

Revision of Seafood Watch Guidelines

On September 2, 2014, the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program released new guidelines that designate all groundfish caught in California, Oregon and Washington as either a Seafood Watch "Good Alternative" or "Best Choice." Specifically, all trawl- and longline-caught rockfish were upgraded from "Avoid" to either "Good Alternative" or "Best Choice"; Dover sole, English sole, Pacific sanddab and rex sole were upgraded from "Good Alternative" to "Best Choice"; Pacific grenadier has been upgraded from "Avoid" to "Good Alternative"; and U.S. Pacific spiny dogfish were upgraded from "Avoid" to "Best Choice."

According to the Seafood Watch program, the new recommendations were made based on reductions in the catch of overfished species, new stock assessments, area closures to protect habitat, new quotas that better account for uncertainty, and the implementation of catch shares.

Many major news outlets covered the story. Among them:

- Sacramento Bee: **Recovery knocks 21 fish species from watch list** (<http://tinyurl.com/nbjqsgf>); includes interview with Brad Pettinger.
- Los Angeles Times: **Seafood Watch cites dramatic turnaround in rockfish, other West Coast fish** (<http://tinyurl.com/mo6235c>)
- Oregonian: **Seafood Watch's sustainability guide upgrades 21 species of sole, snapper, other groundfish as good choices** (<http://tinyurl.com/oskjguy>);
- Huffington Post: **"Unprecedented" Turnaround For Nearly Two Dozen Fish Species Now Deemed Sustainable** (<http://tinyurl.com/mfnt2tz>)
- New York Times: **Revival of Species Puts Some Fish Back on Plates** (<http://tinyurl.com/nuw9w84>)
- Seattle Times: **Eat Up! These bottom fish make dramatic recovery on West Coast** (<http://tinyurl.com/osaqoyy>)
- Capital Public Radio: **21 West Coast Groundfish Taken Off "Fish To Avoid" List** (<http://tinyurl.com/nrweg8z>)

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