

SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATIONS & RATINGS: WHAT DO THEY ALL MEAN?



Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)

SFC EcoScore 9.2

- Comprehensive certification of farmed fish
- Audited chain of custody
- Includes assessment of Environment, Social practices and Occupational health and safety
- Public disclosure of audit/inspection

Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP)

SFC EcoScore 4*=7.75, 3*= 7.2, 2*= 6.5, 1*= 3.8.

- Comprehensive certification of farmed fish
- 'Stars' are awarded for certification of Feed, Hatchery, Farms, and Processing
- BAP 1 star for processing plant only, 2 star for processing and farm, 3 and 4 star include certification of hatchery and/or feed.
- More commonly used in the Americas.

GlobalG.A.P.

EcoScore 6.5

- Comprehensive certification of crops, livestock and farmed fish
- Includes assessment of Environment, Social practices and Occupational health and safety, animal welfare, food safety and biosecurity
- Encompasses feed, hatchery, and farm
- More commonly used in Europe.

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

SFC EcoScore 7.5

- Comprehensive certification of wild fisheries
- Rigorous, transparent, multi-year process for accreditation
- Audited chain of custody
- Includes assessment of species population, environmental impact including by-catch and fishery management.

Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA) Seafood Watch

SFC EcoScore Green=7 (oysters and mussels 9), Yellow=4.7, Red=2.3

- Based on scientific evaluation of wild fisheries and aquaculture, by region and catch/farming method
- Rates species as 'Best Choice' (green), 'Good Alternative' (yellow), and 'Avoid' (red). Also 'Certified' (blue) recognizes third party certifications such as MSC
- Rating can be different in the same area, depending on catch method
- A rating rather than a certification
- Includes assessment of species population, environmental impact including by-catch and fishery management.
- Maintain a very useful online tool and mobile app for looking up your fish.

Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI)

SFC EcoScore 7.5

- Aims to build alignment on seafood sustainability
- Benchmarking tool evaluates and recognizes other certifications, underpinned by UN FAO guidelines
- GSSI recognized certifications include Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM), Iceland Responsible Fisheries Management (IRFM), MSC, BAP, GlobalG.A.P., ASC and others

Friend of the Sea

SFC EcoScore 7.25

- Certification for wild capture fisheries and aquaculture as well as other products.
- Annual audits by independent international certification bodies.
- Evaluation against environmental sustainability and social accountability criteria

Fair Trade

SFC EcoScore 5.5

- Certification focused on ensuring benefits of trade are share equitably through the supply chain
- For seafood, predominantly small producers in capture fisheries
- Includes some environmental standards

Fishery Improvement Project (FIP)

SFC EcoScore 6

- A wild fishery may have some issues now, but a FIP is a structured action plan to address these issues.
- Comprehensive FIPs are frequently targeted at working towards MSC certification, but basic FIPs may be smaller scope based on one or two specific issues
- FIPs report annually, and are graded based on progress being made
- The most comprehensive list of FIPs can be found at fisheryprogress.org

What is the difference between a Certification & Rating?

Certification programs offer a chain of custody and traceability standard on sustainability claims, whereas a rating system does not. Generally, fishery assessments in certification programs are conducted by independent accredited certification bodies as opposed to scientists selected by the rating system body. Wild-capture certification programs offer transparency and stakeholder engagement during the assessment process, whereas rating systems typically do not.



Monterey Bay Aquarium
Seafood Watch



FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG