



Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch

New and Updated Ratings

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Finalization Session: June 7, 2023, Release Date: July 10, 2023

New Ratings

Species	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Rating	Justification
Catfish, Blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	United States - Virginia, Chesapeake Bay	Low-frequency electric fishing	Best Choice	Blue catfish caught in Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay waters by low-frequency electric fishing is rated a Best Choice due to green ratings for all criteria . Blue catfish were introduced into Chesapeake Bay in the 1970s. There are no concerns about overfishing because blue catfish adversely affects native species through predation and resource competition. This fishery aims to reduce blue catfish’s range and population size without impacting other species.
Catfish, Blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	United States - Maryland and Virginia, Chesapeake Bay	Boat seines	Good Alternative	Blue catfish caught in Maryland’s and Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay waters with boat seines is rated a Good Alternative due to red Other Species , yellow Management and Habitat & Ecosystem , and green Target Species ratings. Blue catfish were introduced into Chesapeake Bay in the 1970s. There are no concerns about overfishing because blue catfish adversely affects native species through predation and resource competition. However, bycatch information is limited, and the catch of forage fish is a risk. Management is rated moderately effective overall. Fishery managers are working to reduce blue catfish’s range and population size, but more data about other retained and bycatch species are needed, including if their harvesting impacts the ecosystem. This fishery doesn’t have significant habitat impacts.
Catfish, Blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	United States - Maryland and Virginia, Chesapeake Bay	Pots	Good Alternative	Blue catfish caught in Maryland’s and Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay waters with pots is rated a Good Alternative due to red Other Species , yellow Management and Habitat & Ecosystem , and green Target Species ratings. Blue catfish were introduced into Chesapeake Bay in the 1970s. There are no concerns about overfishing because blue catfish adversely affects native species through predation and resource competition. However, bycatch information is limited, and entanglement of bottlenose dolphins in pot fishing gear is a risk. Management is rated moderately effective overall. Fishery managers are working to reduce blue catfish’s range and population size, but more data about other retained and bycatch species are needed, including if their harvesting impacts the ecosystem. This fishery doesn’t have significant habitat impacts.

Species	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Rating	Justification
Catfish, Blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	United States - Maryland, Chesapeake Bay	Drift gillnets	Good Alternative	Blue catfish caught in Maryland’s Chesapeake Bay waters with drift gillnets is rated a Good Alternative due to red Other Species , yellow Management , and green Target Species and Habitat & Ecosystem ratings. Blue catfish were introduced into Chesapeake Bay in the 1970s. There are no concerns about overfishing because blue catfish adversely affects native species through predation and resource competition. However, bycatch information is limited, and the catch of forage fish, bottlenose dolphins, or overexploited finish species is a risk. Management is rated moderately effective overall. Fishery managers are working to reduce blue catfish’s range and population size, but more data about other retained and bycatch species are needed, including if their harvesting impacts the ecosystem. This fishery doesn’t have significant habitat impacts.
Catfish, Blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	United States - Maryland, Chesapeake Bay	Set longlines	Good Alternative	Blue catfish caught in Maryland’s Chesapeake Bay waters with set longlines is rated a Good Alternative due to red Other Species , yellow Management and Habitat & Ecosystem , and green Target Species ratings. Blue catfish were introduced into Chesapeake Bay in the 1970s. There are no concerns about overfishing because blue catfish adversely affects native species through predation and resource competition. However, bycatch information is limited, and the catch of seabirds, bottlenose dolphins, or overexploited finfish is a risk. Management is rated moderately effective overall. Fishery managers are working to reduce blue catfish’s range and population size, but more data about other retained and bycatch species are needed, including if their harvesting impacts the ecosystem. This fishery doesn’t have significant habitat impacts.
Trout, Rainbow	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Chile	Freshwater raceways	Best Choice	Rainbow trout farmed in Chile in freshwater raceways is rated a Best Choice due to yellow Feed and Escapes ratings and green ratings for all other criteria . Most environmental impacts (or the risk of impacts) are low concerns. The two yellow ratings reflect concerns about the source of the feed’s marine-based ingredients and the risk of escapes. Approximately 1.34 metric tons of wild fish must be caught to provide the fish oil required to produce one metric ton of farmed rainbow trout. The available data indicate that some marine-based ingredients are sourced from sustainable fisheries, but other sources are either of moderate sustainability or were not specified. Freshwater trout raceways in Chile have a high water turnover rate, and there is an inherent risk of escapes when farming trout in raceways. Producers have implemented measures to prevent escapes, and none have been reported. However, if they occur, escaped trout can impact wild species through predation and resource competition.

Updated Ratings

Species	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Previous Rating	Updated Rating	Justification
Bowfin	<i>Amia calva</i>	United States - Louisiana, North America inland waters	Set gillnets	Good Alternative	Good Alternative	Bowfin caught in Louisiana with set gillnets remains a Good Alternative due to yellow Target Species , Other Species , and Management ratings. Current fishing levels are unknown, and bowfin has characteristics that make the species less vulnerable to overfishing. Bycatch information is very limited, and this fishery catches and retains three species of buffalofish with unknown stock statuses. Management is rated moderately effective overall and includes catch restrictions and seasonal and area closures. Bowfin are caught in resilient, shallow-water habitats, but little is known about how their removal may impact the food web.
Catfish, Blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	United States - Maryland and Virginia, Chesapeake Bay	Stationary uncovered pound nets	Best Choice	Good Alternative	Blue catfish caught in Maryland's and Virginia's Chesapeake Bay waters with stationary uncovered pound nets has been downgraded to a Good Alternative due to red Other Species , yellow Management and Habitat & Ecosystem , and green Target Species ratings. Blue catfish were introduced into Chesapeake Bay in the 1970s. There are no concerns about overfishing because blue catfish adversely affects native species through predation and resource competition. However, this fishery catches overfished striped bass, and the catch of bottlenose dolphins is a risk. Management is rated moderately effective overall. Fishery managers are working to reduce blue catfish's range and population size, but more data about other retained and bycatch species are needed, including if their harvesting impacts the ecosystem. This fishery doesn't have significant habitat impacts.
Catfish, Blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	United States - Virginia, Chesapeake Bay	Set gillnets	Best Choice	Good Alternative	Blue catfish caught in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay waters with set gillnets has been downgraded to a Good Alternative due to red Other Species , yellow Management and Habitat & Ecosystem , and green Target Species ratings. Blue catfish were introduced into Chesapeake Bay in the 1970s. There are no concerns about overfishing because blue catfish adversely affects native species through predation and resource competition. However, this fishery catches overfished striped bass and discards an unknown amount of gizzard shad. Management is rated moderately effective overall. Fishery managers are working to reduce blue catfish's range and population size, but more data about other retained and bycatch species are needed, including if their harvesting impacts the ecosystem. This fishery doesn't have significant habitat impacts.

Species	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Previous Rating	Updated Rating	Justification
Paddlefish	<i>Polyodon spathula</i>	United States - Mississippi River Basin (Paddlefish fishery)	Set gillnets	Good Alternative	Good Alternative	Paddlefish caught in the Mississippi River Basin with set gillnets remains a Good Alternative due to a red Target Species rating and yellow ratings for all other criteria . Paddlefish is listed as “Vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and more information is needed to know if fishing levels are sustainable. Bycatch information is limited, and management is rated moderately effective. Fishery managers have implemented measures to prevent overfishing and bycatch, but more comprehensive data about the population’s abundance is needed. Habitat impacts are minimal, and measures to protect the ecosystem are not in place, though this fishery is unlikely to impact the food web.
Sturgeon, Shovelnose	<i>Scaphirhynchus platorhynchus</i>	United States - Mississippi River Basin (Shovelnose sturgeon fishery)	Drift gillnets	Good Alternative	Good Alternative	Shovelnose sturgeon caught in the Mississippi River Basin with drift gillnets remains a Good Alternative due to a red Target Species rating and yellow ratings for all other criteria . Shovelnose sturgeon is listed as “Vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and it’s unknown if fishing levels are sustainable. Bycatch information is limited, and management is rated moderately effective. Fishery managers have implemented measures to prevent overfishing and bycatch, but more comprehensive data about the population’s abundance is needed. Habitat impacts are minimal, and measures to protect the ecosystem are not in place, though this fishery is unlikely to impact the food web.
Sturgeon, White	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>	United States - Columbia River	Drift gillnets	Good Alternative	Good Alternative	White sturgeon caught in the Columbia River with drift gillnets remains a Good Alternative due to red Other Species , yellow Management and Habitat & Ecosystem , and green Target Species ratings. The white sturgeon population is likely healthy, and overfishing isn’t occurring. During autumn, fishing coincides with the fall run of threatened rainbow trout populations, and bycatch information is limited. Management is rated moderately effective overall. Fishery managers in Oregon and Washington are actively working to rebuild the white sturgeon population. However, the lack of cooperation between the two states could undermine the recovery of white sturgeon and other overexploited species. Habitat impacts are minimal, and measures to protect the ecosystem are not in place, though this fishery is unlikely to impact the food web.

Species	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Previous Rating	Updated Rating	Justification
Wreckfish	<i>Polyprion americanus</i>	United States - Western Central Atlantic Ocean	Vertical lines	Best Choice	Best Choice	Wreckfish caught in the U.S. Atlantic with vertical lines remains a Best Choice due to green Target Species , Management , and Habitat & Ecosystem ratings. The wreckfish stock is healthy, and fishing levels are likely sustainable. Bycatch information is limited, and there are some concerns about the catch of other species with unknown stock statuses, including barrelfish and red bream. Management is rated effective and includes seasonal closures during spawning, gear restrictions, and annual catch limits. Vertical lines have minimal to no impacts on the seafloor, and measures to protect the ecosystem are in place.

To Be Archived

Species	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Previous Rating	Justification
Catfish, Blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	United States - Chesapeake Bay	Barriers, fences, weirs, corrals, etc.	Best Choice	Significant volumes are not harvested.
Catfish, Blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	United States - Chesapeake Bay	Beach seines	Best Choice	Significant volumes are not harvested.
Catfish, Blue	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	United States - Chesapeake Bay	Fyke nets	Best Choice	Significant volumes are not harvested.
Paddlefish	<i>Polyodon spathula</i>	United States - Alabama River	Set gillnets	Good Alternative	This fishery is permanently closed.