

## Report on the United States Seafood Industry

Oysters	Oregon, Washington, California	Farmed	North American bivalve aquaculture does not appear to have significant environmental impacts and in some cases can improve local water quality
Rainbow Trout	Idaho	Farmed	Rainbow Trout are farmed inland, using closed systems that don't release polluted water.
Salmon	Alaska, California	Fully fished	Alaska's wild salmon fisheries are healthy and well regulated. We believe wild salmon from a well-regulated fishery is the most environmentally sound choice. California's wild-caught salmon are managed effectively. The length of the fishing season is adjusted to maintain sustainable populations. The majority of California's wild-caught salmon were most likely hatched in hatcheries, many of which are supported by commercial fishermen through California's Salmon Stamp program.
Striped Bass	U.S. West Coast	Farmed	Striped bass are farmed inland, using closed systems that don't release polluted water.
Sturgeon	U.S. West Coast	Farmed	Sturgeon are farmed inland, using closed systems that don't release polluted water.
Tilapia	Worldwide	Farmed	Tilapia grow fast, eat a vegetable-based diet and are raised in inland ponds. Farm-raised tilapia has the least environmental impact of any farmed fish.

### PROCEED WITH CAUTION

American Lobster	East Coast N. America	Fully fished or overfished	These seafoods may or may not be environmentally friendly, depending on how and where they're caught or farmed. We monitor the status of the wild fish stocks on this list to be sure that populations remain healthy. We check the sources carefully before we buy; we suggest you do the same.
Bay Scallops	New England	Fully fished or overfished	Based on population models and other data, fisheries management agencies list American lobsters as overfished. But the lobster population doesn't seem to be declining; American lobsters are caught in traps with little bycatch; and the fishery is very well regulated. Considering all these factors together, we have moved American lobster from our Avoid list into Proceed with Caution.
Bay Shrimp (Pacific Pink Shrimp)	U.S. West Coast	Moderate to fully fished	Many populations of bay scallops are overfished. We buy bay scallops from Massachusetts, where populations are still healthy.
English/Petrale Sole	U.S. West Coast	Moderate to fully fished	The bay shrimp population is healthy. We are trying to learn more about bycatch associated with this fishery.
Imitation Crab/Surimi (Pollock)	Alaska	Fully fished	Sole populations are healthy, but we're gathering more information about levels of bycatch and habitat impact in this bottom-trawl fishery.
Salmon	Washington, Oregon	Fully fished	Although this is a well-regulated fishery, some scientists believe that heavy pollock fishing takes too much food from sea lions, disrupting Arctic ecosystems. We're studying this issue.
Shrimp/Prawns	Georgia (Turtle Safe)	Fully fished	Wild salmon from Washington and Oregon include some healthy and some overfished populations. We buy Turtle-Safe® shrimp, certified by the Sea Turtle Restoration Project. Sea turtles can escape from the nets that catch these shrimp. However, bycatch of other animals (fish and invertebrates) is still high.

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Snow Crab	Bering Sea Alaska	Fully fished	In response to a sudden decline in snow crab stocks, fishery quotas for 2000 have been slashed to less than 15% of the 1999 quotas. Managers predict that this fishery will be closed completely in 2001, and that these emergency measures will help the snow crab population recover quickly.
Spot Prawns	West Coast N. America	Fully fished to overfished	In Monterey Bay, spot prawns are caught in both traps and trawls. Local fishers have kept the trap fishery sustainable for generations. But most spot prawns are now caught with trawl nets. The trawl fishery is still poorly regulated and there are concerns about overfishing. We recommend trap-caught spot prawns only.
Yellowfin/Ahi Tuna	Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean	Fully fished	Yellowfin populations are healthy. The yellowfin we buy is caught on longlines near Hawaii. In this area, longlines take very little bycatch. In other areas, longlines kill tons of unwanted fish, seabirds and other wildlife. This is one example of why we look closely at the source when we make our seafood choices.

**AVOID**

			We avoid these species. Their survival is threatened by too much fishing, or they are caught or farmed in ways that damage the environment. Some of these fisheries are under new management plans to help them recover. When we see progress, we hope to buy them again.
Bluefin Tuna	Atlantic Ocean	Overfished to depleted	Due to poor management, the Atlantic bluefin catch is only 10% of what it was a decade ago. International management efforts have so far failed to recover this species. Quotas for U.S. fishermen are very small.
Bluefin Tuna	Pacific Ocean	Fully fished	Pacific bluefin are in less trouble than Atlantic bluefin, but management lags and fishing pressure is increasing.
Chilean Seabass Patagonian Toothfish	Antarctic and adjacent waters	Overfished	Heavy, unregulated fishing is wiping out this slow-growing, deep-ocean species. In 1998, the illegal catch was ten times the legal catch.
Cod, Atlantic	North Atlantic	Overfished to depleted	Cod's firm, white flesh made it a favorite for fish and chips. But loose management, overfishing and destruction of undersea habitat have pushed this fish past its limit. Managers are working
Lingcod	West Coast North America	Fully fished to Overfished	Lingcod are alarmingly overfished. New restrictions are in place to help this species recover.
Monkfish	New England and mid-Atlantic	Overfished to depleted	Monkfish, caught in the same nets as Atlantic cod, became popular as the cod got scarce. Now monkfish too are overfished.
Orange Roughy	New Zealand	Overfished to depleted	This deepwater fish was heavily fished until the population crashed. Orange roughy grow slowly—market-sized fish can be 40 to 80 years old. New management, with strict quotas, is now in place.
Rockfish (also called Pacific Red Snapper or Rock Cod)	Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California	Fully fished to overfished to depleted	There are more than 60 species of rockfish along the U.S. West Coast. Rockfish reproduce slowly, so they can't take heavy levels of fishing. We're no longer serving rockfish in our restaurant.
			In California, Oregon and Washington fisheries, rockfish species threatened by overfishing include bank rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, silvergrey

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			rockfish, Pacific Ocean perch, bacaccio and canary rockfish. Quotas for many species have been slashed. New management plans are being developed to protect overfished species and to manage bycatch.
			Off Alaska, the status of most rockfish populations is unknown. Because different species of rockfish share the same habitat, they are often caught together in one net. It's difficult to avoid catching overfished rockfishes while trawling for more plentiful species.
Sablefish (Black Cod, Butterfish) Salmon	West Coast North America Pacific Northwest, Chile, Great Britain	Fully fished to overfished Farmed	Sablefish populations have been in decline since 1980. We don't buy farmed salmon. Raising salmon in ocean pens pollutes the water with feces and can spread disease to wild salmon. Farmed salmon eat fishmeal made from ocean fish, so salmon farming hurts ocean food chains. Also, it's usually Atlantic salmon that are farmed---even in the Pacific. Salmon that escape from farms can cause problems for native wild salmon.
Sea Scallops	East Coast North America	Overfished	Sea scallops are overfished in New England. We're monitoring efforts to help sea scallop populations recover.
Shark (all)	Worldwide	Overfished	Sharks reproduce slowly. They can't withstand heavy fishing, and most species are overfished. Many sharks are killed just for their fins, used in shark-fin soup. Millions of sharks also die as a result
Shrimp/Prawns	Various, mainly tropical countries	Farmed	Some shrimp farms were built by destroying mangrove forests and other coastal habitat, where wild shrimp and fish feed and breed. We're looking into shrimp that is farmed inland using environmentally-friendly methods. We'll switch to farmed shrimp when we find a sustainable source.
Swordfish	Pacific, Atlantic Indian Ocean	Atlantic overfished to depleted, Indian Ocean uncertain, Pacific fully fished	In the Atlantic, many years of fishing have greatly impacted the swordfish population. Today, the average swordfish caught in the north Atlantic weighs just 90 pounds, compared to over 200 pounds in the 1960's. These small swordfish are caught before they have a chance to reproduce, so the population is in a downward spiral. A new international agreement to reduce the catch of swordfish has been proposed, and the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service is working to implement new protections for juveniles.

Table 9.1 Source: Monterey Bay Aquarium *Our Seafood Policy* [www.montereybayaquarium.org](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org) updated 6/2/00

While Pacific swordfish are not in such serious trouble, we're concerned about bycatch in this fishery. We support the campaign to "give swordfish a break" and let populations recover.