



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
ALASKA

March 24th, 2025

House Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Representative Louise Stutes, Chair
Representative Bryce Edgmon, Vice Chair
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 111

The Alaska Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) thanks you for the opportunity to comment on HB 111: "An Act relating to finfish farms and finfish farm products; and providing for an effective date."

Alaska BHA **opposes** HB 111. Alaska's wild fisheries play a crucial role in supporting Alaskan's livelihoods, sustaining our food supply, and driving our state's economy. Allowing the farming of non-native fish species poses a well-documented risk to our wild stocks, even in so-called "contained" environments.

The potential for disease transmission from farmed fish to wild populations is a serious concern. Airborne vectors such as birds and the possibility of escapes due to floods or negligence create pathways for contamination. Additionally, introducing fish farming in Alaska would undermine ongoing efforts to market the unique taste and nutritional benefits of Alaska's wild fisheries while directly competing with small boat harvesters who rely on these waters for their livelihoods.

Furthermore, permitting the farming of non-salmon species sets a dangerous precedent that could pave the way for salmon farming in the future. This would threaten the integrity of Alaska's seafood industry and further compromise the health of our marine ecosystems.

Prioritizing the protection and management of wild stocks, along with safeguarding the spawning and rearing habitats of salmon and other species, is the most effective and sustainable approach to enhancing Alaska's food security.

I urge you to reject HB 111/SB 108 and instead advocate for policies that protect our wild fisheries, support local communities, and preserve Alaska's unique and valuable marine resources.



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On behalf of the Alaska Chapter of BHA,



Mary Graves

Alaska Chapter Coordinator



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