



# COSTCO

## Wholesale ocean destruction

### DID NOT RESPOND

**Costco Canada has refused to provide any information about its seafood sourcing and is apparently taking no initiatives for seafood sustainability. Although its US counterpart has participated in WWF's Aquaculture Dialogues, the company continues to sell tropical shrimp and farmed Atlantic salmon, two unsustainable farmed species found on Greenpeace's Redlist. Costco could make important strides in reducing its impact on the oceans by developing a comprehensive sustainable seafood policy and eliminating Redlist seafoods from its inventory.**

Costco Wholesale is the largest warehouse club operator in North America. Costco Wholesale Canada operates 76 membership warehouse clubs in nine Canadian provinces. Customers must pay a membership fee to shop at Costco; online shopping is now also available. The big-box stores offer discount prices on about 4,000 products, including food, appliances, office products, furniture, and software. Costco (then Price Club) opened its first Canadian warehouse in Montreal in 1986. Within its well-established niche of large bulk item and low margins, Costco is continuing a slow expansion.

### Banners

Costco.

### Sustainable seafood policy

Costco has no formal environmental policy and no sustainable seafood policy. According to social responsibility reports (Globe and Mail, KLD), the company is lagging in environmental initiatives and does very little reporting on environmental or supply-chain issues.

### Sustainable seafood initiatives

Costco's parent company in the US has participated in dialogues with the WWF regarding the environmental and social impacts of shrimp aquaculture. Other than this limited participation, Costco is not affiliated with any retailer working groups, fishing industry groups, seafood companies, third-party auditors, or environmental conservation organizations working on seafood sustainability.

### Labelling and transparency

Costco does not sufficiently label seafood products so consumers can avoid purchasing destructively fished species and does not promote sustainable seafood to its customers.

### Redlist seafood sales

Greenpeace surveys found that Costco sells 8 of the 15 Redlist seafoods: Atlantic cod, Atlantic halibut, farmed Atlantic salmon, Atlantic sea scallops, haddock, shark, tropical shrimp and prawns, and yellowfin tuna. Costco Canada does not have fresh seafood counters in its stores, thus limiting the range of fish sold.

***Note:** Costco has refused to respond to multiple inquiries Greenpeace has made about its seafood policies and practices, both in preparation for our Out of Stock report and for this retailer scoring. In addition, Costco was given an opportunity to correct and comment on the contents of this profile, which it did not take. All of the information in this report is taken from annual reports, industry data including social responsibility reports, in-store surveys, and other publicly available information such as corporate websites.*

