

A life-cycle assessment of farmed and wild salmon

Panel members:

Astrid Scholz, Ecotrust

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This panel focuses on a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of wild and farmed salmon—both wild and farmed, and from harvest through processing and distribution to final product forms consumers encounter in stores and restaurants, presented in the larger context of using the LCA approach for assessing the environmental and social impacts of fisheries and other food production industries. The panel opens with presentations on existing research and applications of the LCA approach and related environmental impact assessments to fisheries, with examples from fisheries for tuna (Tyedmers), cod (Ziegler), and/or a variety of species targeted by Danish fleets (Thrane). The core of the panel is an introduction to a project underway to assess the life-cycle impacts of wild and farmed salmon production in Alaska and British Columbia, comprising all common capture and culture modes and three common product forms (Scholz, Sonesson, Tyedmers). It concludes with a presentation on the evolution of US federal rules and regulations on bio-based products that, simultaneous with shifts in global trade rules and consumers demands, are key external factors now bringing LCA practices to the forefront of environmental policymaking (Ritchie). The panel discussion will focus on implications and applications of LCA for national and international standards and labels, as well as for consumer education campaigns and public policy.