

Sourcing Seafood With Reduced Risk to NARWs

Ropeless Consortium 2019
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Overview

- **Demand for sustainable seafood exists (company sourcing policies)**
 - Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions
 - Example policies/commitments
- **Existing frameworks (MSC fisheries, FIPs, legislation)**
 - Already established traceability/chain-of-custody
 - Familiarity to companies and in many cases part of their seafood sourcing policies
 - Shared goals
- **Ropeless fishing gear**
 - What this means for seafood

Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions

Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions continues to expand its coalition of environmental NGOs promoting seafood sustainability

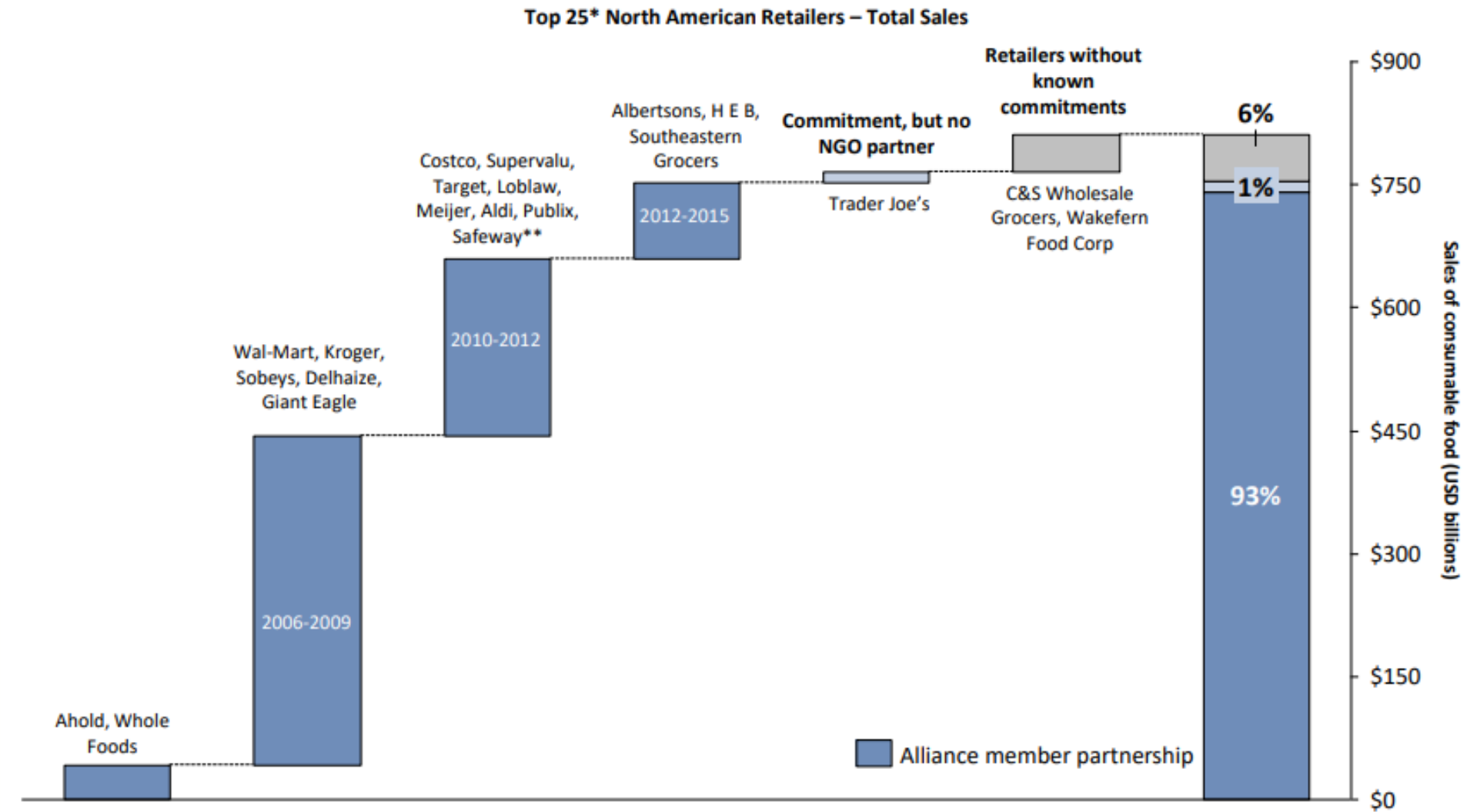
Members:



Collaborators:



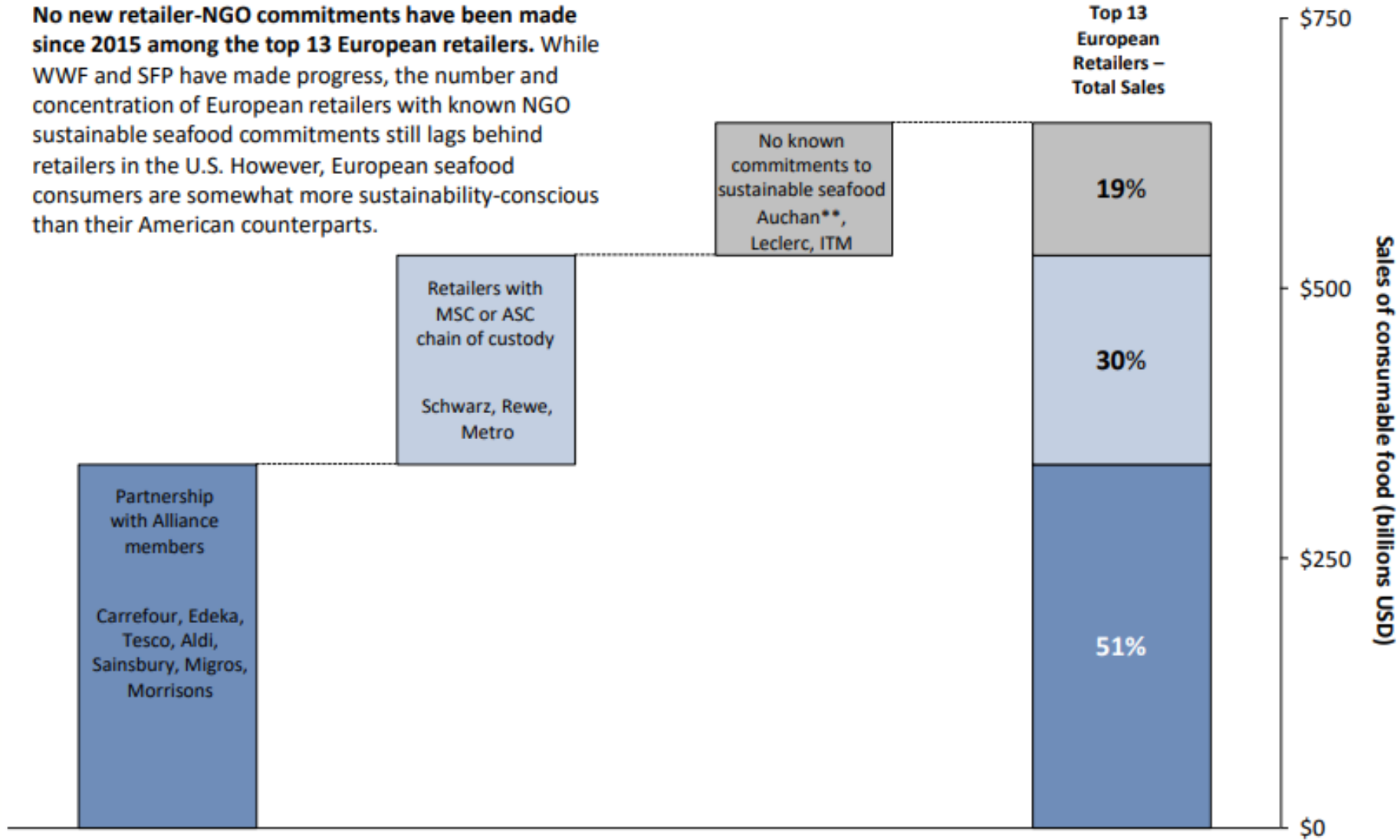
Top 25* North American retailers' sustainable seafood commitments have leveled off, with more than 90% of the market share engaged



Taken from CEA Seafood Metrics Report, 2017

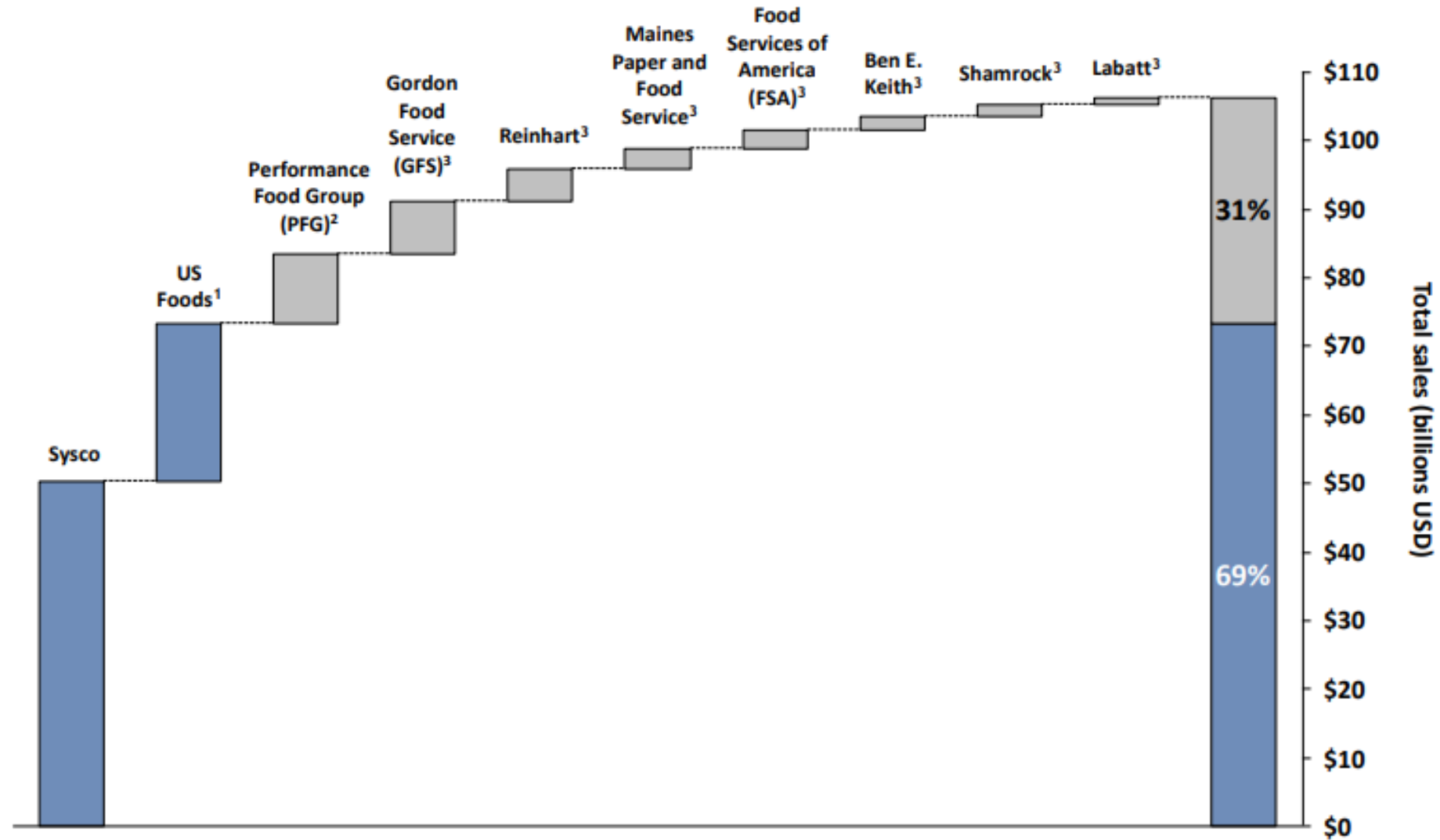
Of the top 13 European retailers,* 10 have made commitments to sustainable seafood, mostly through NGO partnerships

No new retailer-NGO commitments have been made since 2015 among the top 13 European retailers. While WWF and SFP have made progress, the number and concentration of European retailers with known NGO sustainable seafood commitments still lags behind retailers in the U.S. However, European seafood consumers are somewhat more sustainability-conscious than their American counterparts.



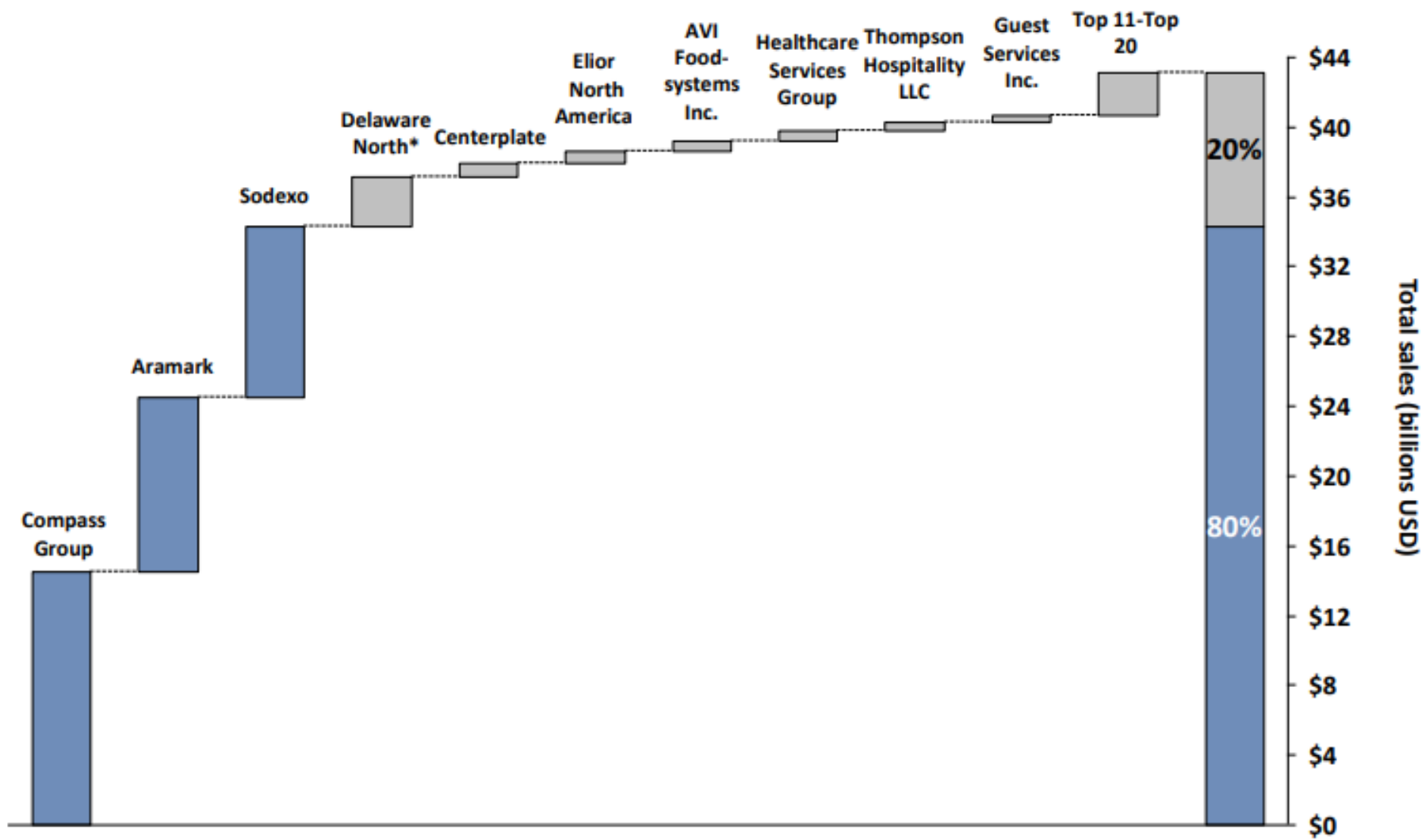
Taken from CEA Seafood Metrics Report, 2017

Sysco and US Foods, the largest North American food service distributors by total sales, have made sustainable seafood commitments

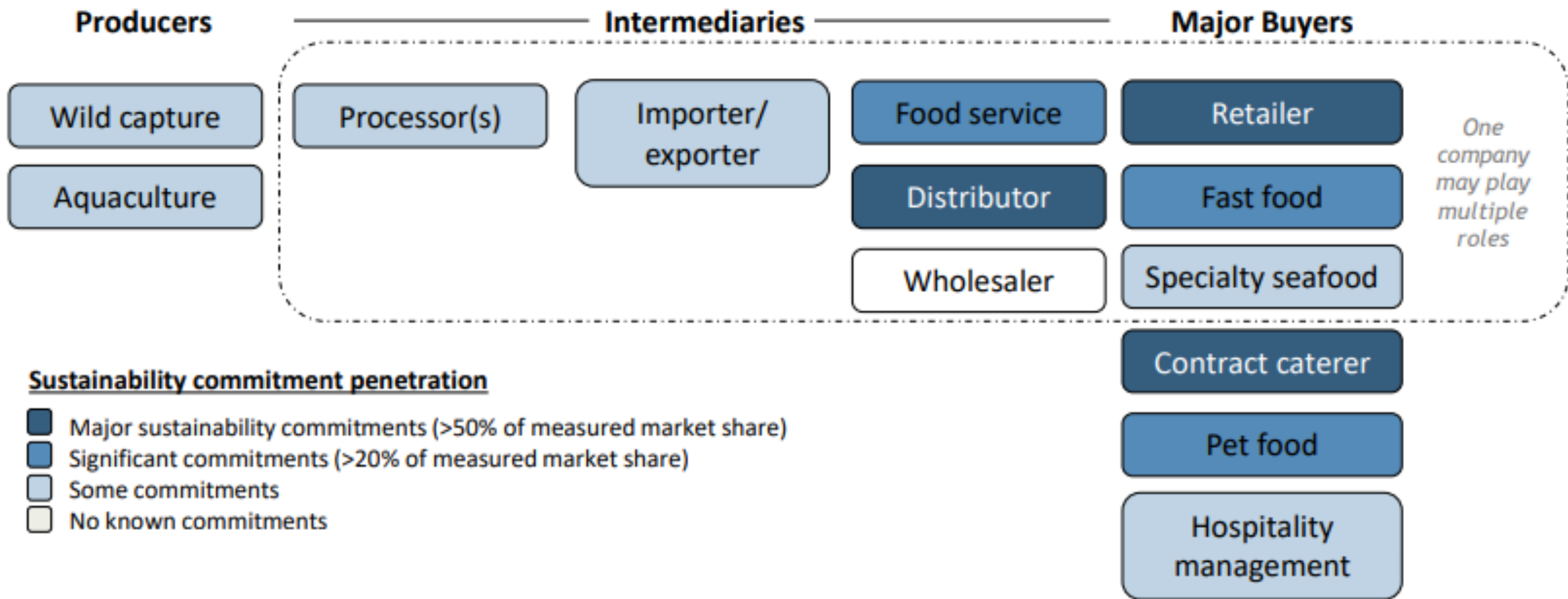


Taken from CEA Seafood Metrics Report, 2017

Of the top 20 U.S. contract catering companies, the three largest have made commitments

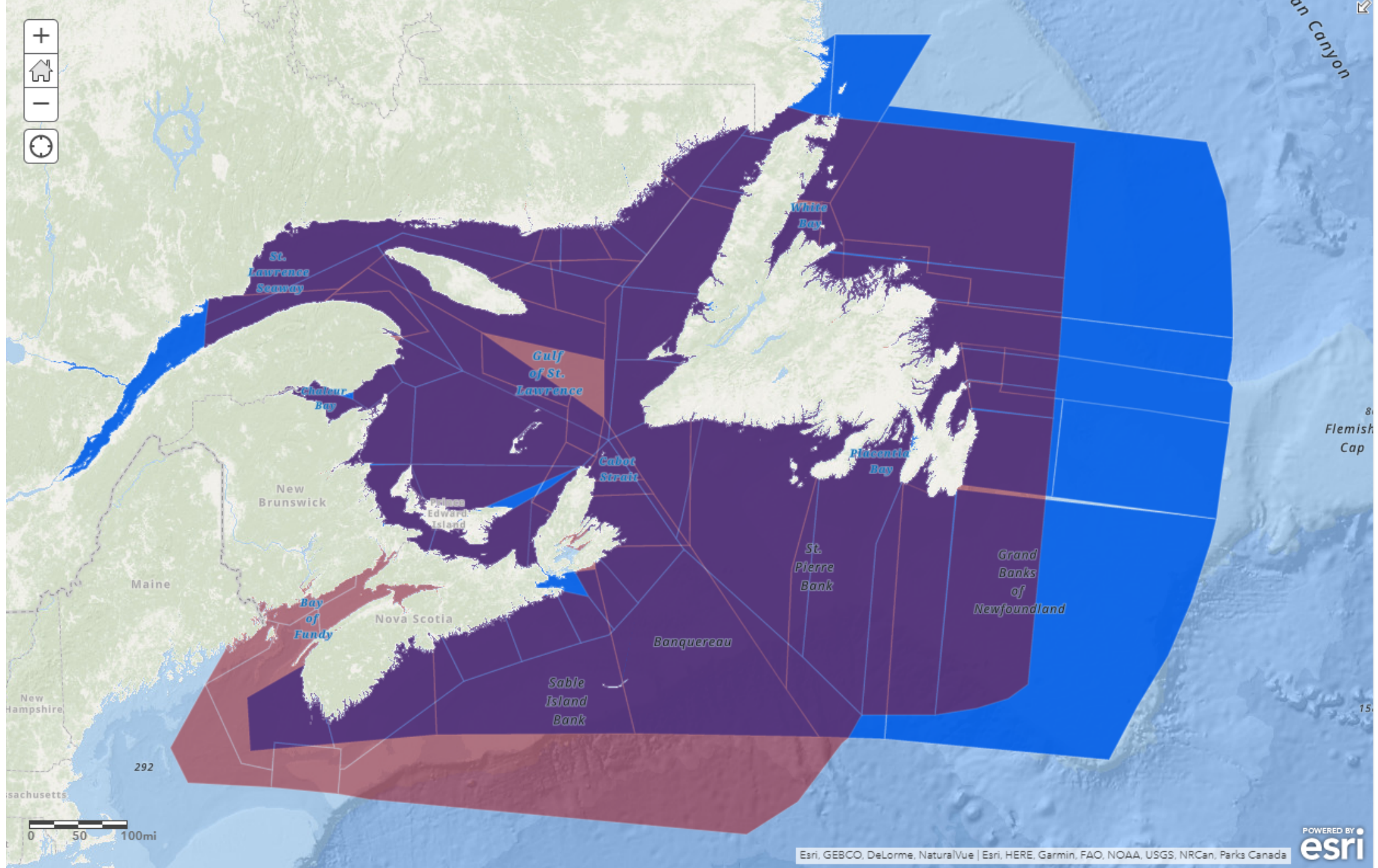


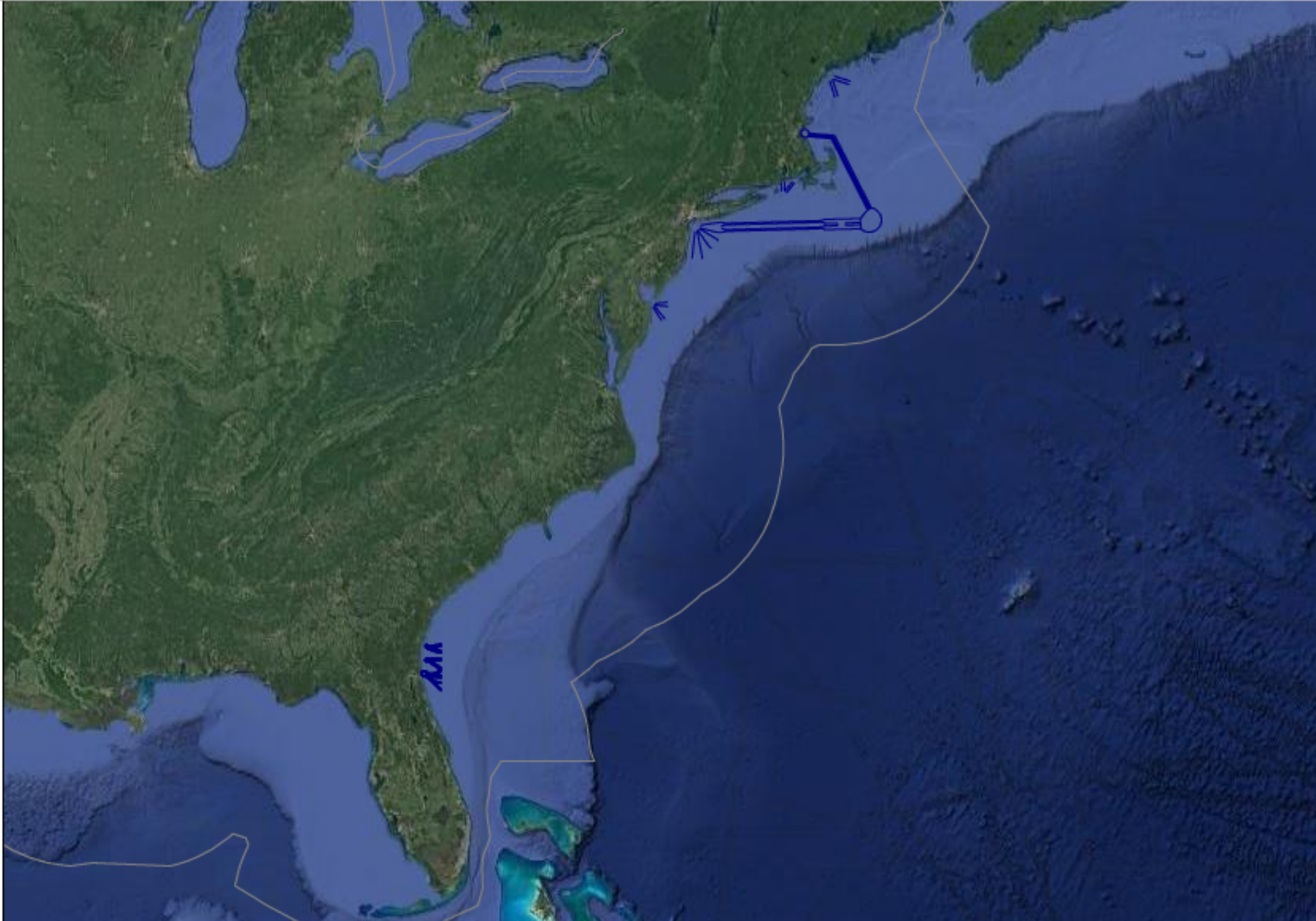
Taken from CEA Seafood Metrics Report, 2017



Some examples of companies with certifications commitment

- Ahold Delhaize, Kroger, Aldi, Lidl Spain, Giant Eagle, Publix, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Walmart, Wegman's
- Hyatt, Hilton
- High Liner
- McDonald's
- Nestle, Nestle Purina
- U.S. Food





Shared goals

- The fishery must meet national and international requirements
- **Known direct effects of the fishery are likely to not hinder recovery**
 - Combined effects of all MSC fisheries must be highly likely to not hinder recovery to close condition
- **Indirect effects have been considered**
- **Management measures in place that minimize mortality and are likely to achieve national and international requirements**
- **Management measures are likely to work and are reviewed for effectiveness**
- **Qualitative information is adequate to estimate related mortality OR productivity and susceptibility attributes of ETP species**
- **Information is adequate to support measures to manage impacts**

Technique/gear	Reference	Estimated Risk Reduction	Current Testing	Areas of Concern
Ropeless gear	DeAlteris 1999; Hopkins & Hoggard 2006; Allen & DeAlteris 2007	100%	Testing in Gulf of St. Lawrence snow crab, offshore MA lobster fisheries	Enforcement concerns with gear that isn't visible at the surface; cost-prohibitive at this point.
1700 lbf ropes or sleeves or equivalent	Knowlton et al. 2016	36-72%	Using in Cape Cod Bay (some), testing in MA, NH	Offshore, deep-water, high-current areas. Likely will not reduce risk to small and juvenile whales.
Toppers in endline		36% (if topper is reduced breaking strength rope used in half the endline)	Used in areas of Maine	Lower risk reduction if entanglement likelihood is equivalent across all depths.
Knots or splices that break and leave bitter ends		If 3/8" rope tied every 40' may be equivalent to weak ropes (36-72%)	Needs R&D and testing	Baleen acts as a jam cleat – may damage feeding ability.
TLC	FAO 2018	Unknown	Testing in MA, NH, ME	TLCs may leave long trailing lines. Longer lines may help disentanglements, but may result in more wraps around the animal. Could be used together with reduced breaking-strength rope.
Closed area		90%+	Cape Cod Bay, GoSL	Fishermen lose access to the fishery and much-needed income; high survey effort or reliable information on behavior of whales needed. Fishermen may set around periphery, creating a high-risk “fence”.
Sinking groundline		Unknown, but disentanglement pre/post-2008 data should be analyzed	All U.S. required. No Canadian fisheries use this.	When trawling up a large number of traps, unlikely that an entangled whale would be observed, as it is likely to sink.
Endline reduction	Kite-Powell et al., unpublished	10-40%	Modelling study	May not be feasible where concentration of gear is high and fishermen need two endlines per trap or trawl to keep orientation.
Effort reduction		Unknown		Depends on use of endlines- reducing number of traps fished will not reduce endlines in water if they add or keep a second endline to the trap or trawl.
Grappling	Pemaquid Fishermen's Co-op 2012	90%+		Illegal in many areas, layovers, enforcement difficulties, interactions with mobile fleet.
Ghost-gear removal		2%		
Acadian Crabber Association revised gear allocations		38%	Gulf of St. Lawrence snow crab only	
Visual deterrents (e.g. colored ropes)	Kraus et al. 2014	6.2-9.3%	Grand Manan Fishermen's Ass'n, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Ass'n, South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Ass'n	Less effective at night and at depth, fouling reduces effectiveness.

Table from Kraus et al. Ropes Workshop Feb. 2019 report, submitted to ALWTRT April 2019

Thank you!

- Michelle Cho, mcho@neaq.org
- www.bycatch.org
- www.andersoncabotcenterforoceanlife.org
- Other helpful resources
- www.solutionsforseafood.com
- www.ourgssi.org
- www.fisheryprogress.org