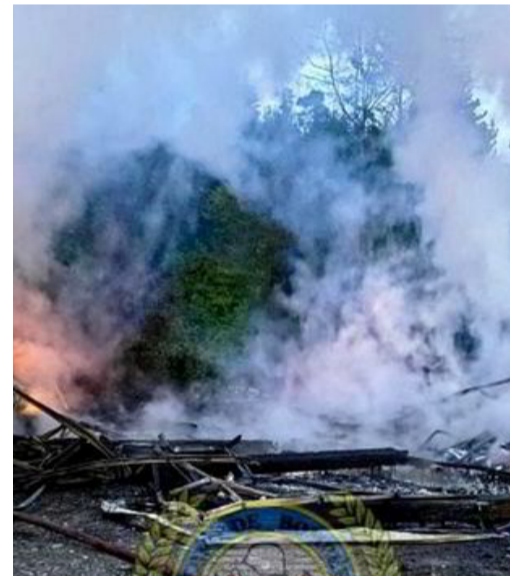
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