

## Examples of Fishery Management Decisions

Species	Status	Comments
<b>Alaska pollock</b>	<p><u>From NOAA</u>: "Alaska pollock population levels are high, and no overfishing is occurring" and "Midwater trawl nets, which have minimal impacts on the ocean environment, are used to harvest Alaska pollock" and "Bycatch is minimal."</p> <p><u>From MSC</u>: The BSAI and GOA pollock fisheries are both certified under the MSC program in 2005, and have since had annual audit reviews. All reports and summaries are available at: <a href="http://www.msc.org/html/content_1176.htm">http://www.msc.org/html/content_1176.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.msc.org/html/content_492.htm">http://www.msc.org/html/content_492.htm</a>" and "The pollock resource is healthy and abundant and historically has been harvested sustainably for decades."</p> <p><u>Additional data</u>: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/walleye_pollock.htm">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/walleye_pollock.htm</a></p>	<p>This fishery is considered by many NGOs, governments' fisheries experts, and industry to be a model of fisheries management. In fact, the "Alaska model" was the basis for the recent changes to the Magnuson Stevens Act, which had bipartisan and NGO-industry support.</p>
<b>Atlantic Sea scallops</b>	<p><u>From NOAA</u>: "Atlantic sea scallop population levels are high; overfishing is not occurring" and "In addition, NMFS, in collaboration with industry, has tested and implemented changes in dredge design to minimize injuries and capture of sea turtles. Additional studies are examining the feasibility of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) for scallop trawls."</p> <p><u>Additional data</u>: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atl_sea_scallop.htm">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atl_sea_scallop.htm</a></p>	<p>NOAA scientists consider sea scallops a shining example of proper fisheries management. A fishery that was troubled several years ago, has rebounded through the efforts of government managers, conservation groups, and industry and the Magnuson Stevens Act fishery council system.</p>
<b>Atlantic cod</b>	<p><u>From the Icelandic government</u>: "The cod harvest rule employed since 1995 stated that the annual TAC for cod was to be set at 25% of the fishable biomass. Following recent recommendations by the Marine Research Institute, and based on recent poor recruitment to the cod stock, the government decided in July 2007 that the TAC for cod in the fishing year 2007/08 should be set at 20% of the fishable biomass. The TAC set for the fishing year 2007/08 is therefore 130,000 tones." (The government followed the MRI scientists' recommendations.)</p> <p><u>Additional data</u>: <a href="http://www.fisheries.is/stocks/cod.htm">http://www.fisheries.is/stocks/cod.htm</a></p>	<p>The recent Icelandic actions to reduce their catch based on scientists' evaluation is exactly the kind of fisheries management that should be rewarded. About 17% of the cod bought in the U.S. in 2005 was imported.</p> <p>Only about 2% of the U.S. cod sold in 2005 were Atlantic cod; the rest of the domestic catch were Pacific cod, a very healthy population.</p>
<b>Atlantic halibut</b>	<p><u>From Department of Fisheries and Ocean Canada</u>: Five countries report some level of Atlantic halibut aquaculture production: Canada, Norway, UK, Iceland and Chile. Atlantic halibut was formerly a very important food fish, but its slow rate of population growth means that it is unable to recover quickly from overfishing. Farming halibut therefore takes the pressure off the marine habitat.</p> <p><u>Additional data</u>: <a href="http://www.thefishsite.com">www.thefishsite.com</a> &amp; <a href="http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/">http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/</a></p>	<p>Management measures for Atlantic halibut currently include a moratorium on directed harvests, a bycatch limit of one legal-sized fish per trip, and a minimum fish size of 91cm.</p> <p>Nearly any Atlantic halibut is apt to be farmed, which relieves any pressure on Atlantic halibut wild stocks.</p>

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<b>Atlantic salmon</b>	<p><u>From NOAA</u>: "Wild Atlantic salmon population levels are very low, and commercial fishing for the species is prohibited. Almost all of the Atlantic salmon sold in the United States comes from aquaculture operations." and "Salmon aquaculture in the United States meets high environmental and health standards and is involved in improving best practices for aquaculture worldwide."</p> <p><u>Additional data</u>: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atl_salmon.htm">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/atl_salmon.htm</a></p>	<p>Farmed salmon imported into the U.S. generally comes from Norway, Chile, and Canada. Each country has strict regulations for aquaculture. Large salmon farming companies are also in the process of implementing more stringent controls than required by their respective governments to help further ensure the sustainability of their operations. For instance, the farmed salmon industry also is conducting significant research into how to reduce the future use of fish meal and fish oils in their operations, while maintaining the human health benefits of eating salmon.</p>
<b>Bluefin tuna</b>	<p><u>From ICCAT</u>: Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean – The ICCAT scientific committee (SCRS) has indicated “a possible collapse of the stocks in the near future unless adequate management measures are implemented”. In 2006, a 15-year recovery plan was recommended, which calls for a phased-in reduction in catches beginning from 29,500 mt in 2007 to 25,500 mt in 2011.</p> <p><u>From ICCAT</u>: Western Atlantic -- ICCAT implemented a 20-year recovery plan in 1999 that will continue through 2018. According to 2006 stock assessment, the outlook is more pessimistic than the 2003 assessment. Therefore, at the 2007 meeting, the total allowable catch limit was reduced further to 2,100 mt for 2007-2011.</p> <p><u>From IATTC/WCPFC</u>: Pacific Ocean (shared responsibility since the Pacific bluefin is considered to be one stock) – For Northern Pacific bluefin, the ISC (International Scientific Committee for Tuna) makes recommendations on management. They will conduct a full stock assessment in 2008 or 2010, but in the meantime they indicated that their previous recommendation of not increasing fishing mortality remains. Average catches are around 22,300 mt.</p>	<p>Bluefin tuna is not a species commonly eaten in the United States. The per capita consumption of bluefin tuna is 0.0096 pounds per year --- about the weight of a paper clip. Even this small amount is not sold at retail, but at some sushi shops.</p> <p>NFI has supported the U.S. government call for a moratorium on capture of bluefin in the Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic, areas where RFMOs report the bluefin is in most danger.</p>
<b>Greenland halibut</b>	<p><u>From NOAA</u>: Greenland turbot populations are healthy; no overfishing is occurring." and "The dominant gear used to catch Greenland turbot is longline."</p> <p><u>Additional data</u>: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/green_turbot.htm">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/green_turbot.htm</a></p>	

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<b>Hoki</b>	<p><u>From the MSC</u>: The New Zealand hoki fishery was recently recertified and, following an objection, that recertification was upheld in October 2007. All reports and a summary are available at: <a href="http://www.msc.org/html/content_487.htm">http://www.msc.org/html/content_487.htm</a></p> <p><u>From the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries</u>: "For the western stock, median estimates of current biomass are between 15 and 24 %B0, (95% confidence intervals for each run are given in Table 15), which is below the assumed value of BMSY (30-40%B0). The biomass has shown little change in recent years." and "For the eastern stock, current biomass was estimated to be between 37 and 51 %B0 (see HOK 2007 Plenary Table 15), which is at or above BMSY. Recent recruitment is estimated to be lower than but closer to the long-term average for this stock."</p> <p><u>Additional Data</u>: <a href="http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/SOF/StockStatus.htm?DataDomain=Species&amp;DataClass=HOK">http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/SOF/StockStatus.htm?DataDomain=Species&amp;DataClass=HOK</a></p>	<p>The NZ government recently reduced the catch levels for hoki, based on scientific estimates of its status. This action is the kind of scientifically based decision-making that good fishery manager uses --- when stocks go up, more fishing can be allowed and when stocks go down, good government managers reduce the fishing.</p> <p>MSC principles recognize these fluctuations in stock and reward fisheries that have such good management systems in place.</p>
<b>Patagonian toothfish</b>	<p><u>From NOAA</u>: "Chilean sea bass, also known as Patagonian toothfish, is a high value fish that is primarily harvested from waters surrounding Antarctica. The fishery is managed internationally under the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (Convention). Certain fishing grounds of the Patagonian toothfish fishery are at risk of becoming overfished, largely due to illegal and unreported fishing.</p> <p>The United States is a member of the Convention and strongly supports international efforts to protect this fishery and eliminate illegal fishing for Chilean sea bass. As part of these efforts, NOAA and the U.S. Customs Service aggressively monitor imports of Chilean sea bass to ensure that imported fish are lawfully harvested and comply with all Convention requirements."</p> <p><u>From the MSC</u>: "The South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Patagonian toothfish fishery is currently beginning its re-assessment process, required at the end of 5 years. Summary and documents are available at: <a href="http://www.msc.org/html/content_1062.htm">http://www.msc.org/html/content_1062.htm</a>. The Ross Sea Patago standard. A summary and documents are available at <a href="http://www.msc.org/html/content_1425.htm">http://www.msc.org/html/content_1425.htm</a>."</p> <p><u>Additional Data</u>: <a href="http://www.ccamlr.org/">http://www.ccamlr.org/</a></p>	<p>According to WWF (July 2004), the MSC certification of the South Georgia Toothfish fishery was "positive news for the fishing industry and consumers." ""The decision recognizes that the South Georgia toothfish authorities are making a serious effort to manage their fishery wisely," said Simon Cripps, Director of WWF's Endangered Seas Programme." WWF's recognition that some toothfish fisheries are well-managed is an important distinction. Retailers should know suppliers make extra effort to ensure their supplies are from legally caught sources, such as the South Georgia toothfish fishery or CCAMLR-sanctioned fisheries.</p> <p>NFI members support rigorous CCAMLR tracking and NOAA enforcement to ensure no illegally caught toothfish enter the U.S. market.</p>

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<b>South Atlantic albacore tuna</b>	<p>From <u>ICCAT</u>: MSY is estimated to be 29,900 mt. Latest stock assessment showed the stock to be overfished; however, rebuilding is occurring since total annual catches have been considerably lower than MSY. Annual total catch limits for 2008-11 have been set at 29,900, but if catches exceed 28,800 in any year, the limits will be reviewed. ICCAT Recommendation 07-03.</p> <p><u>Additional Data</u>: <a href="http://www.iccat.int/Documents/2168_ATT_ENG.pdf">http://www.iccat.int/Documents/2168_ATT_ENG.pdf</a>, pages 4 and 5.</p>	<p>ICCAT is taking the appropriate action to manage South Atlantic Albacore. Catches are being closely monitored. These measures are exactly the type of measures that should be complimented and rewarded.</p>
<b>Tropical shrimp</b>	<p>About 92% of the shrimp consumed by Americans is imported, and of that, about 86% is farmed. About one third (32% and growing) of the imported, farmed shrimp comes from processing plants that are certified by the Aquaculture Certification Council for implementation of their Best Aquaculture Practices. The ACC is concentrating efforts to increase the number of farms participating in the certification program.</p> <p><u>Additional data</u>: <a href="http://www.aquaculturecertification.org/">http://www.aquaculturecertification.org/</a></p>	<p>For wild caught shrimp, NOAA reports "Commercial fisheries for shrimp continue to work to reduce the harmful impacts of bycatch of non-target species, including red snapper."</p>