

# Sustainability Assessment

SEA PORT®

## FARMED LARGEMOUTH BASS

Sea Port imports Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) from Taiwan. Bass farming can have significant environmental impacts. Largemouth Bass is considered one of the world's worst invasive species. When farmed outside of its native range, such as Taiwan, escaped largemouth bass can establish self-sustaining populations that reduce or entirely displace native species through competition and predation and otherwise adversely affect aquatic ecosystems. Largemouth Bass are also relatively inefficient feeders and use high amounts of fishmeal, derived from wild fish stocks, in their feed. Finally, overuse of groundwater as a water source for aquaculture ponds in Taiwan is a serious concern, where it is known to contribute to land subsidence (lowering of the surface of the land). Largemouth Bass is firmly established in the wild in Taiwan and a robust sports fishery now exists for this non-native species.

### GO BLUE! SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY SPECTRUM FARMED LARGEMOUTH BASS



#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LEVEL: HIGH

Largemouth Bass is a highly invasive species; bass farming uses relatively large amounts of wild fish in feed; and aquaculture ponds in Taiwan may contribute to land subsidence by using groundwater.

#### SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

Largemouth Bass should not be farmed outside of its native range or where populations are not already well established. Developing suitable substitutes for fishmeal in bass feed and using only feeds specifically formulated for bass will help reduce use of wild fish stocks.

#### ACTIONS THAT SEA PORT IS UNDERTAKING

Sea Port is continuing to import farmed Largemouth Bass from Taiwan because it has already firmly established itself in the wild as a self-sustaining population and has proven to be a hardy fish for farming. Having said this, we believe that advances in feed formulations and containment improvements will drive this aquaculture product forward to becoming more sustainable throughout 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 Farmed Largemouth Bass 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