

Motion RE: Seafood on Campus

Whereas the SSMU constitution pledges “demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection. The Society shall be mindful of the direct and indirect effects corporations, businesses and organizations have on their social, political, economic, and environmental surroundings”; and

Whereas 90% of the world's predatory fish have disappeared from the world's oceans since the industrialization of fishing in the 1950's, with imminent and severe consequences for ocean ecosystems; and

Whereas according to officials from the UN food and Agriculture Organization, over 75% of the world's fisheries are fully- to over-exploited, depleted, or in a state of collapse; and

Whereas fish on the “Red List” of Canada's Seafood Guide by SeaChoice, are defined as species that are either commonly sourced from overfished and depleted stocks, or are being fished at such a high rate that stocks are being rapidly depleted, or the fishing methods used to catch the fish are often highly destructive to other ocean creatures and habitat; and

Whereas the specific fish on the “Red List” include: Chilean Seabass, Clams (Arctic surf and Quahog), Atlantic Cod, King Crab, Sole, Greenland Halibut, Haddock, Lobster, Orange Roughy, Rockfish, Scallops, Shark, Tropical shrimp, Tropical Prawns, Swordfish, Albacore Tuna, Bluefin Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Atlantic Salmon, and Tilapia; and

Whereas the continued fishing of each of the above, unsustainable fish species, is highly detrimental to the overall ecology of our oceans;

Therefore be it resolved that SSMU move towards the permanent elimination of the sale of all “Red List” fish species within the Student Union building; and

Be it further resolved that SSMU put their best effort into working with campus groups to pressure McGill administration to replace all of the “Red List” fish species from the menus of all cafeterias and food vendors on the McGill campus, as well as in McGill Residences; and

Be it further resolved that SSMU meet with all future contractors in the Student Union Building to insist upon adherence to Canada's Seafood Guide, in order to facilitate progress in sustainable seafood choices with future food vendor contracts.

Moved by VP Sebastian Ronderos-Morgan

Seconded by President Ivan Neilson