

1 [Supporting Sustainable Harvesting and Labeling of Seafood]

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Resolution supporting the promotion of sustainable harvesting and labeling of seafood in San Francisco restaurants and markets.

WHEREAS, San Francisco is world renowned for its Fishermen’s Wharf, its local seafood and its seafood restaurants; and,

WHEREAS, Fishing remains a vibrant part of San Francisco’s economy and culture, employing thousands in the catching, processing, distribution, and sales of seafood; and,

WHEREAS, Fish and seafood consumption in San Francisco is among the highest per capita in the nation; and,

WHEREAS, The people of San Francisco expect their seafood to be of high quality, safe to eat, and harvested in a manner that is neither destructive to fish populations or the environment; and,

WHEREAS, Much of the seafood coming to San Francisco may come from areas of the world where waters may be polluted or have high levels of toxins, fishing practices are not sustainable and may be harmful to wildlife and the environment, those in engaged in the harvesting and processing of the fish are not paid fair wages; and

WHEREAS, The consumption of such products undermines fish conservation, environmental protection and the economic viability of San Francisco’s fishing fleet; and,

WHEREAS, Unsustainable fishing practices in many parts of the world, including some in the US, have resulted in depleted fish populations and the destruction of marine wildlife and the environment; and,

1 WHEREAS, Current labeling practices do not provide sufficient information for
2 consumers to distinguish between fish that have been harvested in a sustainable way and that
3 which have not; and,

4 WHEREAS, Congress passed the Farm Bill of 2002 which mandated the labeling of
5 fish and seafood by country of origin and whether the fish is wild or farmed by 2004, but does
6 not require such labeling of fish sold in restaurants, the accurate labeling of the fish by
7 species, the way the fish is harvested, or any health warnings; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 encourages the consumption of locally-caught seafood and fish harvested in a sustainable
10 way and encourages restaurants and markets featuring seafood to give preference to local
11 seafood and seafood harvested in a sustainable way; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
13 Francisco urges seafood markets and restaurants to provide consumer labeling or information
14 to inform customers as to the species or species group of fish or shellfish, the gear or fishing
15 method used to harvest the fish, and where the seafood was caught or grown, and the known
16 health benefits or risks associated with the consumption of that fish or shellfish.

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