

Ocean Wise Recommendation Policy

Ocean Wise’s classification system is based on two categories: sustainable (Ocean Wise) or unsustainable (not recommended Ocean Wise). Species are regularly updated and/or reclassified with the latest scientific information.

General Rule of Recommendations

Ocean Wise recommendations are generated from assessments using the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch Program methodology: [Wild Capture Criteria](#) and [Aquaculture Criteria](#).

Ocean Wise recommendations are based on the rankings of each of the five assessment criteria of the Monterey Bay Aquarium report.

In order to receive an Ocean Wise recommendation, a seafood item must be ranked overall as a “Green/Best Choice” or meet *all* of the following requirements:

- i. Have no red rankings among the 5 criteria
- ii. Have at least 2 green rankings among the 5 criteria
- iii. Not be harvested with any of the following unmodified invasive techniques deemed to be moderately or highly disruptive:
 - a. Bottom trawl
 - b. Dredge
 - c. Otter trawl
 - d. Pelagic longline
- iv. Vulnerability must not be ranked as “vulnerable” if stock status is unknown

Wild Pacific Salmon Policy – British Columbia and Alaska

Due to the variability between seasons for wild Pacific salmon populations, Ocean Wise annually produces a Wild Pacific Salmon Recommendations Report for British Columbia and Alaska. The recommendations aim to identify the best choice for that given season by narrowing down to species, strength of run, stock status, management area and catch method as applicable. Our recommendations are based on early test fishery results, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and National Marine Fishery Services management plans, data from the Pacific Salmon Commission and the scientific and academia communities. Ocean Wise monitors the fisheries in-season and updates the report as necessary.

Ocean Wise Working Collaborations

In addition, Ocean Wise works directly with individual fishers and farmers who have committed to improving their own practices in order to meet Ocean Wise standards. These collaborations aid and support individual fishers or farmers who practice sustainable standards and are more than likely to meet the criteria, but have not yet been assessed using the Monterey Bay Aquarium methodology or have been assessed within a whole fishery or aquaculture assessment but are doing practices that are above and beyond the traditional and/or norm practices for a fishery or farming operation.

For further information on our recommendations, please contact Ocean Wise, Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre:

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