



SEA PORT®

Sustainability Assessment

WILD CHANNEL CATFISH

Channel Catfish are an excellent fish to farm: they are omnivorous (eat both plants and animals) and grow quickly while consuming feeds that contain small amounts of marine ingredients, they breed easily, are relatively resistant to diseases, and can tolerate a broad range of water qualities. Generally, these attributes make Channel Catfish a more environmentally preferable species for aquaculture, but these same factors make them very successful invaders of water bodies where they are not indigenous, and where they can outcompete and exclude native species. Channel Catfish are native to North American and were introduced to several countries including China from which Sea Port sources. It is important that Channel Catfish farms, no matter where they are located, try to minimize fish escapes into the natural environment.

Channel Catfish farming can have low environmental impacts; however, the performance of individual fish farms can vary. Impacts may occur from pollution, misuse of chemicals, spread of disease, fish escapes, and the excess use of feed.

GO BLUE! SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY SPECTRUM



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LEVEL: MODERATE

Channel Catfish aquaculture developed in the United States with the help of top scientists from both government and academia. Much of the current state of the art of Channel Catfish aquaculture has been adopted by producers in other countries such as China. However, farms that do not adhere to proper practices such as proper use of water, pollution control, proper feeding, and protecting against escapes can cause damage to the surrounding environment.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

To reduce negative environmental impacts, the Catfish farming industry in China should implement the best management practices currently under development and move towards BAP certifications.

ACTIONS THAT SEA PORT IS UNDERTAKING

Sea Port is a Governing Member of the Global Aquaculture Alliance, which is actively working with many Channel Catfish farmers worldwide to use their Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) certification guidelines.

Sea Port has encouraged their Chinese supplier to pursue BAP certification. Sea Port believes that Catfish, which is now the 7th most popular seafood consumed in the U.S., will continue to improve its farming practices as it expands not only in China, but also around the world. Sea Port also believes that, in aggregate, choosing from a diverse variety of seafood is better for sustaining the world's seafood resources and Catfish is an important contributor to this needed variety.



We created the sustainability assessments for each of our seafood items in order to reveal the existing and potential environmental impacts and risks that are associated with producing them for human consumption. This allowed us to establish the starting position for each of our seafood items along our progressive Go Blue Seafood Sustainability Spectrum. These assessments are only a single snapshot in time and because of this, we will continue to assess and update the critical sustainability needs associated with our supply sources and issue updates to the Go Blue Seafood Sustainability Spectrum as needed. There is a growing global awareness for the need to assure the sustainability of farmed and wild caught seafood and because of this; all around the world positive changes are rapidly occurring at all levels of the seafood supply chain. We will continue to spread this growing awareness and work with our many industry partners to improve the sustainability of all seafood, which we believe is the ideal protein of choice to feed an ever-growing world population. Our Go Blue Seafood Sustainability Spectrum serves as our compass and yardstick as we strive to move all our products forward to becoming more sustainable. Please join us in this committed quest and Catch Our Wave® to sustainability by choosing a diverse variety of responsibly produced seafood as part of your diet.