

Sustainability Assessment

SEA PORT®

SEA BASS / ANTARCTIC TOOTHFISH

Chilean Sea Bass (*Dissostichus eleginoides* and commonly called Toothfish) is a slow-growing, long-lived fish that is late to mature, making it susceptible to overfishing. Due to the strong market demand for Chilean Sea Bass, illegal fishing has historically been a common occurrence and has contributed to diminished populations and decreasing average sizes in some fishing areas. Historically, the 24-country CCAMLR commission (The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) has been responsible for conserving fish within Antarctic waters (Southern Ocean) and has been particularly focused on conserving Chilean Sea Bass. As an active member of the commission, the United States working through NOAA requires that all imported Chilean Sea Bass must be accompanied by a document verifying that the fish was caught legally. Recently, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and other NGOs have worked with CCAMLR and fishermen to make the fishery environmentally and socio-economically more responsible. Today approximately one third of the entire Southern Ocean's total allowable catch for Chilean Sea Bass (toothfish) is managed to prevent overfishing and has achieved MSC certification. Fisheries in Chile, New Zealand, and Australia are among those who have been certified. Recently, the Falkland Island fishery has entered MSC full assessment. Great strides have been made to modify gear to lessen seabird by-catch, to strengthen enforcement to reduce IUU fishing, and to foster international cooperation among all nations participating in this high value fishery.

GO BLUE! SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY SPECTRUM

CHILEAN SEA BASS



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LEVEL: MODERATE TO HIGH

Biological factors make this fish extremely susceptible to overfishing. Illegal fishing is still occurring, putting some populations at further risk.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

Improvements are needed in scientific research and data collection to better determine population structure, so that fisheries may be better managed. All illegal fishing needs to be stopped.

ACTIONS THAT SEA PORT IS UNDERTAKING

Sea Port is excited that currently there are four Chilean Sea Bass fishing areas in the Southern Ocean that have achieved MSC certification. Sea Port will continue to provide Chilean Sea Bass to its customers while constantly encouraging their suppliers to advance responsible fishing throughout the entire Southern Ocean so that the remaining Chilean Sea Bass fisheries can move towards being more environmentally sustainable. Sea Port will source whenever possible from artisanal fishermen out of Chile whose negative environmental impact on the fishery is generally low. Sea Port believes that, in aggregate, choosing from a diverse variety of seafood is better for sustaining the world's seafood resources and Chilean Sea Bass is steadily moving toward becoming more sustainable so it can help contribute 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 snap shot 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.

