

Ocean Wise arrives at the Salmon House

CHOOSING sustainable seafood while dining out in the Lower Mainland just got easier.

The Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre announced last week that to date, 16 British Columbia restaurants are participating in Ocean Wise, a new seafood conservation program.

Because the list of endangered fish and shellfish species and populations is constantly changing, it's difficult for consumers to keep track of what's OK to eat and what should be avoided.

The Ocean Wise program is aimed at helping them figure it out by placing the onus on participating restaurants to serve only seafood that is abundant and from fisheries that are not damaging to the ocean environment.

In order for restaurants to participate in the program, they must be dedicated to a process of continual improvement in the seafood they serve, removing unsustainable seafood items from their menu and replacing them with sustainable alternatives whenever possible.

So far, the only North Shore restaurant participating in Ocean Wise is the Salmon House on the Hill.

- Other B.C. restaurants are:
- C Restaurant, the Ocean Wise founding partner;
 - Araxi Restaurant and Lounge (Whistler);
 - Aqua Riva;
 - Bis Moreno Italian Restaurant;
 - Blue Water Cafe and Raw Bar;
 - The Cannery Seafood Restaurant;
 - Chambar Belgian Restaurant;
 - CinCin Ristorante and Bar;
 - DV8 Lounge;
 - Horizons Restaurant;
 - Nimmo Bay Resort (Port McNeill);
 - Ouisi Bistro;
 - Raincity Grill;
 - Vancouver Aquarium Catering and Food Services;
 - and West Restaurant and Bar.

Vancouver Aquarium conservation and research staff members have worked with participating restaurants and made recommendations for their menus.

Considerations about seafood that can be presented on an Ocean Wise menu include whether the fishery damages habitat; whether the fishery incurs bycatch of non-targeted species; whether the fishery is managed in a well-informed and precautionary way, with adequate data, good rules and enforcement, and no over-fishing; and whether the stock numbers are high enough to sustain a healthy population.

For more information about Ocean Wise, visit www.vanaqua.org.

