Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch

Recommendation

GOOD ALTERNATIVE

Buy, but be aware of concerns



American eel

Anguilla rostrata



Atlantic Eel, Common Eel, Freshwater Eel, Kabayaki, Silver Eel, Unagi



Northwest Atlantic Ocean

Other details

N/A Country or region United States (North Carolina)

Fishing gear

Pots

At a glance

American eel caught in North Carolina with pots is a Good Alternative. American eels are depleted, and it's unknown if overfishing is occurring. However, bycatch of diamondback terrapins isn't a major concern in North Carolina because they're unlikely to be found where the fishery operates. Management is rated moderately effective and includes measures to mitigate bycatch, monitor landings in-season, and limit quota overages. There are no major concerns about bottom habitat impacts, but policies to protect ecosystem functioning are needed. This recommendation covers the life stage when American eels are referred to as "yellow" eels.