



## Fwd: Survey on Sustainability Certification for U.S. Harvested Seafood

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### Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Seeks Stakeholder Input on Sustainability Certification for U.S. Harvested Seafood

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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Press Contact: Mary Clark  
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The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) advises the Secretary of Commerce on matters relating to Fisheries and Aquaculture. MAFAC is considering if and how the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) should develop a sustainable seafood certification program for U.S. fishery products. Please take 5 minutes to complete this brief survey and share your opinions. The information you provide will be used to inform MAFAC's recommendations regarding potential federal sustainable seafood certification.

Survey Link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TZZHNZB>  
*(the entire survey should take about 5 minutes)*

#### Background

On April 10, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council passed a motion supporting the development of a sustainability certification program for U.S. seafood harvested under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The New England Fishery Management Council approved a similar motion on April 25. The topic was further discussed at the Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 Conference on May 5-7 in Washington, D.C. and was reflected in the summary of 128 recommendations developed by conference participants.

***MAFMC Motion:*** *That the Council recommend an amendment that would authorize NMFS to provide the US industry with a sustainability certification program and certification mark, which would provide the industry with the ability to promote and sell its seafood products, in both domestic and export markets, as sustainable based upon the requirements of the Act.*

***NEFMC Motion:*** *That the Council recommend to add to the list of reauthorization priorities the need for a sustainable certification that would authorize NMFS to provide the U.S. industry with a sustainable certification program and certification mark, which would provide the industry with the ability to promote and sell its seafood products, in both domestic and export markets, as sustainable based upon the requirements of the Act.*

#### **MONF3 Recommendations Related to MSA Certification Program:**

- *Consider a national sustainable seafood certification program*
- *Recognize certification of U.S. fisheries that meet the 10 MSA national standards*

MAFAC will soon be considering recommendations regarding a potential federal program to certify U.S. seafood as being sustainable. Your input in this survey will be used to inform these recommendations. Thank you for your time and interest!

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*The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) is one of eight regional councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council has primary responsibility for twelve species of fish and shellfish in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) between 3 and 200 miles off the Mid-Atlantic coast. Member states include New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. For more information, visit our website: [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).*

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