

Sustainability Assessment

SEA PORT®

SWORDFISH

Swordfish, sometimes referred to as broadbill, are a highly migratory species common in tropical, temperate, and are even found in colder oceans worldwide. Once they reach 2 to 3 years of age, Swordfish have very few natural predators. Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) have a life span of about 7-9 years and grow relatively quickly. The world-wide popularity of their meat and the sheer number of international longline fleets targeting tuna and Swordfish in all oceans make Swordfish moderately vulnerable to fishing pressure. Though more data are needed to properly define the number of individual Swordfish stocks (genetically distinct populations), most populations are thought to be at healthy levels.

Swordfish are generally caught in targeted longline fisheries, or are caught as bycatch in tuna longline fisheries. Longlines, the gear responsible for the majority of Swordfish catch, have minimal habitat impacts because they do not come in contact with the seafloor. However, high rates of bycatch of threatened and endangered sea turtles, seabirds, and sharks are problematic, particularly among international fleets, where observer coverage is low and bycatch mitigation measures have not been universally adopted. Sea Port currently imports Swordfish from Chile and Singapore. All of Sea Port's Swordfish is documented to be traceable back to a legal fishing vessel by way of the HMS (highly migratory species) International Trade Permit system.

GO BLUE! SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY SPECTRUM

SWORDFISH



Singapore
Chile

Catch Our Wave® to Sustainability

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LEVEL: MODERATE TO HIGH

Though Swordfish grow relatively quickly and produce millions of eggs annually, their popularity and the large number of fleets targeting them worldwide make them moderately vulnerable to fishing pressure.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

Improved information on genetic stock structure will improve the accuracy of stock assessments. Improvement is needed in bycatch mitigation techniques for international fleets.

ACTIONS THAT SEA PORT IS UNDERTAKING

Sea Port continues to purchase only Swordfish that are documented to be traceable back to a legal fishing vessel by way of the HMS (highly migratory species) International Trade Permit system and by doing so, this helps further improvements in the stock data collection process. Sea Port believes that, in aggregate, choosing from a diverse variety of seafood is better for sustaining the world's seafood resources and Swordfish 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.

