

Sustainability Assessment

SEA PORT®

FLYING FISH ROE

Flying Fish are a diverse group of fishes containing more than 60 species. They are distinguished by large pectoral fins that allow them to “fly” for brief periods of time above the surface of the water, often as a way to escape predators. Sea Port sources Flying Fish Roe, also known as tobiko, from Taiwan, where the Yellowing and the Glider Flying Fish are targeted.

The fishery takes place in the northern Taiwan Strait, just south of the East China Sea. Flying Fish Roe is harvested by taking advantage of the natural behavior of female Flying Fish to lay their eggs on floating objects or rafts of seaweed. Fishermen create large balls of seaweed which they tie to their vessels, and wait for female Flying Fish to deposit their eggs. When enough roe has accumulated, the “ball” of seaweed is hauled in and stripped of roe. Though this fishery is low impact in terms of bycatch and habitat impacts, there are no stock assessments for Flying Fish in this region. The high value of tobiko and the expanding fishery for adult Flying Fish, combined with the lack of information on stock status and management, are problematic.

GO BLUE! SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY SPECTRUM

FLYING FISH ROE



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LEVEL: LOW

The fishery for Flying Fish Roe is low-impact and has no known bycatch or negative habitat impacts. However, stock status of adult populations is not known and unmanaged, nor are there any known regulations on the harvest of roe.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

Health of adult Flying Fish populations needs to be monitored to assure they are not overfished, particularly for Yellowing Flying Fish, which have a limited distribution. Appropriate controls on the harvest of roe should be developed to prevent overharvesting.

ACTIONS THAT SEA PORT IS UNDERTAKING

Sea Port is not presently concerned about irresponsible environmental practices for this fishery. It is a highly skilled artisanal fishery that has limited negative environmental impacts. However, we are constantly monitoring the fishery in order to detect any negative changes and we will modify our sourcing activities accordingly if they are observed. Sea Port believes that, in aggregate, choosing from a diverse variety of seafood is better for sustaining the world’s seafood resources and Flying Fish Roe should be a part of this 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.

Go Blue! Plate Choose My Seafood for Sustainability

Frequency	Seafood Items
2x/week	Shrimp, Scallops, Mussels, Salmon, Striped Pangasius, Seaweed, Tilapia, Milkfish
1x/week	Crayfish, Crab, Langostino, Hoki, Squid, Pollock, Yellowfin Tuna, Marinara Seafood Mix, Catfish
1x/every other week	FLYING FISH ROE, Holland Dover Sole, Barramundi, Swordfish, Golden Pompano, Mahi Mahi, Scad, Wahoo, Red Cod, Chilean Sea Bass, Octopus, Lobster, Orange Roughy
1x/month	Eel, Largemouth Bass, Striped Bass, Frog Legs, Jellyfish, Escolar, Kingfish, Opakapaka, Snapper