

## StarKist® Company History:

StarKist Co. is a food company that is focused on healthy, shelf-stable seafood products in the United States. As America's favorite tuna\*, StarKist represents a tradition of quality, consumer trust and a commitment to sustainability since it was founded by Martin J. Bogdanovich in 1917.

## Martin J. Bogdanovich

- Martin J. Bogdanovich was born on the island of Vis in the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Croatia in 1882.
- He emigrated to the U.S. in 1908, the same year that he married his wife, Antoinette, with whom he would raise a son and six daughters.
- He began his career in the sardine fishing business in 1910, in Fish Harbor, Terminal Island, California.
- In 1917, Bogdanovich and four associates began a new venture call,
  French Sardine Company.



 Martin J. Bogdanovich, founder of Star-Kist Tuna. (Photo courtesy the San Pedro Bay Historical Society)



 Cannery workers pose in front of the French Sardine Cannery at Fish Harbor, Terminal Island circa 1939. French Sardine later became Star-Kist. (Photo courtesy Los Angeles Maritime Museum)

## **French Sardine Company**

- During Martin's lifetime, he had built the French Sardine Company into one of the world's largest tuna canneries.
- In 1942, the company began selling its products under the StarKist name.
- After Martin Bogdanovich's death, his son, Joseph, took over the family business.

## StarKist®

- In 1953, the French Sardine Company officially became StarKist Foods, and, by the mid-1950s, it had become largest tuna canning firm in the world.
- Our charismatic brand icon, Charlie® the Tuna, swam into the hearts of tuna fans in 1961 and is still a fan favorite today.
- The company was sold to the H.J. Heinz Company in 1963, with Joseph Bogdanovich continuing as its chief executive.
- In 2002, Del Monte Foods acquired StarKist.
- In 2008, Dongwon Industries purchased the company from Del Monte Foods.
- 2017, marks the company's 100th Anniversary!

