



About FishSource

FishSource (www.fishsource.org) is an online information resource about the status of fish stocks and the environmental performance of fisheries.

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) created FishSource with the vision that fisheries experts around the world could openly share their public scientific and technical information and provide major seafood buyers with up-to date, impartial, actionable information on the status of fisheries and the improvements they need to make to become sustainable.

FishSource does not make sustainability judgments itself - it compiles and summarizes all the information analysts need to evaluate sustainability in one place. Our goal is to help provide information on as many fisheries as possible, to help guide as many companies as possible to source fish sustainably. By assembling the essential data and making it freely available, FishSource lowers the key barrier to entry for companies to engage in sustainable sourcing. Companies thus save time and resources by accessing FishSource for sustainability information and fisheries status. FishSource's open source platform allows other organizations to conduct their own assessments based on the available data.

How FishSource Works

- FishSource is a "common shared database". Analysts from NGOs (including SFP), aquariums, seafood companies, industry associations and governments share public data. By doing this FishSource lightens the burden of doing the basic research behind sustainability evaluations, allowing analysts to cover many more fisheries.
- FishSource is an "online contributor network" (similar to moderated wiki). Invited expert contribute material on individual issues in individual fisheries write parts of the basic research profiles. Experts provide information on fundamental aspects from the fisheries such as stock status, fisheries management, gear technology or impacts on endangered species and habitats.
- The contributor network allows us to collect more information on less well-known fisheries in developing countries.

Quality Control

FishSource is committed to providing the highest quality data on fisheries possible. Our controls include:

- Full referencing of all sources of information, so users can verify data.
- Open, online review and comment feature on FishSource.
- Author's guide, which provides concise guidelines to contributors, including the scientific standards on which their contribution should rely.
- Internal review by FishSource staff.
- Overall supervision by an independent Science Advisory Board (SAB).

The SAB includes internationally recognized fisheries science experts which invites and appoints editors/coordinators for each fishery. The editors invite experts to contribute as authors of "their" fishery, and for assisting with quality control and selecting contributors.

A User Advisory Group (UAG) provides advice on the usability and features of FishSource, relevance and timeliness of the information provided, and whether the stated vision and objectives of FishSource is being achieved or not. The UAG is composed of representatives from processors, buyers and the NGO community.



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FishSource Structure

Each fishery profile includes:

- **ID page** with information on the species, geographical distribution, jurisdiction, and other basic information on the fishery.
- **Sustainability Info page** with scientific and technical information from FishSource contributors.
- **Summary Page and Scores Page** provides buyers with information they can use. Scores make use of commonly reported numbers from stock assessments but they do not define a fishery as “good” or “bad”. Fisheries can be ranked against one another and give insights into how other groups would score a fishery against current measures of sustainability. Scores currently relate to the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) program, but we are working on adding several more schemes.



FishSource 2.0 launched in January 2010 (screenshot shown here)

Site contents were revised, updated and expanded, access to fisheries through search engines was improved and a comprehensive FAQs section was added.

A '**News/Announcements**' section is also live, among other new features.

Current Status

- **180 fisheries** with more being added regularly.
- FishSource **Users Advisory Group** (UAG) in force; UAG is key to help steer FishSource on its mission, by benefiting from the expertise of its members as an external, critical view of FishSource performance.
- **Searchable database**, authoring interface for contributors, author's guidance, and user reviews and posts.

Metrics System

FishSource is also currently supporting a metrics system, developed by SFP. This system pulls information on fisheries from FishSource to help generate scorecards that enables retailers to measure their progress in sustainable sourcing. Partner institutions have entered information from their own analyses, using the “common shared database” approach.