SEAFOOD PROGRESS: BUY-LOW FOODS

Seafood Progress profile as published in July 2021.

Report generated on: August 24th, 2021

REPORTING PERIOD August 2020 - July 2021

LOCATION British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan

NUMBER OF STORES

WEBSITE http://www.buy-lowfoods.com

RETAILER SNAPSHOT

Environmental Sustainability Commitment. Buy-Low Foods achieved its commitment to remove all red-listed seafood in 2015 and has since committed to procuring products that are Recommended by Ocean Wise or rated either 'Good Alternative' or 'Best Choice' by Seafood Watch, or from fisheries and farms that are engaged in credible improvement projects. This commitment applies to all of Buy-Low's fresh and frozen seafood products (see infographic below) sold in all its store **banners**, and is supported by an effective **traceability** policy. Uniquely among major Canadian retailers, Buy-Low Foods does not sell any open net-pen farmed Atlantic salmon due to sustainability concerns.

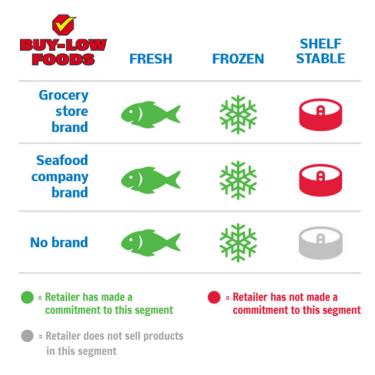
Social Responsibility Commitment. Buy-Low Foods' commitment to social responsibility refers to credible international standards but does not include a <u>traceability</u> policy or timelines.

Scope of Commitment. See below for information on which types of products are included in the scope of Buy-Low Foods' sustainable seafood policy.



COMMITMENT SCOPE

How retailers' sustainable seafood policies and commitments apply to different segments of their products.



Note: Some shelf stable private label products, like smoked salmon, are covered by the policy, but items such as canned tuna are not.

Grocery store brands: Owned and controlled by Buy-Low Foods **Seafood company brands:** Owned by companies that supply many retailers **No brand:** Fresh and frozen seafood packaged without branding

WHAT CAN CONSUMERS DO TO HELP?

Take action!

Buy-Low Foods has made noteworthy improvements in the last year, but there is still important work to be done. Retailers listen closely to what **YOU** have to say. Leverage that power to drive important changes throughout the supply chain!

Select a topic to ADVOCATE for Buy-Low Foods to improve.

- Social Responsibility
- Transparency
- Supporting Industry Improvements

Buy-Low Foods - SeaChoice

Another way to take action is to let retailers know that their efforts are noticed and that you want them to continue on the path towards best practice.

Select a topic to ACKNOWLEDGE Buy-Low Foods' efforts.

- ▶ Education
- Store Banners
- ► Supporting Industry Improvements

See below for the remainder of Buy-Low Foods' 2021 profile summary.

► More retailer information

Note: In the process of developing this profile, SeaChoice corresponded with Glen Genereux, Meat Buyer/Meat Merchandising Manager at Buy-Low Foods.

STEP 1: DOES THE RETAILER HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE COMMITMENT ON SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD?



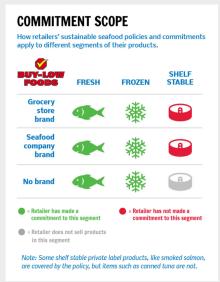
If it looks like you are only seeing the score for one year it is because the score did not change from year to year.

1.1 Has a publicly available commitment or policy to source more environmentally sustainable seafood



SCORING RATIONALE

Buy-Low Foods' Sustainable Seafood Reference Manual (unpublished, 2013) reports that its sustainable seafood commitment was to, by 2015, ensure that all fresh and frozen seafood were from sustainable and traceable sources, or were in a credible improvement project. The goal to remove all red-listed (as determined by Seafood Watch) seafood products from Buy-Low Foods' stores was achieved in 2015.



SCORING RUBRIC

0% No publicly available environmental sustainability commitment or policy

20% General commitment to environmentally sustainable seafood without clear objectives, traceability policy or timelines

40% Commitment to environmental sustainability that includes clear objectives for sustainable procurement, but no traceability policy or timelines

60% Commitment to environmental sustainability includes clear objectives that are supported by references to credible
 standards (such as Seafood Watch or Ocean Wise rankings, eco-certifications, etc.), but no traceability policy or timelines
 80% Commitment to environmental sustainability includes clear objectives that are supported by references to credible
 standards and a clear and effective traceability policy, but no timeline

100% Commitment to environmental sustainability includes clear objectives that are supported by references to credible standards, a clear and effective traceability policy, and a timeline for meeting the commitment (unless the commitment has already been met).

1.2 Has a publicly available commitment or policy to source more socially responsible seafood?

Buy-Low Foods	
National Ave	erage

SCORING RATIONALE

Buy-Low Foods supports the UN's Universal Declaration on Human Rights and adherence to relevant Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and works with its suppliers to ensure that its labour practices reflect national laws and international standards (Responsible Sourcing Initiative, Buy-Low website).

SCORING RUBRIC

0% No publicly available social responsibility commitment or policy

20% General commitment to socially responsible seafood without clear objectives, traceability policy or timelines

40% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives for socially responsible procurement (for example by

referring to credible international standards such as ILO, UN Declaration, etc.), but no traceability policy or timelines 60% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives and actions or expectations for seafood suppliers, but no traceability policy or timelines.

80% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives, actions or expectations for seafood suppliers, and a

clear and effective traceability policy, but no timeline

100% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives, actions or expectations for seafood suppliers, a clear and effective traceability policy, and a timeline for meeting the commitment (unless the commitment has already been met).

1.3 Does the retailer cover all banners that sell seafood in its sustainable seafood commitment?



SCORING RATIONALE

Buy-Low Foods' sustainable seafood policy includes both Buy-Low Foods and Nesters Market (personal communication, G. Genereux, 20/05/2021).

SCORING RUBRIC

- % Retailer does not include any banners in its sustainable seafood commitment
- 25% Retailer includes 25% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment
- 50% Retailer includes 50% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment
- 75% Retailer includes 75% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment
- 100% Retailer includes 100% of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment

1.4 Does the retailer cover all shelf stable and national brand products in its sustainable seafood commitment?

SCORING RATIONALE Buy-Low Foods' sustainable seafood policy does not cover its private label or national brand shelf stable products, but is working on bringing these product categories under its commitment (personal communication, G. Genereux, 20/04/2021). SCORING RUBRIC O Retailer's commitment covers neither all of their shelf stable or national brand. products SO% Retailer's commitment covers all of their shelf stable or national brand products Low Retailer's commitment covers all of their shelf stable AND national brand products	Kational Average SCORING RATIONALE Buy-Low Foods' sustainable seafood policy does not cover its private label or national brand shelf stable products, working on bringing these product categories under its commitment (personal communication, G. Genereux, 20/0. SCORING RUBRIC Retailer's commitment covers neither all of their shelf stable or national brand. products	
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50% Retailer's commitment covers all of their shelf stable or national brand products		
100% Retailer's commitment covers all of their shelf stable AND national brand products	50% Retailer's commitment covers all of their shelf stable or national brand products	
	100% Retailer's commitment covers all of their shelf stable AND national brand products	

STEP 2: IS THE RETAILER COLLECTING DATA TO SUPPORT THEIR COMMITMENT?

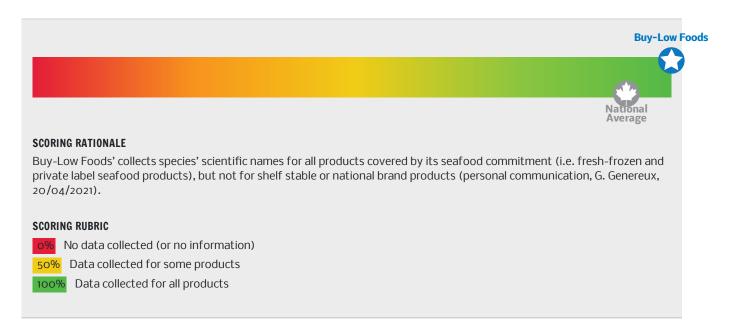


What information is the retailer collecting to monitor the environmental and social sustainability of their seafood products?

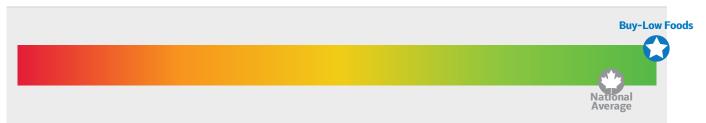
The step score is based on the average of Step 2 key performance indicators (KPIs, or step elements) listed below; click the + signs for more detailed information.

If it looks like you are only seeing the score for one year it is because the score did not change from year to year. Try clicking off the 'June 2019' button below the score bar.

2.1 Retailer collects data on species scientific (Latin) name for seafood products being sold - the "what"



2.2 Retailer collects data on country of origin of seafood products being sold - the "where"



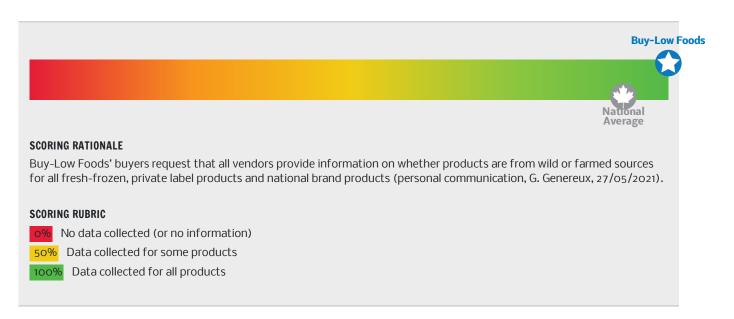
SCORING RATIONALE

Buy-Low Foods' buyers request that all vendors provide origin (country and/or region) of catch or aquaculture facility for all products covered by its seafood commitment (i.e. fresh-frozen and private label seafood products, but not shelf stable or national brands; personal communication, G. Genereux, 20/04/2021).

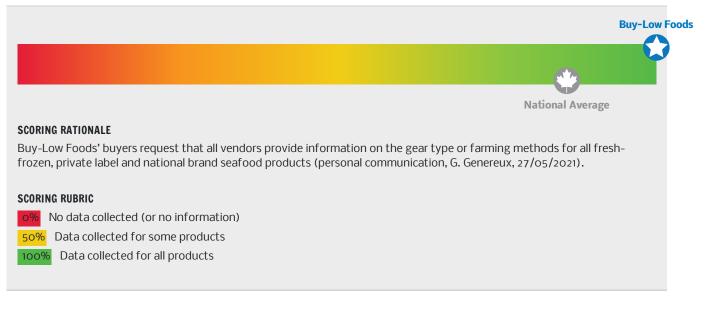
SCORING RUBRIC

- o% No data collected (or no information)
- 50% Data collected for some products
- 100% Data collected for all products

2.3 Retailer collects data on whether the seafood products being sold are wild or farmed - the "how"



2.4 Retailer collects data on the gear type or farming methods for seafood products being sold - the "how"



STEP 3: IS THE RETAILER MAKING RESPONSIBLE SOURCING DECISIONS?



Are the retailer's procurement decisions supporting their environmental and social sustainability commitments?

The step score is based on the average of Step 3 key performance indicators (KPIs, or step elements) listed below; click the + signs for more detailed information.

Note that KPI 3.3 was changed in 2019 from "Retailer works with suppliers to address potential human rights and labour abuses, and support sustainable livelihoods for producers" to more specific indicators around retailers' agreements with their suppliers/vendors to uphold their environmental and social commitments.

If it looks like you are only seeing the score for one year it is because the score did not change from year to year. Try clicking off the 'June 2019' button below the score bar.

STEP ELEMENTS

3.1 Retailer uses an established seafood certification or ranking standard to inform purchasing decisions.

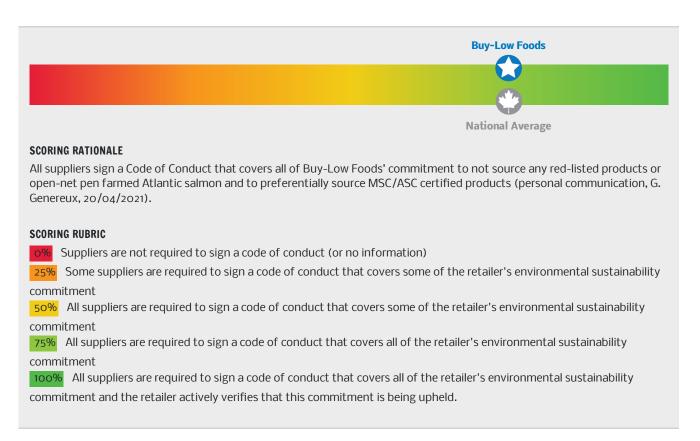


100% Sustainability criteria used to inform purchasing decisions

3.2 Retailer can demonstrate that X% of their seafood sold in the last three years meets their sustainability criteria by volume/value.



3.3 Suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct to uphold the retailer's environmental sustainability commitment.



3.4 Suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct to uphold the retailer's social responsibility commitment.



SCORING RATIONALE

All of Buy-Low Foods' seafood suppliers have signed a Code of Conduct on social responsibility that reflects their public social responsibility commitment to support the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights, adhere to relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, and ensure that their labour practices reflect national laws and international standards (personal communication, G. Genereux, 20/04/2021).

SCORING RUBRIC

o% Suppliers are not required to sign a code of conduct (or no information)

25% Some suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers some of the retailer's social responsibility commitment.

50% All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers some of the retailer's social responsibility commitment.

75% All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's social responsibility commitment.

All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's social responsibility commitment and the retailer actively verifies that this commitment is being upheld.

STEP 4: IS THE RETAILER TRANSPARENT ABOUT THEIR COMMITMENT?



Is the retailer making information regarding the environmental and social performance of their seafood products publicly available and are they reporting on progress against their sustainable seafood commitment?

The step score is based on the average of Step 4 key performance indicators (KPIs, or step elements) listed below; click the + signs for more detailed information.

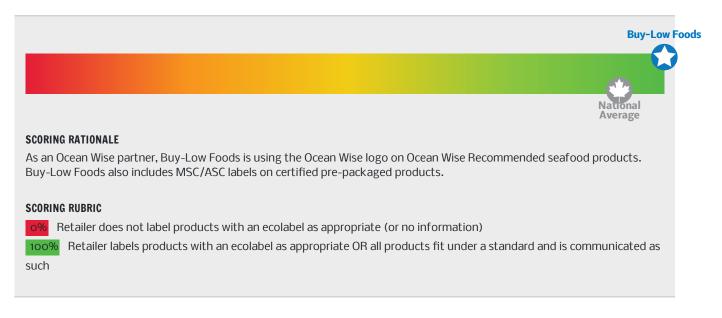
If it looks like you are only seeing the score for one year it is because the score did not change from year to year. Try clicking off the 'June 2019' button below the score bar.

STEP ELEMENTS

4.1 Retailer labels seafood with the information that allows consumers to make informed decisions - what (species' scientific name), where (country or region of origin), and how (wild/farmed and harvest method)

Buy-Low Foods
National Average
SCORING RATIONALE
In 2018, Buy-Low Foods changed its fresh counter and store packaged labels to include scientific (Latin) names, whether the product is wild or farmed, geographic origin and gear type or farming methods (personal communication, G. Genereux, 26/05/2021).
Species Latin name (the what) Country of origin (the where) Wild or farmed (the how part 1)
Gear type or farming methods (the how part 2)
SCORING RUBRIC
o% Retailer does not label products with the information (or no information)
50% Retailer labels some products with the information
100% Retailer labels all products with the information

4.2 Retailer labels products with an ecolabel, allowing consumers to make informed decisions OR all products fit under a standard and is communicated as such



4.3 List of products procured with region and gear type data has been made available (e.g. as per Ocean Disclosure Project)



All seafood products with region and gear type has been made available

4.4 Retailer publicly reports how much of its seafood meets its sustainability criteria (by volume or value of sales).

Bu	iy-Low Foods
National Average	
SCORING RATIONALE Buy-Low Foods reported in 2015 the achievement of its commitment and reaffirmed this in 2017 through the SeaChoice/Buy-Low Foods press release and then to Seafood Progress in 2018, 2019 and 2020.	
SCORING RUBRIC	
o% No public information on how the retailer is doing to meet its commitment	
50% Retailer has at one point in the past reported publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment	
100% Retailer regularly reports publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment (by volume/value, at lease every two years)	st

STEP 5: DOES THE RETAILER EDUCATE STAFF, CUSTOMERS AND/OR VENDORS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD?



Is the retailer educating their employees, customers, suppliers and other key stakeholders about their sustainable seafood commitment, environmental and social issues in seafood, and the importance of traceability?

The step score is based on the average of Step 5 key performance indicators (KPIs, or step elements) listed below; click the + signs for more detailed information.

Note that KPI 5.3 changed in 2019 from "Suppliers are required to sign a Code of Conduct to uphold the retailer's sustainable seafood policy" (now covered by KPIs 3.3 and 3.4) to an indicator of what actions retailers have taken to educate their suppliers/vendors about their sustainable seafood commitment.

If it looks like you are only seeing the score for one year it is because the score did not change from year to year. Try clicking off the 'June 2019' button below the score bar.

5.1 Training programs are conducted for seafood staff.



National Average

SCORING RATIONALE

Buy-Low Foods is committed to creating materials and training programs to ensure its employees have a thorough understanding of seafood sustainability, the Ocean Wise Seafood Program, and certification standards (such as MSC and ASC) so they can offer their customers advice on sustainable seafood options. Seafood counter staff are updated regularly on Buy-Low's sustainable product options so that they can in turn educate and engage customers (personal communication, G. Genereux, 20/04/2021).

SCORING RUBRIC

- o% Training programs not conducted for seafood staff (or no information)
- 50% Training programs sometimes conducted or for only some seafood staff
- 75% Training programs conducted for all seafood staff, but infrequently (less than every two years)
- 100% Training programs regularly (at least every two years) conducted for all seafood staff

5.2 There is a description of the retailer's sustainable seafood program for customers in store

	Buy-Low Foods
National Average	
SCORING RATIONALE	
In May 2021, Buy-Low introduced comprehensive store signage that clearly communicates its sustainable seafood commitment in all its Buy-Low Foods and Nesters locations.	
SCORING RUBRIC	
0% There is no description of the sustainable seafood program in store (or no information)	
50% This is some description of the sustainable seafood program in store	
100% There is a comprehensive description of the sustainable seafood program in store	

5.3 The retailer has taken actions to ensure its suppliers or vendors are aware of its sustainable seafood commitment or policy.



SCORING RATIONALE

Buy-Low Foods engages regularly with its suppliers to ensure that the products it receives are in line with its environmental policy (no farmed Atlantic salmon, farmed shrimp eco-certified with at least BAP 2 star, no red-ranked products) and Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or MSC/ASC certified where possible. Buy-Low has also sought out more sustainable options from its suppliers to ensure its customers have access to seafood produced according to best practice (personal communication, G. Genereux, 20/04/2021).

SCORING RUBRIC

0% The retailer has taken no actions OR no information available

25% The retailer sends its suppliers or vendors a copy of its sustainable seafood commitment or policy

50% The retailer shares its sustainable seafood commitment or policy and sometimes engages with its suppliers to help

ensure the products they supply meet the retailer's expectations.

75% The retailer shares its sustainable seafood commitment or policy and regularly engages with its suppliers to help

ensure the products they supply meet the retailer's expectations.

The retailer shares its sustainable seafood commitment or policy, has a clear strategy to engage with its suppliers and provides direct support (e.g. training, resources) to help ensure all seafood product are procured in line with its policies.

STEP 6: DOES THE RETAILER SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE?



Buy-Low Foods

National Average

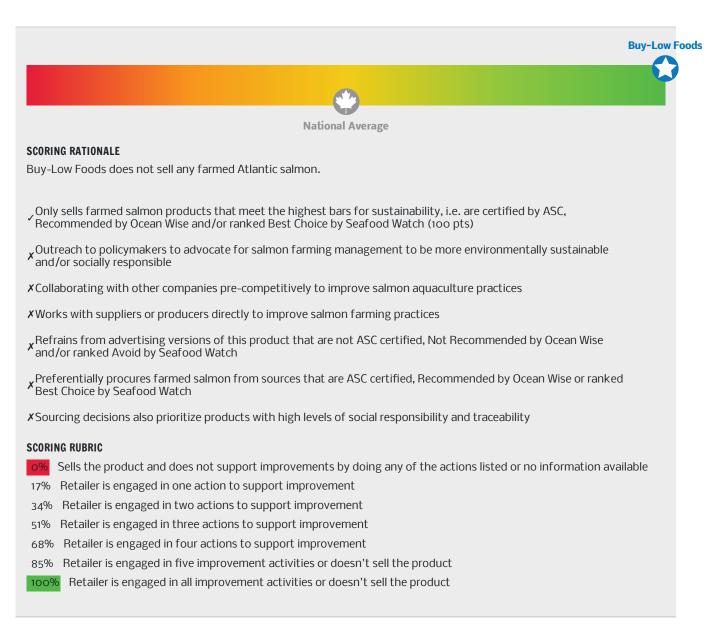
Does the retailer sell 'Priority Seafood' products (seafood that has high volume of sales in Canadian retail stores and that is generally not recommended by the Ocean Wise Seafood Program), and if so, do they support improvement and how?

The step score is based on the average of Step 6 key performance indicators (KPIs, or step elements) listed below; click the + signs for more detailed information.

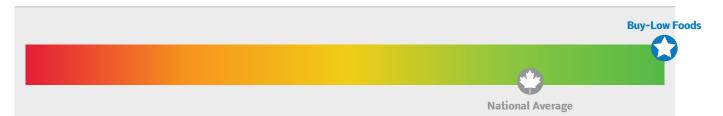
Note that this Step was changed significantly in 2019 to introduce two additional 'Support Improvement' actions for each of the Priority Seafood products. This means that if a retailer was engaged in the same actions in 2019 as in 2018, and no more, their score will appear to have decreased). Additionally, KPIs 6.4 and 6.5 on other SeaChoice priority seafood products were generalized into a new KPI that allows retailers to showcase any other actions they are taking to support improvement of specific seafood products (besides shrimp, farmed salmon and skipjack), or to support improvements in seafood sustainability in general.

If it looks like you are only seeing the score for one year it is because the score did not change from year to year. Try clicking off the 'June 2019' button below the score bar.

6.1 Does the retailer support improvements in the production of farmed Atlantic salmon (either Canadian produced or imported)?



6.2 Does the retailer support improvements in the production of imported farmed shrimps and prawns?



SCORING RATIONALE

Buy-Low Foods preferentially sources ASC certified shrimps and prawns, and when those products are not available sources shrimps and prawns that are Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) 2-star (or more) certified. Buy-Low offers a wide range of Ocean Wise Recommended shrimp products and over half of its shrimp sold is Ocean Wise. Buy-Low Foods does not offer any red-ranked shrimp (personal communication, G. Genereux, 20/04/2021).

, Only sells farmed shrimp and prawn products that meet the highest bars for sustainability, i.e. are certified by ASC or BAP, Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or ranked Best Choice by Seafood Watch (100 pts)

x Outreach to policymakers to advocate for shrimp and prawn farming management to be more environmentally sustainable and/or socially responsible

X Collaborating with other companies pre-competitively to improve shrimp and prawn farming practices

X Works with suppliers or producers directly to improve shrimp and prawn farming practices

xRefrains from advertising versions of this product that are not ASC or BAP certified, Not Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or ranked Avoid by Seafood Watch

 $x^{\rm Preferentially procures shrimp and prawns from sources that are ASC or BAP certified, Recommended by Ocean Wise or Best Choice by Seafood Watch$

X Sourcing decisions also prioritize products with high levels of social responsibility and traceability

SCORING RUBRIC

Retailer sells the product and does not support improvements by doing any of the actions listed or no information available

17% Retailer is engaged in one action to support improvement

34% Retailer is engaged in two actions to support improvement

51% Retailer is engaged in three actions to support improvement

68% Retailer is engaged in four actions to support improvement

85% Retailer is engaged in five actions to support improvement

100% Retailer is engaged in all support improvement activities or doesn't sell the product

6.3 Does the retailer support improvements in the production of skipjack tuna?

	\mathbf{O}
	National Average
SCORI	IG RATIONALE
Buy-L	ow Foods is not currently engaged in any of the following 'Support Improvement' actions on skipjack tuna.
x Only	sells skipjack tuna products that meet the highest bars for sustainability, i.e. are certified by MSC, ommended by Ocean Wise and/or ranked Best Choice by Seafood Watch (100 pts)
"Reco	ommended by Ocean Wise and/or ranked Best Choice by Seafood Watch (100 pts)
, Out	each to policymakers to advocate for skipjack fishing methods and management to be more environmentally
^sust	each to policymakers to advocate for skipjack fishing methods and management to be more environmentally ainable and/or socially responsible
X Colla	borating with other companies pre-competitively to improve skipjack fishery management practices
× Wor	ks with suppliers or producers directly to improve skipjack fishing practices
× Refr	ains from advertising versions of this product that are not MSC certified, Not Recommended by Ocean Wise /or ranked Avoid by Seafood Watch
×Pref	erentially sources from more sustainable sources that are MSC certified, Recommended by Ocean Wise or Best ce by Seafood Watch
X Sou	rcing decisions also prioritize products with high levels of social responsibility and traceability
SCORI	IG RUBRIC
0%	Retailer sells the product and does not support improvements by doing any of the actions listed or no information
availa	
17%	Retailer is engaged in one action to support improvement
34%	Retailer is engaged in two actions to support improvement
51%	Retailer is engaged in three actions to support improvement
68%	Retailer is engaged in four actions to support improvement
85%	Retailer is engaged in five actions to support improvement
100%	Retailer is engaged in all support improvement activities or doesn't sell the product

6.4 Is the retailer engaged in any actions to improve production of any other seafood products?



National Average

SCORING RATIONALE

Buy-Low Foods doesn't advertise any fresh or frozen products that are ranked 'Avoid' because it doesn't sell any! In 2019, Buy-Low Foods began using the Ocean Wise logo in their flyers to help alert its customers to sustainable products (personal communication, G. Genereux, 04/20/2021). In May of 2021, Buy-Low Foods sent a letter in support of a boat-to-plate traceability program to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (personal communication, G. Genereux, 05/14/2021).

×Only sells versions of this product that meet the highest bars for sustainability, i.e. are certified by MSC/ASC, Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or ranked Best Choice by Seafood Watch (100 pts)

, Outreach to policymakers to advocate for harvest or farming method and management to be more environmentally sustainable and/or socially responsible

X Collaborating with other companies pre-competitively to improve fishing or aquaculture practices

X Works with suppliers or producers directly to improve fishing or farming practices

Preferentially sources from more sustainable sources that are MSC/ASC certified, Recommended by Ocean Wise or Best Choice by Seafood Watch

X Sourcing decisions also prioritize products with high levels of social responsibility and traceability

SCORING RUBRIC

Retailer sells the product and does not support improvements by doing any of the actions listed or no information available

17% Retailer is engaged in one action to support improvement

34% Retailer is engaged in two actions to support improvement

51% Retailer is engaged in three actions to support improvement

68% Retailer is engaged in four actions to support improvement

85% Retailer is engaged in five actions to support improvement

100% Retailer is engaged in all support improvement activities