

BANNING THE SALE OF RED-LISTED SEAFOOD IS THE GREEN CHOICE FOR CANADA

THE PROBLEM:

The world's marine resources have been grossly depleted over time, and the continued sale of red-listed seafood only exacerbates the damage done to key habitats and stocks needed to foster species persistence.

THE SOLUTION:

Ban the sale of seafood products red-listed as "avoid" by SeaChoice. Purveyors of seafood can find sustainable alternatives to maintain sales, and consumers can transition to new sustainable options.

EXPECTED PUSHBACK:

Consumers and suppliers could resent their loss of choice. Fishers that benefit from the sale of red-listed species could lose livelihood.

KEY PLAYERS IN THE ISSUE:

- INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES
- ADVOCATE ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
- SEAFOOD SUPPLIERS

KEY PLAYERS IN POLICY:

- GOVERNMENT OF CANADA , HONORABLE MINISTER OF FISHERIES: HUNTER TOOTOO
- HEALTH CANADA (FOOD AND DRUG ACT)
- CANADIAN SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD DESIGNATION

SeaChoice is the Canadian standard for seafood certification, and could act as the baseline for certification of seafood products.



Recommended action: moving towards proactive seafood policy.

- 1. Incorporate supporting sustainable fisheries globally in the mandate of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.**
- 2. Create a mandate in the Food and Drug Act through Health Canada to ban unsustainable seafood sales.**
- 3. Create enforcement plan for monitoring where suppliers are sourcing their seafood products, ensuring that they are not red-listed by SeaChoice.**



CONCLUSIONS:

Proactive policy of this type is necessary for the new Liberal Government to make good on their commitment to protect the marine environment and the resources it hosts. While this type of policy can receive major pushback, sometimes strict policy is necessary to force consumers to make sustainable choices. The necessity for traceability of seafood source and fishing methods under proposed policy would make Canadian suppliers leaders in fishery supply chain transparency.

References

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