

Sustainability Assessment

SEA PORT®

YELLOWFIN TUNA

Yellowfin Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) is a highly migratory pelagic species that inhabits tropical, subtropical, and warm-temperate oceans worldwide. Yellowfin can grow to more than 250 pounds and more than six feet in length. Heavily targeted throughout their range, most Yellowfin Tuna stocks are either fully exploited or slightly overfished. Sea Port's Indonesian and Thailand supply of Yellowfin comes from longline vessels operating primarily in the Indian Ocean, and Sea Port's Philippine Yellowfin supply comes from various gears (longline, purse seine, pole-and-line) operating primarily in Philippine waters.

Management of yellowfin tuna is complex due to its highly migratory behavior, and involves the cooperation of many different nations through regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) as well as national and regional oversight by individual countries. Due to the logistics of managing a resource shared by many countries, most RFMOs have experienced issues with managing and regulating tuna fishing. Illegal fishing and unreported catches are a significant concern in the tuna fisheries.

Challenges faced by the Indonesian and Thailand tuna fishery are poor recording and reporting of catch statistics, bycatch of sea turtles by longline gear, and the capture of juvenile sizes of Yellowfin and bigeye tuna. Though the Philippine data reporting system is more robust, there are still issues with collecting data from fishers; protected, endangered and threatened (PET) species bycatch; and bycatch of juvenile Yellowfin and bigeye tuna. Shark finning is also a concern, particularly among Indonesian fleets. Both countries are pursuing improved research and monitoring of their tuna resources, with the financial and technical assistance of neighboring countries and from the international management bodies that oversee international management of Yellowfin Tuna and other tuna species.

GO BLUE! SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY SPECTRUM YELLOWFIN TUNA



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LEVEL: MODERATE

There is little or no monitoring of landings and bycatch as well as illegal fishing by un-licensed fishing vessels in both the Philippine and Indonesian fisheries. Additionally, overfishing of Yellowfin is occurring in the Indian Ocean.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

Comprehensive monitoring and data collection is a must. Improved monitoring and data reporting on Indonesian and Philippine high seas and artisanal tuna fleets is needed, as well as the implementation of bycatch mitigation measures with prohibitions on the retention of shark fins that are not attached to the shark.

ACTIONS THAT SEA PORT IS UNDERTAKING

Sea Port must comply with the NOAA Fisheries Service's Tuna Tracking & Verification Program (TTVP). Sea Port submits a tuna tracking form that lists the harvest method, vessels identification, and FAO fishing area for all Yellowfin Tuna they import. Sea Port believes progress is being made to improve the world's Yellowfin Tuna fisheries to become more sustainable. Sea Port also believes tuna, America's #2 most popular seafood, should be enjoyed as just a part of a diverse variety of seafood to choose from. Sea Port believes that, in aggregate, choosing from an expanding diverse variety of seafood is better for sustaining the world's seafood resources.

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.

