

Research Based Best Practices for Environmental Education

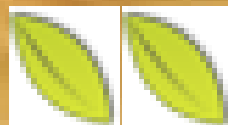
- Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
- August 2012
- Julian Deutremont Smith presented his work on School Sustainability Rating Systems



What does the research tell us?

- Credible voluntary certifications raise the bar for mainstream performance
- ISEAL identifies ten principles that help identify standards and certification that make the link between **action** and **sustainability impact**.





The most effective school sustainability rating systems have....

- Comprehensive Scope
- Levels of Achievement
- Transparent Criteria
- Performance Based Criteria
- Public Reporting of Data
- Open Governance Process
- Accountability Mechanisms



Julian Deutremont-Smith

Methods

- Identified 40 and Reviewed 32 sustainable rating programs.
- Describe the differing programs from both nonprofit and government

School sustainability rating system	Accountability mechanisms classification	Number of rating levels	Open governance processes	Performance or strategy-based	Public reporting	Transparent criteria
Arizona Environmentally Healthy School	First	1	No	Strategy	No	Yes
Athens-Clarke County Green Schools	First	1	No	Strategy	No	Yes
Certified Green School	First	1	No	Strategy	No	Yes
Certified Green School Division	Second	4	No	Strategy	No	Yes
CHPS Criteria for New Construction and Major Modernizations	Hybrid	3	Yes	Hybrid	Partial	Yes

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Discussion of Review of all 32 Programs

Present

- Transparent criteria
- Multiple levels of recognition

Needs Improvement

- Weak accountability mechanisms
- Limited topical scope
- Strategy based instead of performance based criteria
- Minimal public reporting
- Not an open governance process

Ultimately all school sustainability rating systems have room to grow and almost all programs face similar challenges.

Julian Deutremont-Smith

Forestry

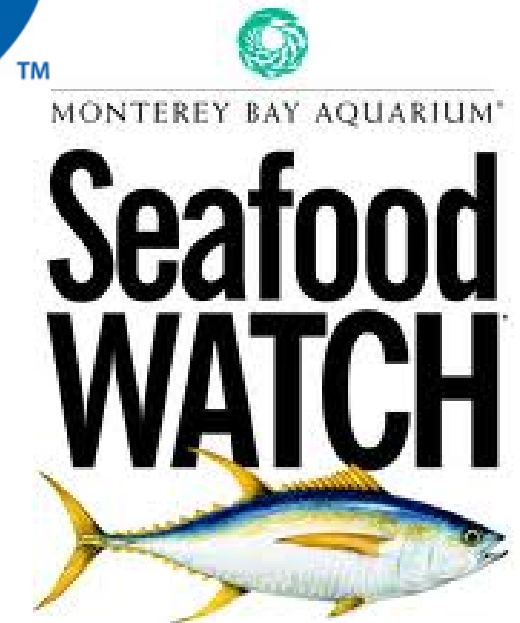


Good for you. Good for our forests.™



Fisheries

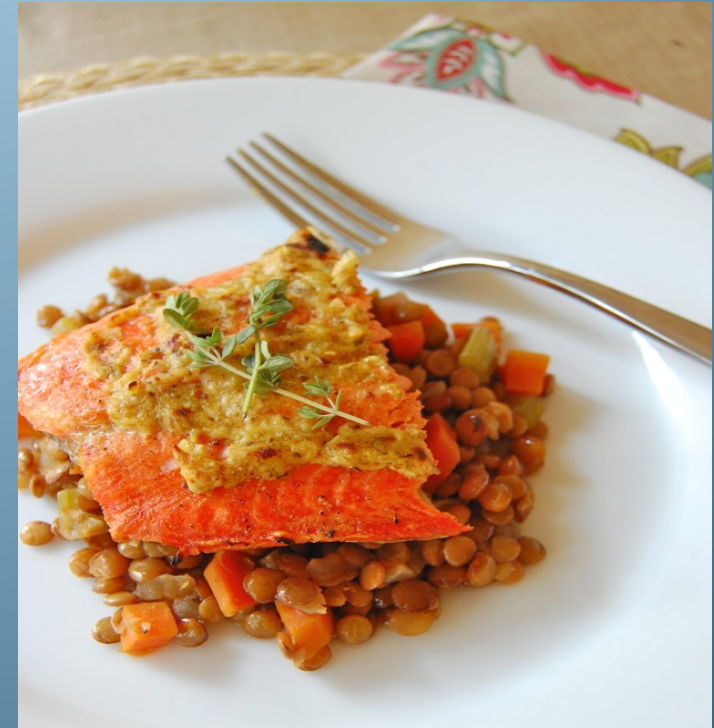
- Three examples of accepted rating systems for wild caught fish



Alaska Wild Caught Salmon

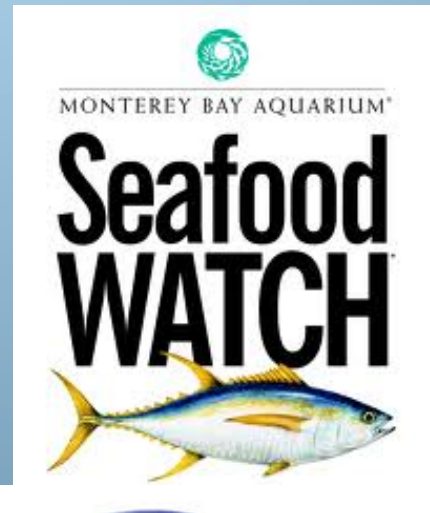


From spawning to spork... there are impacts to the industry. Are we supporting sustainable oceans by ordering salmon?



Fisheries

Does adding more labels make the oceans more sustainable?



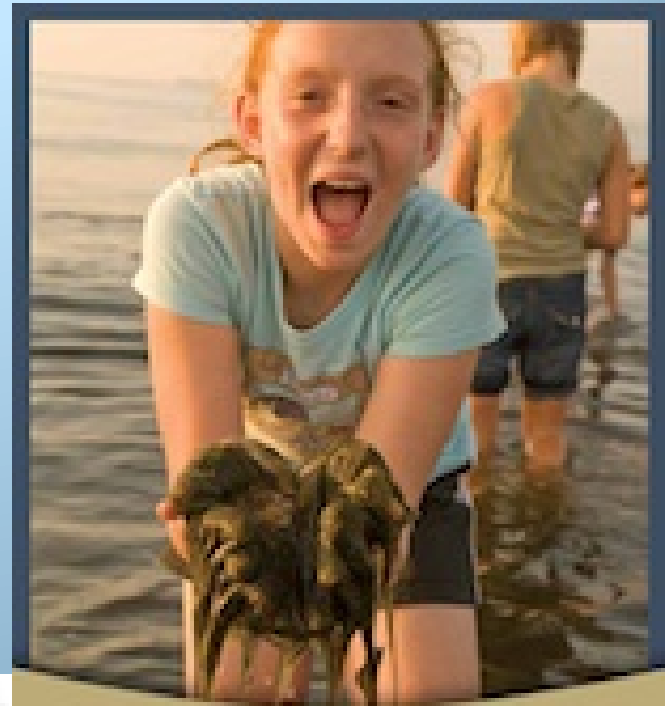


One answer:

- The existing rating systems collaborate and work on developing cross industry core actions.
- As well as individual actions to support the oceans
 - Define Sustainability
 - Collect Data

Where can we go from here?

- Framework for what sustainability means
- We have a tradition of collaboration and leadership
- We have the need to measure the impact of decades of work



MID-ATLANTIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY STRATEGY



- **Comprehensive Scope**
- **Levels of Achievement**
- **Transparent Criteria**
- **Performance Based Criteria**
- **Public Reporting of Data**
- **Open Governance Process**
- **Accountability Mechanisms**