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10	Attorneys for Plaintiff				
11	LINUTED CTATECT	DISTRICT COLUDT			
12	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				
13	NORTHERN DISTRI	CI OF CALIFORNIA			
14	EHDER SOTO, individually and on behalf of all	Case No.			
15	others similarly situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT			
16	Plaintiff,				
17	V.	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED			
18	WILD PLANET FOODS, INC.,				
19	Defendant.				
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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Ehder Soto ("Plaintiff") brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated against Wild Planet Foods, Inc. ("Wild Planet" or "Defendant"). Plaintiff makes the following allegations pursuant to the investigation of his counsel and based upon information and belief, except as to the allegations specifically pertaining to himself, which are based on personal knowledge.

NATURE OF ACTION

- 1. This is a class action lawsuit on behalf of purchasers of 5-ounce cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Albacore Tuna in Water and 5-ounce cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Light Tuna in Water (collectively, "Sustainable Seas Tuna"). Sustainable Seas Tuna is underfilled and thus substantially underweight. Wild Planet is cheating purchasers by providing less tuna than they are paying for. As will be discussed below, government testing revealed that <u>5 of 5 lots</u> tested and <u>120 of 120 individual cans</u> tested failed to meet the federally mandated minimum standard of fill.
- 2. Independent testing by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA")¹ determined that, over a sample of 24 cans, 5-ounce cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Albacore Tuna in Water contain an average of only 2.25 ounces of pressed cake tuna when measured precisely according to the methods specified by 21 C.F.R. § 161.190(c). This is 30.3% below the federally mandated minimum standard of fill of 3.23 ounces for these cans. *See* 21 C.F.R. § 161.190(c)(2)(i)-(xii). Another test by NOAA determined that, over a sample of 24 cans, 5-ounce cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Albacore Tuna in Water contain an average of only 2.27 ounces of pressed cake tuna, which is 29.7% below the federally mandated minimum standard of fill of 3.23 ounces for these cans. *Id.* Of these tests, every individual can was below the minimum standard of fill.
- 3. Similarly, another test by NOAA determined that, over a sample of 24 cans, 5-ounce cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Light Tuna in Water contain an average of only 2.20 ounces of pressed cake tuna, which is 31.9% below the federally mandated minimum standard of fill of 3.23 ounces for these cans. Yet another test by NOAA determined that, over a sample of 24 cans, 5-

¹ NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce with responsibility for regulating the nation's fisheries.

ounce cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Light Tuna in Water contain an average of only 2.22 ounces of pressed cake tuna, which is 31.3% below the federally mandated minimum standard of fill of 3.23 ounces for these cans. And yet another test by NOAA determined that, over a sample of 24 cans, 5-ounce cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Light Tuna in Water contain an average of only 2.24 ounces of pressed cake tuna, which is 30.7% below the federally mandated minimum standard of fill of 3.23 ounces for these cans. Of these tests, every individual can was below the minimum standard of fill.

4. Plaintiff asserts claims on behalf of himself and a nationwide class of purchasers of Sustainable Seas Tuna for breach of express warranty, breach of the implied warranty of merchantability, breach of the implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose, unjust enrichment, violation of California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA"), violation of California's Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), violation of California's False Advertising Law ("FAL"), negligent misrepresentation, and fraud.

PARTIES

- 5. Plaintiff Ehder Soto is a citizen of California who resides in Aptos, California. From approximately 2012 through the summer of 2013, Plaintiff Soto purchased 5-ounce canned Sustainable Seas Solid Albacore Tuna in Water at various locations in the Santa Cruz, California area, including a local Safeway store. During this period, Plaintiff Soto purchased approximately one can of Sustainable Seas Solid Albacore Tuna in Water every week, which were underfilled and thus substantially underweight.
- 6. Defendant Wild Planet Foods, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in McKinleyville, California. Founded in 2004, Wild Planet is engaged in the processing, packaging, and distribution of Sustainable Seas-brand canned tuna products.
- 7. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to any representation, act, omission, or transaction of Wild Planet, that allegation shall mean that Wild Planet did the act, omission, or transaction through its officers, directors, employees, agents, and/or representatives while they were acting within the actual or ostensible scope of their authority.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A) because this case is a class action where the aggregate claims of all members of the proposed class are in excess of \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and most members of the proposed class are citizens of states different from Defendant. This Court also has supplemental jurisdiction over state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 9. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, this Court is the proper venue for this action because a substantial part of the events, omissions, and acts giving rise to the claims herein occurred in this District. Plaintiff Soto is a citizen of California, resides in this District, and purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna from Defendant in this District. Moreover, Wild Planet distributed, advertised, and sold Sustainable Seas Tuna, which is the subject of the present complaint, in this District. Furthermore, Wild Planet's principal place of business is in this District.

CLASS REPRESENTATION ALLEGATIONS

- 10. Plaintiff seeks to represent a class defined as all persons in the United States who purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class are persons who made such purchase for purpose of resale.
- 11. Plaintiff also seeks to represent a subclass of all Class members who purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna in California (the "Subclass").
- 12. Members of the Class and Subclass are so numerous that their individual joinder herein is impracticable. On information and belief, members of the Class and Subclass number in the millions. The precise number of Class members and their identities are unknown to Plaintiff at this time but may be determined through discovery. Class members may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail and/or publication through the distribution records of Defendant and third party retailers and vendors.
- 13. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all Class members and predominate over questions affecting only individual Class members. Common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited to: whether Sustainable Seas Tuna is underfilled and thus substantially underweight; whether Defendant warranted that Sustainable Seas Tuna contained an adequate

amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can; whether Defendant warranted that Sustainable Seas Tuna is legal for sale in the United States; whether Defendant breached these warranties; and whether Defendant committed statutory and common law fraud by doing so.

- 14. The claims of the named Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Class in that the named Plaintiff purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna in reliance on the representations and warranties described above and suffered a loss as a result of that purchase.
- 15. Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class and Subclass because his interests do not conflict with the interests of the Class members he seeks to represent, he has retained competent counsel experienced in prosecuting class actions, and he intends to prosecute this action vigorously. The interests of Class members will be fairly and adequately protected by Plaintiff and his counsel.
- 16. The class mechanism is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of Class and Subclass members. Each individual Class member may lack the resources to undergo the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex and extensive litigation necessary to establish Defendant's liability. Individualized litigation increases the delay and expense to all parties and multiplies the burden on the judicial system presented by the complex legal and factual issues of this case. Individualized litigation also presents a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments. In contrast, the class action device presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court on the issue of Defendant's liability. Class treatment of the liability issues will ensure that all claims and claimants are before this Court for consistent adjudication of the liability issues.

COUNT I

Breach Of Express Warranty

- 17. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.
- 18. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendant.

- 19. Defendant, as the designer, manufacturer, marketer, distributor, and/or seller, expressly warranted that Sustainable Seas Tuna contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can and that Sustainable Seas Tuna is legal for sale in the United States.
- 20. In fact, Sustainable Seas Tuna is not fit for such purposes because each of these express warranties is false. Particularly, Sustainable Seas Tuna is underfilled and thus substantially underweight, does not contain an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can, and is illegal for sale in the United States.
- 21. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's breach of express warranty, Plaintiff and Class members have been injured and harmed because: (a) they would not have purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna on the same terms if the true facts were known concerning its quantity and failure to comply with FDA regulations; (b) they paid a price premium for Sustainable Seas Tuna due to Defendant's promises that it contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can; and (c) Sustainable Seas Tuna did not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as promised.

COUNT II

Breach Of The Implied Warranty Of Merchantability

- 22. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.
- 23. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendant.
- 24. Defendant, as the designer, manufacturer, marketer, distributor, and/or seller, impliedly warranted that Sustainable Seas Tuna contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can and that Sustainable Seas Tuna is legal for sale in the United States.
- 25. Defendant breached the warranty implied in the contract for the sale of Sustainable Seas Tuna because it could not pass without objection in the trade under the contract description, the goods were not of fair average quality within the description, and the goods were unfit for their intended and ordinary purpose because Sustainable Seas Tuna is underfilled and thus substantially underweight, does not contain an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can, and is illegal for sale

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in the United States. As a result, Plaintiff and Class members did not receive the goods as impliedly warranted by Defendant to be merchantable.

- 26. Plaintiff and Class members purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna in reliance upon Defendant's skill and judgment and the implied warranties of fitness for the purpose.
 - 27. Sustainable Seas Tuna was not altered by Plaintiff or Class members.
 - 28. Sustainable Seas Tuna was defective when it left the exclusive control of Defendant.
- Defendant knew that Sustainable Seas Tuna would be purchased and used without 29 additional testing by Plaintiff and Class members.
- 30. Sustainable Seas Tuna was defectively designed and unfit for its intended purpose, and Plaintiff and Class members did not receive the goods as warranted.
- 31. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's breach of the implied warranty, Plaintiff and Class members have been injured and harmed because: (a) they would not have purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna on the same terms if the true facts were known concerning its quantity and failure to comply with FDA regulations; (b) they paid a price premium for Sustainable Seas Tuna due to Defendant's promises that it contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can; and (c) Sustainable Seas Tuna did not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as promised.

COUNT III

Breach Of The Implied Warranty Of Fitness For A Particular Purpose

- 32. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.
- 33. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendant.
- 34 Defendant marketed, distributed, and/or sold Sustainable Seas Tuna with implied warranties that it was fit for its intended purposes in that it contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can and that Sustainable Seas Tuna is legal for sale in the United States. At the time that Sustainable Seas Tuna was sold, Defendant knew or had reason to know that Plaintiff and

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Class members were relying on Defendant's skill and judgment to select or furnish a product that was suitable for sale.

- 35. Plaintiff and Class members purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna in reliance upon Defendant's implied warranties.
 - 36. Sustainable Seas Tuna was not altered by Plaintiff or Class members.
- As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's breach of the implied warranty, 37. Plaintiff and Class members have been injured and harmed because: (a) they would not have purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna on the same terms if the true facts were known concerning its quantity and failure to comply with FDA regulations; (b) they paid a price premium for Sustainable Seas Tuna due to Defendant's promises that it contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can; and (c) Sustainable Seas Tuna did not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as promised.

COUNT IV

Unjust Enrichment

- 38. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.
- 39. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendant
- 40 Plaintiff and Class members conferred benefits on Defendant by purchasing Sustainable Seas Tuna.
- 41 Defendant has been unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived from Plaintiff and Class members' purchases of Sustainable Seas Tuna. Retention of those moneys under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because Defendant misrepresented that Sustainable Seas Tuna contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can and that Sustainable Seas Tuna is legal for sale in the United States. These misrepresentations caused injuries to Plaintiff and Class members because they would not have purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna if the true facts were known.

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42. Because Defendant's retention of the non-gratuitous benefits conferred on it by Plaintiff and Class members is unjust and inequitable, Defendant must pay restitution to Plaintiff and Class members for its unjust enrichment, as ordered by the Court.

COUNT V

Violation Of California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act,

California Civil Code §§ 1750, et seq.

(Injunctive Relief Only)

- 43. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.
- 44. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Subclass against Defendant.
- 45. California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(5), prohibits "[r]epresenting that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities which they do not have or that a person has a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, or connection which he or she does not have."
- 46. California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(9), prohibits "[a]dvertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised."
- 47. Defendant violated this provision by misrepresenting that Sustainable Seas Tuna contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can and that Sustainable Seas Tuna is legal for sale in the United States.
- 48. Plaintiff and the Subclass suffered injuries caused by Defendant because: (a) they would not have purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna on the same terms if the true facts were known concerning its quantity and failure to comply with FDA regulations; (b) they paid a price premium for Sustainable Seas Tuna due to Defendant's promises that it contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can; and (c) Sustainable Seas Tuna did not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as promised.
- 49. On or about November 3, 2015, prior to filing this action, a CLRA notice letter was served on Defendant which complies in all respects with California Civil Code § 1782(a). Plaintiff

1	sent wha Pi	anet a letter via cert
2	in violation	of the CLRA and de
3	restitution by	y refunding the mon
4	is attached h	ereto as Exhibit A.
5	50.	Wherefore, Plain
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7		Violation
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9	51.	Plaintiff hereby in
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sent Wild Planet a letter via certified mail, return receipt requested, advising Wild Planet that it is in violation of the CLRA and demanding that it cease and desist from such violations and make full restitution by refunding the monies received therefrom. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

50. Wherefore, Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief only for this violation of the CLRA.

COUNT VI

Violation Of California's Unfair Competition Law,

California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.

- 51. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.
- 52. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Subclass against Defendant.
- 53. Defendant is subject to California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq. The UCL provides, in pertinent part: "Unfair competition shall mean and include unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising"
- 54. Defendant's misrepresentations and other conduct, described herein, violated the "unlawful" prong of the UCL by violating the CLRA as described herein; the FAL as described herein; and Cal. Com. Code § 2607.
- 55. Defendant's misrepresentations and other conduct, described herein, violated the "unfair" prong of the UCL in that its conduct is substantially injurious to consumers, offends public policy, and is immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous, as the gravity of the conduct outweighs any alleged benefits.
- 56. Defendant violated the "fraudulent" prong of the UCL by making misrepresentations about Sustainable Seas Tuna, as described herein.
- 57. Plaintiff and the Subclass lost money or property as a result of Defendant's UCL violations because: (a) they would not have purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna on the same terms if the true facts were known concerning its quantity and failure to comply with FDA regulations;

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(b) they paid a price premium for Sustainable Seas Tuna due to Defendant's promises that it contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can; and (c) Sustainable Seas Tuna did not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as promised.

COUNT VII

Violation Of California's False Advertising Law,

California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, et seq.

- 58. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.
- 59. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Subclass against Defendant.
- 60. California's False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, et seq., makes it "unlawful for any person to make or disseminate or cause to be made or disseminated before the public in this state, ... in any advertising device ... or in any other manner or means whatever, including over the Internet, any statement, concerning ... personal property or services, professional or otherwise, or performance or disposition thereof, which is untrue or misleading and which is known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading."
- 61. Defendant committed acts of false advertising, as defined by §17500, by misrepresenting that Sustainable Seas Tuna contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can and that Sustainable Seas Tuna is legal for sale in the United States.
- 62. Defendant knew or should have known, through the exercise of reasonable care that its representations about Sustainable Seas Tuna were untrue and misleading.
- 63. Defendant's actions in violation of § 17500 were false and misleading such that the general public is and was likely to be deceived.
- 64. Plaintiff and the Subclass lost money or property as a result of Defendant's FAL violations because: (a) they would not have purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna on the same terms if the true facts were known concerning its quantity and failure to comply with FDA regulations; (b) they paid a price premium for Sustainable Seas Tuna due to Defendant's promises that it

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT 10

1	contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can; and (c) Sustainable Seas Tuna did not		
2	have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as promised.		
3	COUNT VIII		
4	Negligent Misrepresentation		
5	65.	Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding	
6	paragraphs of this complaint.		
7	66.	Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against	
8	Defendant.		
9	67.	As discussed above, Defendant misrepresented that Sustainable Seas Tuna	
10	contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can and that Sustainable Seas Tuna is legal for		
11	sale in the United States. Defendant had a duty to disclose this information.		
12	68.	At the time Defendant made these representations, Defendant knew or should have	
13	known that these representations were false or made them without knowledge of their truth or		
14	veracity.		
15	69.	At an absolute minimum, Defendant negligently misrepresented and/or negligently	
16	omitted material facts about Sustainable Seas Tuna.		
17	70.	The negligent misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendant, upon which	
18	Plaintiff and Class members reasonably and justifiably relied, were intended to induce and actually		
19	induced Plaintiff and Class members to purchase Sustainable Seas Tuna.		
20	71.	Plaintiff and Class members would not have purchased Sustainable Seas Tuna if the	
21	true facts had been known.		
22	72.	The negligent actions of Defendant caused damage to Plaintiff and Class members,	
23	who are entitled to damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result.		
24		<u>COUNT IX</u>	
25		Fraud	
26	73.	Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding	
27	paragraphs of this complaint.		

- 74. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed Class against Defendant.
- 75. As discussed above, Defendant provided Plaintiff and Class members with false or misleading material information and failed to disclose material facts about Sustainable Seas Tuna, including but not limited to the fact that it contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can and that Sustainable Seas Tuna is legal for sale in the United States. These misrepresentations and omissions were made with knowledge of their falsehood.
- 76. The misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendant, upon which Plaintiff and Class members reasonably and justifiably relied, were intended to induce and actually induced Plaintiff and Class members to purchase Sustainable Seas Tuna.
- 77. The fraudulent actions of Defendant caused damage to Plaintiff and Class members, who are entitled to damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, seeks judgment against Defendant, as follows:

- a. For an order certifying the nationwide Class and the Subclass under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and naming Plaintiff as the representative of the Class and Subclass and Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel to represent members of the Class and Subclass;
- b. For an order declaring the Defendant's conduct violates the statutes referenced herein:
- c. For an order finding in favor of Plaintiff, the nationwide Class, and the Subclass on all counts asserted herein;
- d. For compensatory and punitive damages in amounts to be determined by the Court and/or jury;
- e. For prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded;
- f. For an order of restitution and all other forms of equitable monetary relief;
- g. For injunctive relief as pleaded or as the Court may deem proper; and

h. For an order awarding Plaintiff, the Class, and the Subclass their reasonable 1 2 attorneys' fees and expenses and costs of suit. 3 **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY** 4 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable. 5 6 Dated: November 5, 2015 Respectfully submitted, 7 **BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.** 8 9 By: /s/ *L. Timothy Fisher* 10 L. Timothy Fisher 11 L. Timothy Fisher (State Bar No. 191626) Julia A. Luster (State Bar No. 295031) 12 1990 North California Boulevard, Suite 940 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 13 Telephone: (925) 300-4455 Facsimile: (925) 407-2700 E-Mail: ltfisher@bursor.com 14 iluster@bursor.com 15 **BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.** 16 Scott A. Bursor (State Bar No. 276006) 888 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10019 Telephone: (212) 989-9113 17 18 Facsimile: (212) 989-9163 E-Mail: scott@bursor.com 19 Attorneys for Plaintiff 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT 13

CLRA Venue Declaration Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1780(d)

- I, Ehder A. Soto, declare as follows:
- I am a plaintiff in this action and a citizen of the State of California. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and, if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto.
- The complaint filed in this action is filed in the proper place because I purchased
 Sustainable Seas Solid White Tuna in Water in this District and Defendant conducts a substantial amount of business in this District.
- 3. While living in the Santa Cruz area, I purchased one or more 5-ounce can of Sustainable Seas Solid White Tuna in Water for my household and my personal use. I purchased Sustainable Seas Solid White Tuna in Water after I read the label on the can that said it contained an adequate amount of tuna for a 5-ounce can. The representations on the label were substantial factors influencing my decision to purchase Sustainable Seas Solid White Tuna in Water. I would not have purchased Sustainable Seas Solid White Tuna in Water if I had known that the cans were underfilled and underweight.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, executed on October 21, 2015 at Aptos, California.

Ehder A. Soto

mr.

BURSOR FISHER

1990 NORTH CALIFORNIA BLVD. SUITE 940 WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596-7351 www.bursor.com L. TIMOTHY FISHER
Tel: 925.300.4455
Fax: 925.407.2700
ltfisher@bursor.com

November 3, 2015

<u>Via Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested</u>

Wild Planet Foods, Inc. 1585 Heartwood Drive Suite F McKinleyville, CA 95519

Re: Notice and Demand Letter Pursuant to California Civil Code § 1782 and U.C.C. § 2-607

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves as a preliminary notice and demand for corrective action by Wild Planet Foods, Inc. ("Wild Planet") pursuant to the provisions of California Civil Code § 1782, on behalf of our client, Ehder Soto, and a class of all similarly situated purchasers of 5-ounce canned Sustainable Seas Solid Albacore Tuna in Water and Sustainable Seas Solid Light Tuna in Water (the "Class"). This letter also serves as notice pursuant to U.C.C. § 2-607(3)(a) concerning the breaches of express and implied warranties described herein.

Our client purchased one or more 5-ounce cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Albacore Tuna in Water, which were underfilled and thus substantially underweight. Independent testing by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA")¹ determined that 5-ounce cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Albacore Tuna in Water contain an average of only 2.25 ounces of pressed cake tuna when measured precisely according to the methods specified by 21 C.F.R. § 161.190(c). This is 30.3% below the federally mandated minimum standard of fill for these 5-ounce cans. *See* 21 C.F.R. § 161.190(c)(2)(i)-(xii). Similarly, NOAA determined that 5-ounce cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Light Tuna in Water contain an average of only 2.20 ounces of pressed cake tuna when measured precisely according to the methods specified by 21 C.F.R. § 161.190(c), which is 31.9% below the federally mandated minimum standard of fill for these 5-ounce cans. These results are further corroborated by additional testing by NOAA. In short, Wild Planet is cheating purchasers by providing less tuna than they are paying for. *See* U.C.C. §§ 2-313, 2-314.

By systematically underfilling and selling short-weighted cans of Sustainable Seas Solid Albacore Tuna in Water and Sustainable Seas Solid Light Tuna in Water (collectively, "Sustainable Seas Tuna"), Wild Planet has violated and continues to violate subsections (a)(5) and (a)(9) of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Civil Code § 1770, which prohibits representing that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses,

¹ NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce with responsibility for regulating the nation's fisheries.

benefits, or quantities which they do not have, and advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised.

On behalf of our client and the Class, we hereby demand that Wild Planet immediately (1) cease and desist from continuing to underfill and sell short-weighted cans of tuna; (2) issue an immediate recall of these underfilled, short-weighted cans; and (3) make full restitution to all purchasers of Sustainable Seas Tuna of all purchase money obtained from sales thereof.

We also demand that Wild Planet preserve all documents and other evidence which refer or relate to any of the above-described practices including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1. All documents concerning the packaging, canning, and manufacturing process for Sustainable Seas Tuna;
- 2. All documents concerning the measurements of the quantity of tuna in Sustainable Seas Tuna;
- 3. All standard of fill tests conducted on Sustainable Seas Tuna;
- 4. All documents concerning the pricing, advertising, marketing, and/or sale of Sustainable Seas Tuna;
- 5. All communications with customers concerning complaints or comments concerning the underfilling, short-weighting, or otherwise referencing the quantity of tuna in Sustainable Seas Tuna.

If Wild Planet contends that any statement in this letter is inaccurate in any respect, please provide us with your contentions and supporting documents immediately upon receipt of this letter.

This letter also serves as a thirty (30) day notice and demand requirement under § 1782 for damages. Accordingly, should Wild Planet fail to rectify the situation on a class-wide basis within 30 days of receipt of this letter, we will seek actual damages, plus punitive damages, interest, attorneys' fees and costs.

Please contact me right away if you wish to discuss an appropriate way to remedy this matter. If I do not hear from you promptly, I will take that as an indication that you are not interested in doing so.

Very truly yours,

2 - Fry FC

L. Timothy Fisher