

THE ALASKA MODEL FOR SUSTAINABILITY A COMPARISON OF STANDARDS

There are many ecolabels and sustainability certifications in the world today, with different criteria and standards. For 50 years Alaska has led the world in science-based sustainable fisheries management and stands alone as the model for the world with a proven track record and international recognition.

How do the world's credible standards compare? This "Sustainability Standards Comparison Chart" is designed to help you answer this question, and will demonstrate that the Alaska model of fisheries management represents a standard that meets or exceeds what others are striving to emulate.



- Careful stewardship of marine resources has been the hallmark of fishery management in Alaska since 1959.
- Overfishing – the central problem for many fisheries elsewhere – has been prevented or, when necessary, stopped or reversed in Alaska.
- Alaska's sea lions, otters, birds, and whales are carefully protected, and marine preserves protect hundreds of thousands of square miles of sensitive habitat.
- Alaska's record of excellence sets the standard for the rest of the world's fisheries.



SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS COMPARISON CHART

CRITERION	ALASKA	FAO	MSC
Year Initiated	1959	1995	1997
Precautionary Approach	✓	✓	✓
Population & Stock Assessment	✓	✓	✓
Science-based Quota Establishment	✓	✓	✓
Firm Harvest Limits (Hard “TAC” – Total Allowable Catch)	✓	*	*
Separation of Conservation from Allocation	✓	✓	*
Transparent, Public Process	✓	✓	✓
Stock-Specific Reference Points	✓	✓	✓
Minimize Bycatch & Discards	✓	✓	✓
Vessel & Gear Restrictions	✓	✓	✓
Time & Area Closures	✓	✓	✓
In-Season Management	✓	*	*
Traceability	✓	✓	✓
Governing Laws and Regulatory Framework (National and State)	✓	✓	✓
Habitat Protection	✓	✓	✓
Regulatory Enforcement	✓	✓	✓
Avoidance of Excess Fishing Capacity	✓	✓	*
Economic Rationalization (e.g. IFQ – Individual Fishing Quotas)	✓	*	*

* = Criterion not evident

FAO = Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

MSC = Marine Stewardship Council

