

Sustainability Assessment

SEA PORT®

SLIPPER LOBSTER

The Slipper Lobster (*Thenus orientalis* and *Ibacus ciliates*) fisheries of Thailand, Taiwan, China, and Vietnam are largely characterized by a lack of information and resource management. Sources indicate that Slipper Lobster is landed primarily by trawls targeting multiple species, which may contribute to the difficulty in collecting accurate data on Slipper Lobster landings. Because of the multi-species nature of the trawl fisheries that land Slipper Lobster, bycatch, particularly of juvenile finfish species, may be an issue. Although Slipper Lobster reside in somewhat more resilient habitats (e.g., sand and mud), fisheries that land these lobsters may also take place over more structured habitat, where bottom trawling could negatively impact the sea floor. In order to mitigate environmental risk factors from trawl-caught Slipper Lobster, the use of traps should be encouraged.

GO BLUE! SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY SPECTRUM SLIPPER LOBSTER



China
Thailand,
Vietnam,
Taiwan

Catch Our Wave® to Sustainability

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LEVEL:

Moderate To High

Slipper lobster fisheries are characterized by a lack of fisheries management oversight, which can lead to overfishing and rapid depletion of the resource. This is exacerbated by a lack of data on nearly every aspect of Slipper Lobster fisheries (catch, size, seasonal trends). Because Slipper Lobster is primarily landed by bottom trawls, habitat impacts are also a potential issue.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

There is a need for improved data collection; implementation of specific fisheries management regulations (e.g., quotas, gear restrictions, seasonal or area restrictions); and increased use of traps, which are potentially less harmful to sea floor habitats than trawls.

ACTIONS THAT SEA PORT IS UNDERTAKING

Sea Port has initiated tracing requirements from their Slipper Lobster suppliers that will start to pinpoint the vessel name (when available) that caught the Slipper Lobster, the catch method and the catch area. Collection of such data may help spur the eventual establishment of management schemes for this multi-species trawl fishery and also to encourage the greater use of traps. Sea Port believes that, in aggregate, choosing from a diverse variety of seafood is better for sustaining the world's seafood resources and that Slipper Lobster 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 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.

