Case Study – Bumble Bee Tuna

The Tuna Wars of the 1990s







Segmentation – Key Target Segments

- Women 18-49 years old
- Healthy eaters
- Children 10-17 years old
- Tuna preferences vary by region
- Bumble Bee in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Miami
- Chicken of the Sea in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas, Okla
- StarKist in Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, South, California

Marketing Research and Analysis

- Tuna consumption decline coming from heavy users
- i.e., frequency of usage declining
- Only StarKist commanding any price premium
- And only then in certain markets
- Bumble Bee key factors
- Gross margin and profit driven by Whitemeat (63%) and convenience items (76%)
- 0 While #3 market share in Total Tuna, Bumble Bee had the #1 market share in Whitemeat Tuna
- 0 Bumble Bee recent winner of product quality test based on product quality improvements
- Until then, no statistically significant difference found between the Big 3 tuna brands

Positioning - Crucial Words in Tuna

"Taste"

- Issues: All tuna brands emphasizing the same attribute:
- "Sorry Charlie...only good-tasting tuna gets to be StarKist"
- "Yum-Yum Bumble Bee, Bumble Bee tuna..."
- "What's the best tuna, Chicken of the Sea"

"Convenient"

- Issues: Tuna losing ground on this attribute due to:
- The increasing number of women in the workforce
- Reduction in leisure time across key target segments

"Healthy"

- Issues: Tuna losing ground on this attribute due to:
- Concerns with tuna tuna served with mayonnaise, mercury in tuna

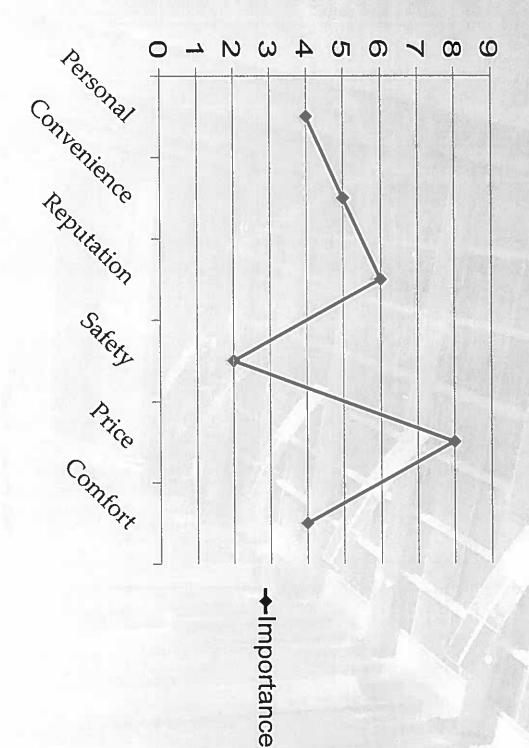
"Fun"

Issues: Drop in in tuna consumption among children

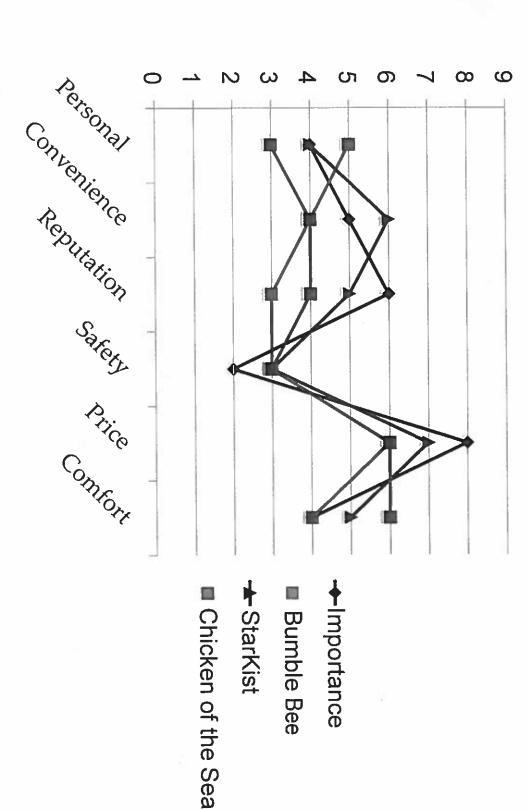
Perceptions

- Tuna category turning into a commodity
- Less than 20% believe that "1 brand is best"
- Overall tuna brand awareness low and declining
- No brand with Awareness above 50%
- Bumble Bee brand awareness in last place
- (70%) lower than Chicken of the Sea
 (75%) lower than StarKist
- Bumble Bee brand image (favorability) in last place (40%) lower than Chicken of the Sea
- (50%) lower than StarKist

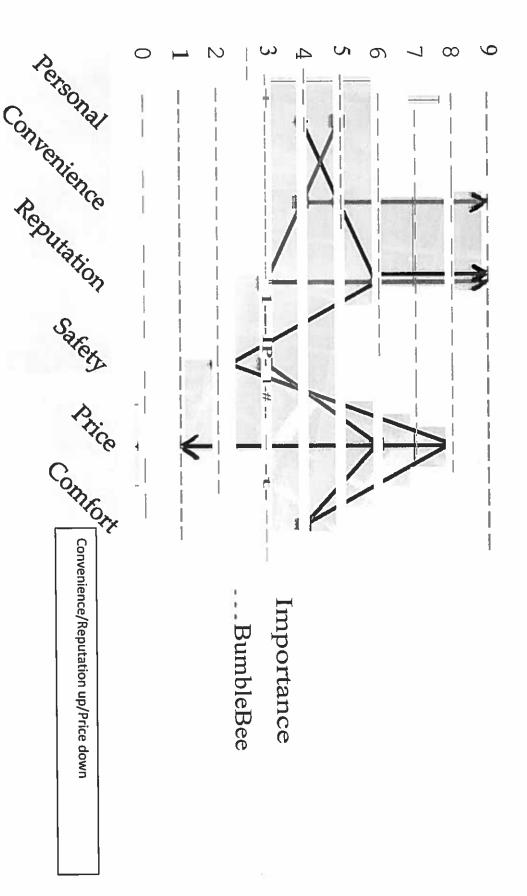
Value Drivers



Value Drivers - With Brand Overlay



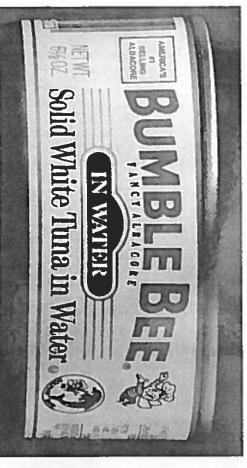
Value Drivers - Desired Movements



The Plan of Action

The Overall Goal – Reposition Bumble Bee

- Reposition as "Premium" Create & Own a New Word
- America's Favorite Albacore!
- Marketing's Law of Leadership (#1) and Law of Category (#2)*
- "Albacore" vs. "Whitemeat"
- "Albacore" sounds more sophisticated and prestigious than "Whitemeat"
- New Packaging
- More fun, active, modern, sophisticated



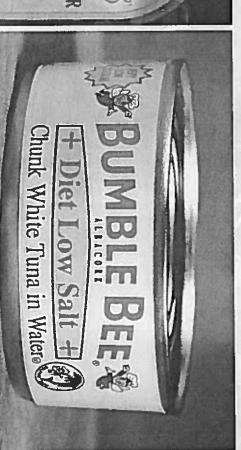


*The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing, Ries and Trout

The 4 P's - Product Goal

- Product Become leader in convenience and health
- New Product: Ready-To-Eat Tuna Salad lunch kit
- New Product: Diet Low Salt tuna
- Focus on more convenient sizes (single-serve, family)

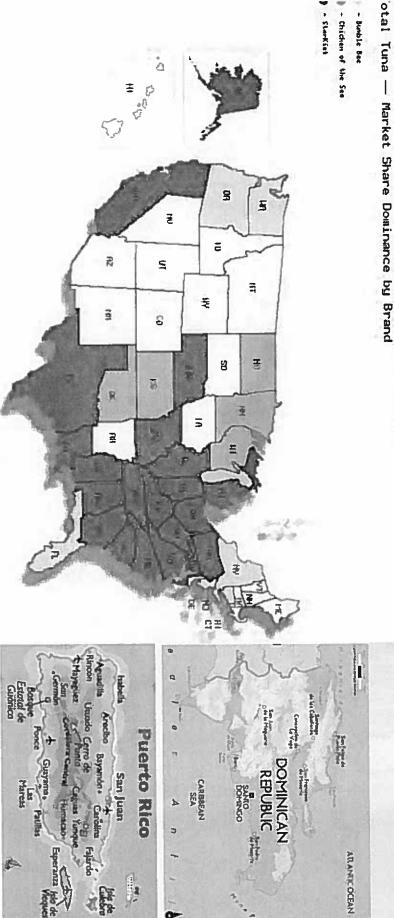






The 4 P's - Place (Distribution) Goal

- Place Increase distribution of high-margin products
- Gain distribution of new products
- Increase distribution of convenience sizes across the U.S.
- Broaden distribution outside of the U.S.

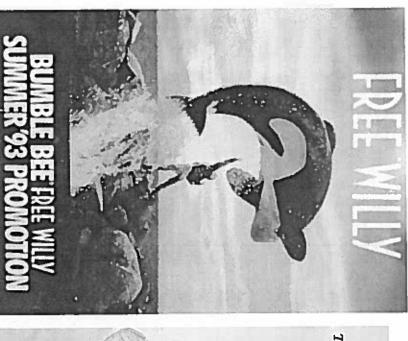


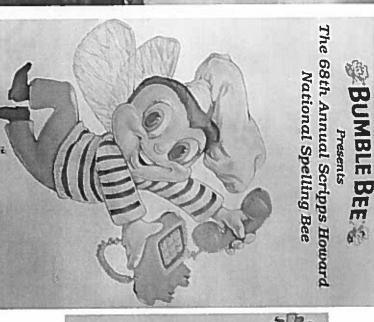


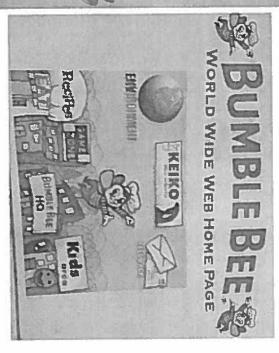


The 4 P's – Promotion Goal

- Promotion Appeal to children with targeted marketing
- Co-promotion with Warner Bros.' Free Willy movie release
- Sponsor of the Scripps-Howard's National Spelling Bee
- Created fun and interactive "world-wide" website...in 1996!

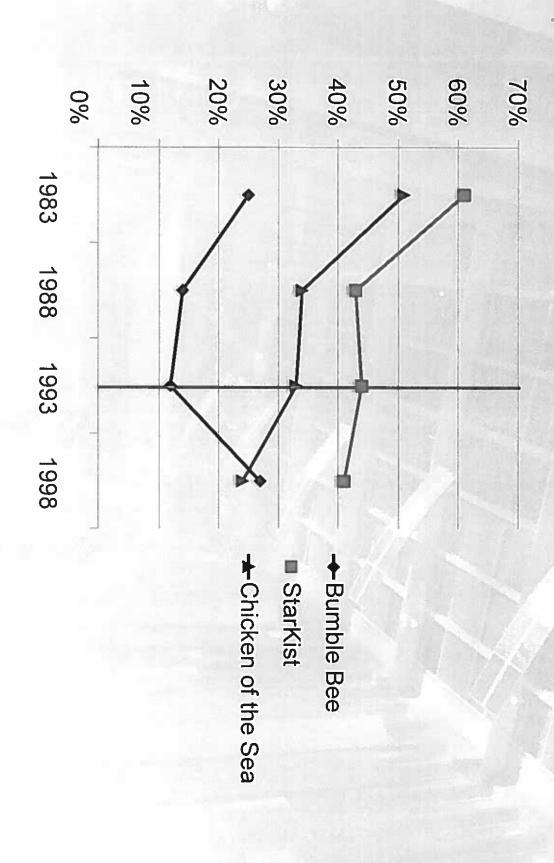




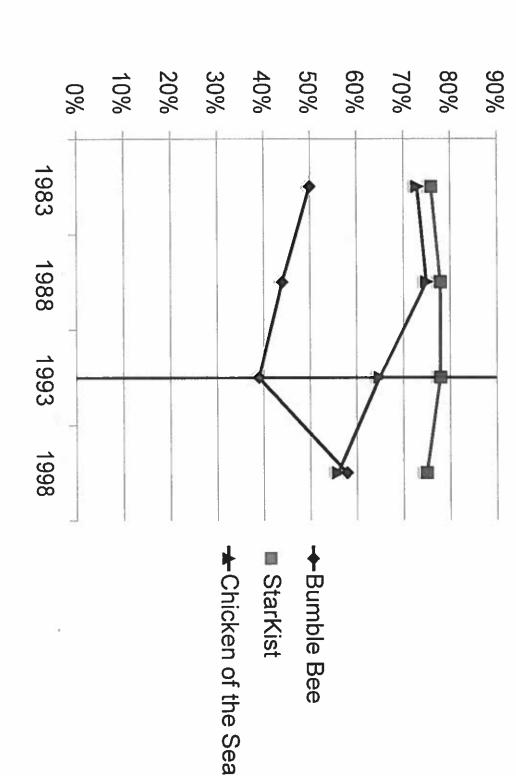


The Results – Circa 1998

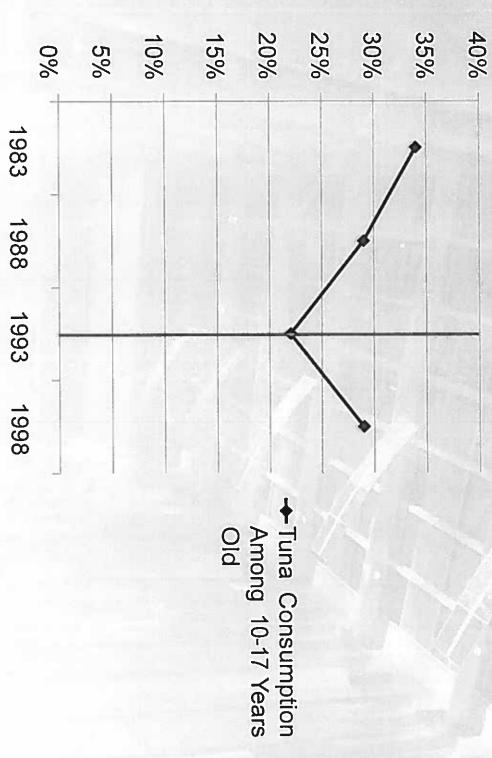
Advertising Awareness - Aided and Unaided



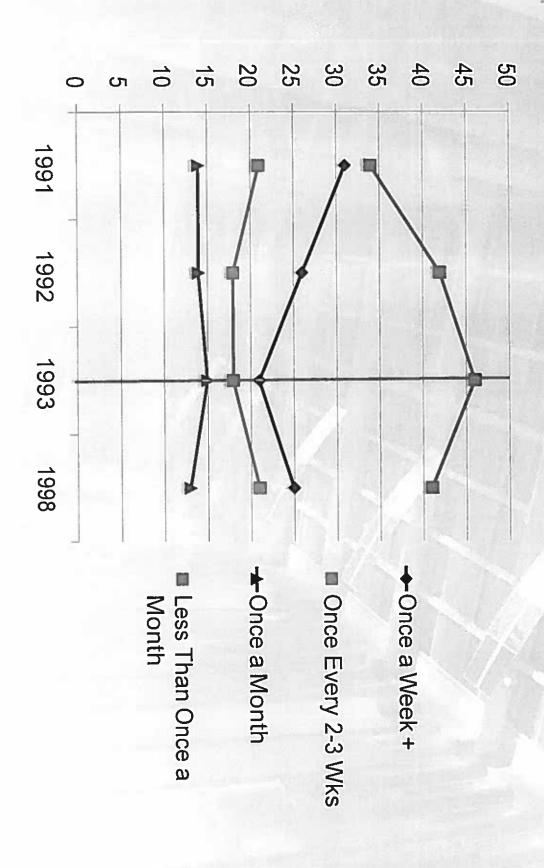
Favorability Ratings - Top 3-Box Rating



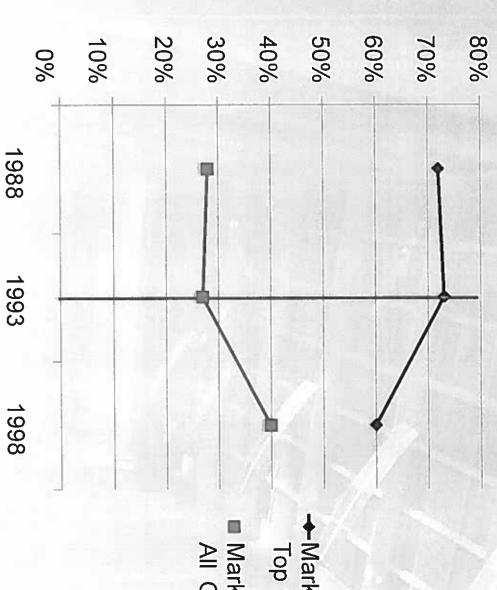
Tuna Consumption - Among Children



Frequency of Tuna Use - As a Percent

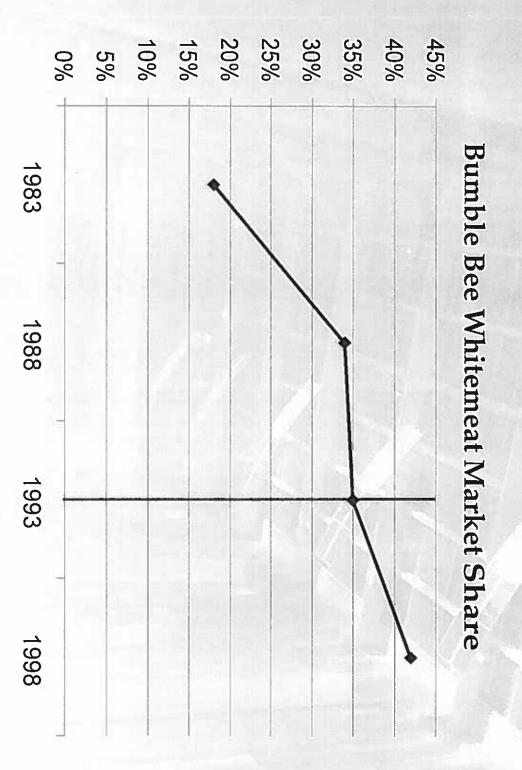


Reduced Dependence on Few Markets



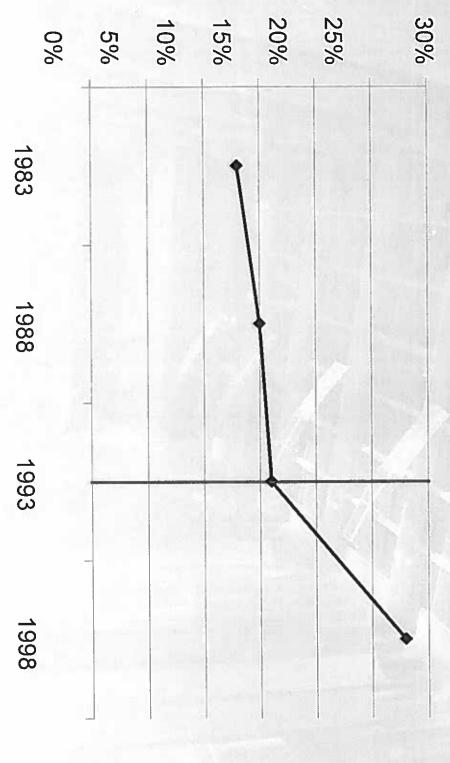
- → Market Share -Top 10 Markets
- Market Share --All Other Markets

Highest Ever Market Share - Whitemeat



Highest Ever Market Share - Convenience Items





Highest Ever Profit - Total Tuna

