

Ocean Wise RAPSTA Updates 2024/25

Ocean Wise's Rapid Assessment Standard Methodology (RAPSTA) continues to provide robust evaluations of seafood sustainability. Below are the highlights and updates from the 2024/2025 RAPSTA assessments:

This year the total number of RAPSTA ratings is 131 (Figure 1). The decrease from previous years reflects the increased efforts by our team in producing full written reports for Canadian seafood products alongside the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program. The reduction of ratings also reflects learnings from the previous 2 years about product that is available on the market and accessed by partners.

You can find the methodology used to generate RAPSTA results here: [RAPSTA Report 23/24](#)

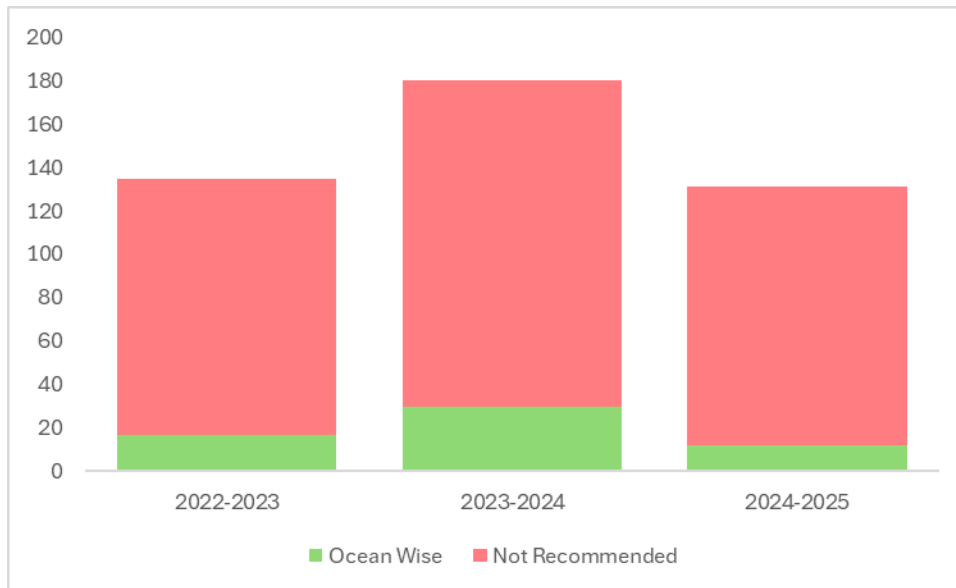


Figure 1. Total number of ratings generated from Ocean Wise's annual RAPSTA analysis.



Key Findings

Atlantic Herring

- **Status Update:** We have removed Atlantic herring from recommendations due to the uncertainty in management effectiveness despite some improvements in stock health in the region. We will continue to monitor these stocks year over year.

North Haida Razor Clam

- **Status Update:** North Haida Razor Clam is now classified as "Critical" and is no longer recommended by Ocean Wise due to significant sustainability concerns.

Krill

- **Status Update:** Krill has been newly assessed under RAPSTA. Details on sustainability and recommendations will be included in future updates.

Pacific Sardine

- **Status Update:** Pacific Sardine is a new addition to RAPSTA evaluations. This stock is harvested opportunistically, with availability in Canadian waters dependent on environmental conditions. It is currently not recommended due to concerns about bycatch and uncertain abundance.

Ocean Wise remains committed to providing accurate, up-to-date assessments to guide consumers, businesses, and stakeholders toward more sustainable seafood choices.














Please consult the tables below for this month’s new recommendations, recommendation changes, and recommendation archives. To learn more about how Ocean Wise scores sustainability visit our [Standards](#) page. For the specifics of how Ocean Wise determines recommendations for MSC certified seafood please view our [eco-certification standards](#).

To access the full list of ALL existing Ocean Wise recommendations, check out our Monthly Master Seafood List or head to the partner portal for a full suite of resources.









RAPSTA 2024-2025

New Ratings for 2025

Common name	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Current Rating
Clams, Softshell	<i>Mya arenaria</i>	Quebec - Softshell clam in Quebec Coastal Waters - Upper North Shore	Hand Implements	
Sea Urchin, Green sea	<i>Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis</i>	Newfoundland and Labrador - Sea Urchin - Newfoundland	Hand Implements	
		Pacific - Green Sea Urchin	Hand Implements	
		Pacific - Red Sea Urchin	Hand Implements	
		Quebec - Green sea urchin - Northern Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence	Hand Implements	

Hagfish, Atlantic	<i>Myxine glutinosa</i>	Gulf - Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (NAFO Div. 4T)	Barrel	 NOT RECOMMENDED
Hagfish, Atlantic	<i>Myxine glutinosa</i>	Maritimes - Hagfish - 4VWX5Z	Barrel	 NOT RECOMMENDED
Herring, Atlantic	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Gulf - Herring 4T (Fall Spawner) (Mobile Gear)/ (Fixed Gear)	All Gear Types	 NOT RECOMMENDED
		Maritimes - Herring 5Y, 5Z (weirs)		
		Newfoundland and Labrador - Herring 4R (Fall Spawner)		
		Newfoundland and Labrador - Herring 4R (Spring Spawner)		
		Maritimes - Herring 4VWX		
Krill, Isada	<i>Euphausia pacifica</i>	Pacific - Euphausiids	Seine	 NOT RECOMMENDED
Sardine, Pacific	<i>Sardinops sagax</i>	Pacific - Sardine (Pacific)	Seine	 NOT RECOMMENDED
Surfclam, Arctic	<i>Mactromeris polynyma</i>	Maritimes - Surf Clam - Banquereau	Dredge	 NOT RECOMMENDED
		Maritimes - Surf Clam - Grand Bank		

Updated recommendations

Common name	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Previous Rating	Updated Rating
Clam, Intertidal	<i>Venerupis philippinarum</i>	Pacific - Intertidal Clam (North Coast Haida Gwaii Razor)	Hand Implements		
Cod, Atlantic	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod - 2J3KL (Northern)	Gillnets		
Scallop, Sea	<i>Placopecten magellanicus</i>	Gulf - Scallop - Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (SFA 21a, b, c, 22, 23, 24)	Diving		
Turbot, Greenland	<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Quebec - Greenland Halibut - 4RST Gulf of St. Lawrence	Longlines		



References

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) (2021). Sustainability Survey for Fisheries. Accessed November 28, 2023.

Oceana Canada (2024a). Oceana Canada 2024 Fishery Audit: Unlocking Canada's Potential for Abundant Oceans.

Oceana Canada (2024b). Oceana Canada 2024 Fishery Audit: Unlocking Canada's Potential for Abundant Oceans, Indicator Data: Accessed December 2, 2024.

Schiller, L. and Renshaw, S. (2023) Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard (RAPSTA): 2022/23 Canadian Fisheries Results. Ocean Wise. Vancouver.

Seafood Watch (2024). Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program. Seafood Search Results.