

SCOMM

75:19

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: JANE WILLIAMS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 1048 NORRIS LANE

CITY: FAIRBANKS

ZIP: 99712

PHONE: 567-4979

BILL NO: HB 432

SUBJECT: PROHIBITION OF FINFISH FARMING

MESSAGE: WORLD FISH MARKETS DEMAND UPLAND FISH FARMING. ALASKA IS ALREADY TWENTY YEARS BEHIND. GIVE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT AND LONG TERM LOANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALASKAN FISH INDUSTRY - FROM EGG TO FROZEN FILLETS. WE HAVE THE CLEAN COLD WATER, THE SPACE, THE POWER AND THE KNOWLEDGE. UPLAND FISH FARMING IS A NATURAL FOR ALASKA. GO FOR IT. I OPPOSE HB 432 IN ITS PRESENT FORM. AMEND BILL TO ALLOW UPLAND FISH FARMING. EOM

POMID: 07103018

DATE: 04/03/90

TIME: 10:30:18

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

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FURNACE

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KELLY

KERTTULA

PEARCE

POURCHOT

RODEY

STURGULEWSKI

SZYMANSKI

UEHLING

ZHAROFF

Tank Farming

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: PAUL STODDARD

TITLE:

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 70916

CITY: FAIRBANKS

ZIP: 99707

PHONE: N/R-

BILL NO: HB 432

SUBJECT: PROHIBITION OF FINFISH FARMING

MESSAGE: I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BILL AMENDED TO PERMIT PEN-RAISED FISH THAT
ARE NOT TO BE RELEASED INTO THE WILD. THIS COULD BE A VIABLE INDUSTRY THAT
WOULD NOT ENDANGER NATURAL SALMON RUNS. EOM

POMID: 07110808

DATE: 04/12/90

TIME: 11:08:08

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

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RODEY

FAIKS

KERTTULA

COGHILL

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: KENNETH CREWDSON

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 200 W. 34TH AVENUE,#204

CITY: ANCHORAGE

ZIP: 99503

PHONE: 344-2071

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: MARICULTURE

MESSAGE: I WHOLE HEARTLY SUPPORT SENATOR FAHRENKAMP'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.
ALASKA NEEDS A STRONG MARICULTURE INDUSTRY FOR ALL SPECIES AND TYPES.DO NOT LET
SENATOR ELIASON'S POSITION PREVAIL. HEED CAREFULLY THE STATEMENTS OF PAUL FUHS.
RESPECTFULLY. /CMR

POMID: 03093703

DATE: 04/12/90

TIME: 09:37:03

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

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FAHRENKAMP

KERTTULA

FRANK

HALFORD

STURGULEWSKI

ZHAROFF

KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS * PIONEER PRINTING * MEMO

.....from the desk of Lew Williams, Jr.

Dick:

Thank for your letter
on Fish Farms, We are printing.
I talked in the Lloyd
Jones last week and
he and I wondered if
ASMI is doing anything
to advertise natural
or Alaska salmon, or
promoting Alaska salmon.

.....from the desk of Lew Williams, Jr.

"If it's Alaska salmon
it is nature's food,
no Alaska salmon comes
from farms -"

Another alternative
may be to have the
regional aquaculture
associations raise
farm salmon and
use the profits to
subsidize natives

KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS * PIONEER PRINTING * MEMO

.....from the desk of Lew Williams, Jr.

Rich (you could expect
that from a left wing
Democrat).

Anyway, as the
Fishing economy goes,
so go I.

You may be interested
in the attached clip.

P.S. Your paper is on the way.

Nebraska — home to salmon?

Fish farm near Lisco raises Coho variety

By R. LYNN ABEL
Regional Correspondent

LISCO — Even in the middle of the arid, treeless prairie, life is born and sustained, from what appears to be nothing but an empty grassland, life springs forth in the aquatic form.

Cold Water Fish Farms Inc., located about one mile south and east of Lisco, is a new business on the prairie. Coho salmon are raised from eggs to one-pound fish at the fish farm.

Currently Cold Water Fish Farms has about 200,000 salmon in different developmental stages.

Eggs are shipped from Washington and Oregon and incubated until they are two inches long (fingerlings), then grown in huge tanks where pumps deliver 1,700 gallons of fresh Nebraska water per minute.

All equipment is connected to an alarm system which is then connected to the living quarters. The alarm is activated in the event of power outages or pump failure. A back-up system includes battery operated lights and a propane powered auxiliary pump.

Two full-time employees hand feed a commercially made food, all day long, for 12-15 months until the salmon weigh $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 pound.

Dale Hiedi, manager of Cold Water Fish Farms, oversees the operation. Hiedi brings 30 years experience, from Alaska and Washington, to the fish-farming business in Nebraska.

The company's long-term goal is to process one to two million pounds of



Photo by R. Lynn Abel

MATT QUEEN causes quite a stir as he hand feeds a tank of fish.

salmon each year, according to Matt Queen, the grandson of Cold water Fish Farms president, Walter Queen.

Walter Queen said they plan to expand the company to include another building for growing tanks by this spring, and to have a processing plant in full operation by mid-summer.

The processing plant will gut, bone, chill and pack the salmon into 1-10 pound boxes for the retail and wholesale markets.

The future processing plant will employ 14-15 people for its operation.

Matt Queen said the farm has had a number of visitors and that in the future they will conduct tours on Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m. by appointment.



THESE YOUNG SALMON
wriggle around their tank,
living the good life.

Nebraska Star Herald 3/6/90

Sent by Lew Wms.
db Ketchikan

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: GARY L. SINKOLA

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 84243

CITY: FAIRBANKS

ZIP: 99708

PHONE: 474-8871

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: FISH FARMING

MESSAGE: WHY IS ANYONE IN THIS STATE AGAINST FARMING OF ANY KIND? IF IT ISN'T GROWN IT HAS TO BE MINED. THERE IS ROOM FOR MINERS, FARMERS, TEACHERS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS, ATTORNEYS AND BUREAUCRATS. THERE SHOULD BE NO ROOM FOR GREEDY STRIFE MAKERS WHO WOULD DENY PERSONAL INITIATIVE AND HONEST LABOR.

EOM

POMID: 07141141

DATE: 03/12/90

TIME: 14:11:41

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

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LEMAN	MACLEAN	PEARCE
MARTIN	MENARD	POURCHOT
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SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

January 24, 1990

The Honorable Dick Eliason
Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Eliason;

I understand that presently you are pushing for a bill to institute another moratorium on finfish farming. I understand that you and your constituents are against any finfish farming that could compete in the marketplace. A second reason for your stand is your concern for introduction of disease and genetic pollution into the wild stock.

As a constituent of yours, I find your concern for marketplace competition very shortsighted. Presently, the market is being flooded with farmed salmon by others rather than Alaskans. This present situation is due to the past restrictive laws on finfish farming in Alaska. Alaska could have presently been one of the leaders in this area had it not been for the moratorium. At this stage in the game it will be difficult for a viable finfish farm to develop especially for the smaller farmer. Other countries and states already have the market filled and production capital in place. I ask you to reconsider your stand and not let us fall any further behind. Additionally, another ban would forestall individuals in developing other finfish farming opportunities such as Artic char, blackcod, and halibut. There will always be a market for low price salmon and a high price market for "Wild" salmon. These markets have not disappeared due to the influx of ranches salmon.

Your concerns for disease and genetic pollution problems are more well founded; however they can be and are now presently controlled. The technology for disease control is there and was been instituted in Alaska. Presently, state and PNP hatcheries are pumping out millions of pathologically certified salmon fry. Additionally, these fry are introduced into the wild which has caused a greater amount of genetic pollution that could ever be realized by a farming industry. I have not heard many fisherman in the past years complain about catching hatchery raised salmon. In fact, many fisherman are now targeting these runs.

In conclusion, I would like to ask you what gives you and others in the industry the right to hold back a better idea? Management of wild stocks in Southeast is an impossible feat; the stocks will slowly fall into ruin and fishing will become a dying industry much like what has happened in the lower 48. Fish farmer and fisherman can work together. It has happened in B.C. and Scandinavia. Listen to the recommendations of the Finfish Task Force they have looked at both sides of the issues. There are many like myself that envision a personal farm of my own and a thriving finfish farming community in Southeast.

Sincerely,

Mark & Lou Ortega
1308 SMC Rd.
SITKA, AK 99835

MARICULTURE: IS THE EMPEROR WEARING ANY CLOTHES?

by Paul Fuhs, Mayor
City of Unalaska

Those of us who are closest to Alaska's fishing industry have realized for years that many countries throughout the world are benefitting from the economic rewards of farming the seas or mariculture.

At an Anchorage conference titled "North Pacific Fisheries: Business Development and Policy," business, scientific and diplomatic delegates from seven countries related how mariculture is an important, integral thrust of their fisheries strategy for the 21st Century.

How did Alaska fare?

Here we had to rather sheepishly report that although we are recognized as having some of the world's best environmental conditions and seafood industry infrastructure, the development of aquatic farming has been stymied by a series of delays and moratoriums imposed by the political process. The politicized nature of the process is apparent by introduction of legislation to ban all forms of finfish farming before legislators had a chance to study the recommendations in a long-awaited report by a citizen task force.

The international delegates were surprised to discover the legislature had imposed a three-year moratorium on fish farming at a time when the state was struggling to diversify its economic base. Alaskans concerned about the future of rural Alaska should be just as perplexed at the rationale for denying renewable resource development opportunities.

Opponents of mariculture in Alaska have claimed that the fishing industry vehemently opposes the development of fish farming. Yet, here in Dutch Harbor where more fish is processed than anywhere else in Alaska, we are willing to look into the future and take a strong stand in favor of mariculture.

We have shipped hundreds of millions of pounds of fish meal from Dutch Harbor directly to foreign fish farms. The seafood raised on the farms eventually is imported back into the United States, adding to our immense foreign trade deficit.

If Alaska wants to remain a global seafood power, it is foolish to ignore what is happening in the rest of the world. The Alaska salmon industry is being hammered in world markets because it cannot provide what consumers want the most: high quality fresh seafood on a year-round basis. Any rational economic analysis of the situation has to conclude that Alaska would be far better off to supplement the wild production with farmed products.

Mariculture also would provide a productive use for the billions of pounds of fish waste now dumped into our waters and allow processors to operate on a year-round basis, stabilizing employment and reducing overhead from facilities now closed for much of the year. By converting the waste into fishmeal, pollution of our coastal waters also will be reduced.

By increasing the "backhaul" of fresh seafood during the offseason for wild fisheries, mariculture also could help the

We have
tremendous
natural stocks
& healthy
fishing industry
now.

Do any of the
others?

They also
defend
trawling!

Rural
Alaska is
very dependent
on healthy
stocks for
subsistence.
There would be
almost no job
created for them
in fishfarming

Mariculture: Is the Emperor Wearing Any Clothes?

Page Two

transportation industry improve rates and frequency of service to isolated rural communities. And, even the construction and manufacturing industries could benefit from mariculture development. In short, the development of fish farming could be one solid step toward helping Alaska get off a government-based economy. This is particularly important in the rural areas where many of the farms would be located.

For most politicians, however, it is easier to sit back and avoid getting involved in this "controversial" issue. On the other hand, if the emperor isn't wearing any clothes, someone has to have the courage to stand up and say it.

An examination of some of the charges leveled against mariculture is enlightening.

Fish farming threatens the wild stocks and environment. This issue was addressed recently by the Alaska Finfish Farming Task Force, a citizen task force which included a fisheries biologist, economist, salmon fisherman, fish farming advocate and an at-large member. After thoroughly examining the range of issues, the task force unanimously concluded that a properly regulated fish farming industry "poses little or no adverse effect on wild stocks [or] the environment."

The task force pointed out that fish farming uses techniques nearly identical to those employed in Alaska's hatchery system which will release about 1.8 billion salmon this year to intentionally mingle with wild stocks. Incongruously, the recent legislation would even prohibit land-based fish farming in enclosed tanks where there is no opportunity for adverse impacts on wild stocks.

The cost of regulating the mariculture industry will take money away from management of the commercial fisheries. While it's true that it will cost money to properly regulate mariculture, the Alaska Mariculture Association (AMA) has proposed that fish farmers would pay the same amount of taxes levied on wild catches. AMA also has proposed limiting the number of fish farming licenses granted each year, an approach that could limit the cost of regulation.

Only large foreign corporations could afford the cost of fish farming, and Alaskans would not benefit. The people I am aware of who want to farm fish in Alaska are Native corporations, fishermen, seafood buyers, hatchery operators, and family-style businesses which lend themselves well to farming operations. The reality is that a fish farm can be started with less money than it takes to purchase a permit, vessel and gear in some Alaska salmon fisheries and a fraction of the cost of entering the bottomfish industry.

Some foreign and corporate venture capital may be attracted to Alaska for investment in fish farms, but is this bad? Name a major industry in Alaska that isn't fueled by foreign or corporate investments. Doesn't Alaska actively solicit foreign investment capital for other industries?

Just the opposite is now occurring. For example, the Sealaska Corporation has exported capital to invest in a Puget Sound salmon farm because fish farming isn't legal here. An Alaska hatchery

Mariculture: Is the Emperor Wearing Any Clothes?
Page Three

operator also is negotiating with the Soviets in a joint venture fish farm in Siberia. Wouldn't it be ironic if it is easier to do business in the Soviet Union than Alaska?

The cost of limited entry permits have shot up beyond the reach of many Alaskans and the permits are leaving rural areas at an alarming rate. This has had a devastating effect on many coastal villages where people have traditionally fed their families from the sea but can no longer afford to participate in the fisheries. Mariculture would provide a stable, year-round income to these villages where there are few other economic opportunities.

A recent report by the National Fisheries Institute (Approaching 2001: the Seafood Industry in the 21st Century) recognized the importance of fish farming to the seafood industry:

"The advent of aquaculture will improve the overall distribution of seafood as producers meet market needs for fresher fish, delivered more frequently, to more remote parts of the country."

Fish farmers and traditional harvesters both have a role to play in the future of the Alaska seafood industry, and they have a responsibility to meet and reach some practical compromise. The legislature also has the responsibility to weigh the findings of the Alaska Finfish Farming Task Force in the shaping of rational state policies controlling fish farm development.

Mayor Fuhs is president of the Alaska Mariculture Association and co-chairman of Ports Alaska. He also has been a municipal leader in establishing Alaska bottomfish industry and developing Alaska/Soviet Far East trade.

Contact: Paul Fuhs, 581-1251, City of Unalaska

Alaska Mariculture Association

Dear Legislator:

Few debates in recent memory have been as polarized as fish farming in Alaska. The barrage of charges and countercharges would have you believe that fish farming is either (1) a golden economic opportunity for Alaska or (2) certain death for the fishing industry.

As you might expect, the reality is not so black and white, and may be found somewhere in the shades of gray between the two extremes. As you prepare to deal with the impending expiration of the three-year moratorium on finfish farming, AMA urges you to examine the facts and make a decision on what's best for Alaska overall.

The process of sorting out fact from fiction is eased greatly by the findings of the Alaska Finfish Farming Task Force. In its recent report, the task force put to rest many charges by opponents of fish farms:

"If the legislature decides to allow finfish farming, it is imperative that the necessary regulatory framework be in place in advance of any farming activity. If this caveat is satisfied, the task force concludes that fish farming would have little or no adverse effect on wild stocks [or] the environment."

The task force also noted that:

"Current market conditions for farmed salmon are poor. However, a developing finfish farming industry may find some marketing opportunities."

The Alaska Mariculture Association concurs that global salmon markets have been glutted and the authorization of finfish farming will not result in a rush to establish salmon farms, but we also are convinced the long-range outlook is still very positive and development in Alaska will occur. The bankruptcies among Canadian and Norwegian salmon farms follow a classic pattern of over-capitalization in a booming industry when production temporarily exceeds demand.

Alaska Mariculture Association
Page Two

This means there will be few foreign investors interested in speculating in an unproven region such as Alaska. Those who do invest here are likely to have strong ties to the state: Native corporations, seafood processors, fishermen and others with current Alaska business investments.

Salmon culture in net pens offers the best opportunity for development of either small or large finfish farms in Alaska, but other opportunities are available, such as land-based or marine culture of arctic char, land-based salmon farms, and net pen rearing of black cod. These opportunities appear to be more narrow than salmon farming and their potential hinges on market development, cost of production, solution of technological roadblocks and other factors.

Enclosed is an opinion piece by Unalaska Mayor Paul Fuhs which was distributed to Alaska and seafood industry newspapers. Mayor Fuhs also is president of AMA.

Please contact me with any questions. We look forward to working closely with you this session as you consider pending aquatic farming legislation.

Sincerely,

Rodger

Rodger Painter
Executive Director

Fisheries Cabinet Recommendation
Cowper Administration Position on Mariculture
March 13, 1987

Mariculture may provide substantial economic benefits to our coastal communities and help diversify and stabilize our economy if it is developed in an orderly fashion which provides the maximum benefit to Alaskans while ensuring protection for our fisheries resources, other resource users and the environment. In order to accomplish these objectives, any legislation authorizing a mariculture industry must satisfy the following principles:

1. The mariculture industry must benefit Alaskans.

The mariculture industry must be developed in a manner which does not result in unfair competition with existing fisheries or cause undue economic displacement in our coastal communities. Legislation should, to the extent possible under the law, provide for local hire at mariculture facilities and give preferential access to mariculture permits and mariculture related tidelands leases to Alaskans.

2. The mariculture industry must pay for itself and the state should get a fair return for the use of state resources.

Legislation should contain provisions for recovering administrative and other state costs associated with managing the industry. The legislation should also ensure that the state gets a fair return for the use of tidelands and other resources.

3. The development of the mariculture industry in Alaska should be done in an orderly fashion which encourages a stable, dependable industry.

Legislation should provide general criteria which will lead to the development of a regulatory program which discourages speculation on permits and tidelands leases, encourages sound financial planning, and provides for a diverse industry ranging from "Mom and Pop" ventures to larger corporate operations.

4. The mariculture industry must meet all state and federal requirements for human health, product quality and sanitation.

Legislation should ensure that mariculture facilities meet all state and federal requirements for human health, safety, and sanitation. Legislation should also require that mariculture products meet or exceed

all state and federal product quality and human health standards, and provide the means to ensure that state regulators can protect human health and product quality.

5. Mariculture activities must be managed to ensure protection of the biological integrity of natural plant and animal stocks.

Legislation must address the issues of pathological and genetic protections for natural sea vegetable and fish stocks.

6. Mariculture activities must be managed in a manner which ensures adequate environmental safeguards and habitat protection.

Legislation must ensure that mariculture facilities are sited, designed and operated to protect air and water quality, to provide for proper disposal of wastes, and to minimize adverse effects to important fish and wildlife habitat.

7. Mariculture facilities must be sited to minimize land-use conflicts, maintain navigation and ensure access to upland areas.

Legislation should provide guidance for siting facilities to minimize conflicts with other tidelands users, reducing visual and aesthetic impacts, maintaining navigation and ensuring access across state tidelands.

8. Broodstock acquisition for mariculture purposes should be carefully regulated, especially for species subject to limited entry fisheries.

Legislation should contain provisions limiting the acquisition of broodstock for species subject to limited entry fisheries. Legislation should grant the Department of Fish and Game the authority to regulate the acquisition, transport, and propagation of mariculture broodstock, and provide the Board of Fisheries the ability to resolve allocation decisions regarding broodstock acquisition if necessary.



Penco Ak

3620 PENLAND PARKWAY
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

March 9, 1990

Representative Fran Ulmer
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Ulmer:

Our governor and the legislature have been advising Alaskans of the coming shortfall in state funding. And that is very important. We must all prepare for these leaner years. Of major importance is the strong statewide effort being made to build up our present strengths. What can be done to help new businesses locate here?

Two bills to ban a now legal industry fly in the face of all that logic, as they afford an unfair economic protection to the commercial fishing industry. If you pass SB397 or HB432, can Usibelli get you to outlaw the production of charcoal because it might compete with coal? Will the timber industry ask you to outlaw plastic houses because they produce timber? Will big oil be able to get legislation restricting the production of synthetic oil because Exxon sells real oil?

Worldwide production from fish farming is growing dramatically (see attached graph); look what has happened already. Alaska's market share will continue to erode. We need to produce more seafood to maintain our share. They could be mutually supportive. Why don't we produce both?

The disease issue, excuse the expression, is a red herring. The legislature's own task force, Alaska Finfish Farming Task Force, set up to review this issue in part concluded in its summary, "The finfish farming industry can be accommodated without significant threat of disease to wild and hatchery stocks...." This legislation is simply a drive by special interests to protect their own turf. As the task force recognized, Alaska's ocean ranching program is very similar to fish farming. Sources that are quoting "fish farm using net pens produces pollutant equivalent to untreated sewage from about 10,000 people" are either mistaken or deliberately trying to mislead you. That is not what the original study by Donald Weston of the School of Oceanography reported. Pollution? Not true. See page 23 of Christopher C. Canterbury's essay of 1987, "The Prospect of Salmon Farming in Alaska".

Representative Fran Ulmer
March 9, 1990
Page 2 of 2

Dutch Harbor is one of the largest fish ports in our nation and in the world. They would like to see if fish farming would work (see Paul Fuhs' article), but they won't even be able to try if you pass this bill.

Please nickname this the "Ostrich Bill", as if it passes as presented, history will show that this legislature had its head in the water, its eyes closed, and its ears shut as the rest of the world passed us by. Regardless of the positive scientific facts supporting this industry, the issue has become an emotional and a political one. It deserves a fair political compromise that will allow this new industry a chance to prove itself.

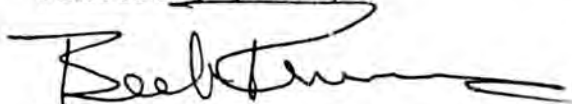
The opportunity is here to make this a positive law instead of a negative one.

Please consider the following ideas:

1. Allow upland fish farming for all species anywhere in the state and allow the private sector to see if it will work.
2. Allow pen rearing of non-salmon species in saltwater except for salmon as in #4 below.
3. Provide access, and encouragement, to farmers in gaining breed stocks from within the state.
4. Prohibit the import and export of live salmon stocks to and from Alaska.
5. Disallow pen rearing in saltwater for salmon, but only with a sunset review in two or three years. If it should be against the law today and it should still be against the law in two or three years, then it will be.

Please don't shut Alaska's door to a possible positive business that would diversify our economy statewide, that could especially help in rural areas, and be a plus to us all. I know you want more industry and jobs for our state--we've talked about it. Please call me at 276-2222 anytime and tell me what I can do to help.

Sincerely yours,

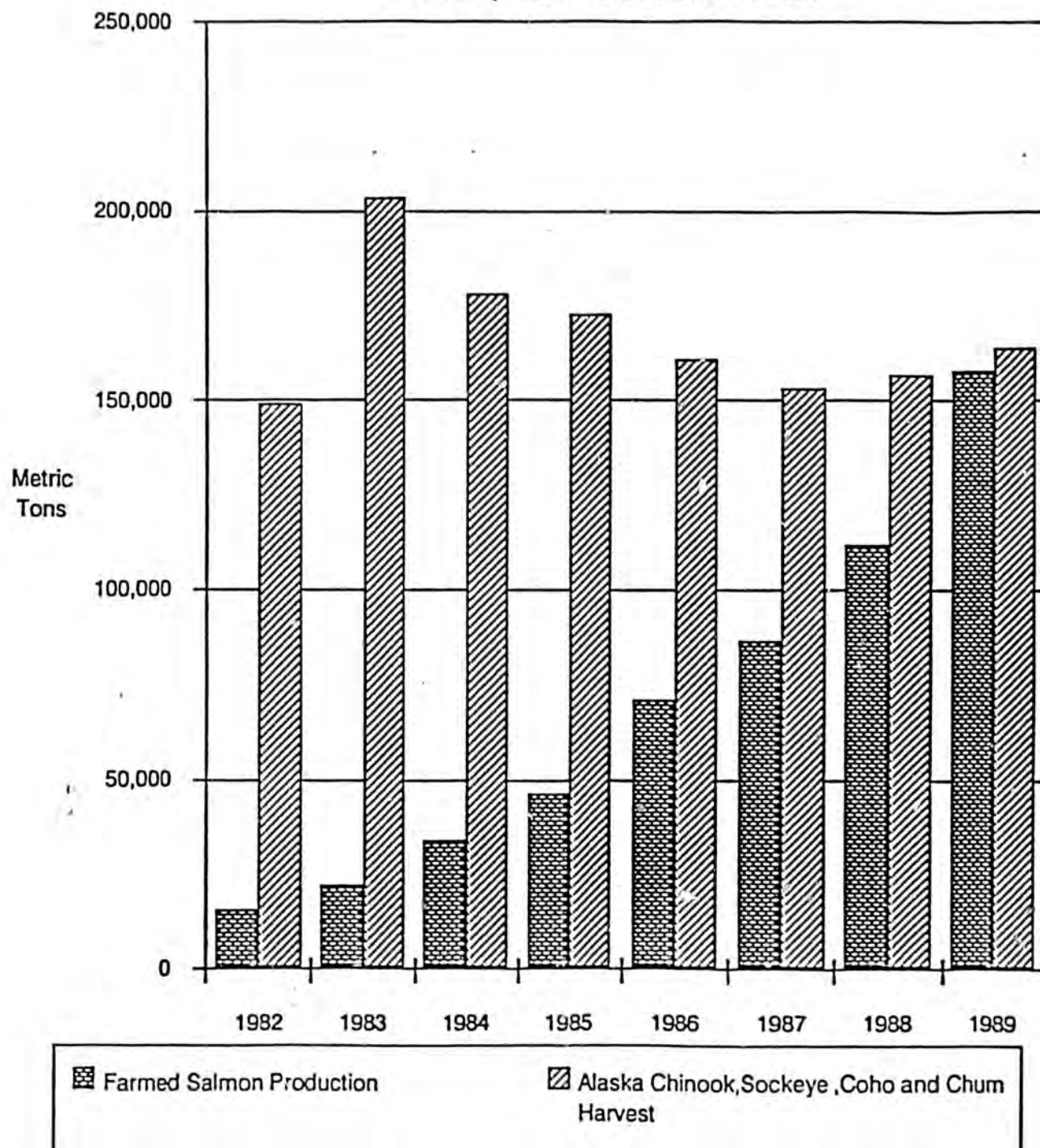


Bob Penney

BP/js
Enclosures

Comparison of World Farmed Salmon Production and the Alaska Harvest of Chinook, Sockeye, Coho and Chum Salmon from 1982 to 1989.

Sources: World Markets for Salmon: Pen Reared Salmon Impacts; ADCED, 1988
Fish Farming International; December, 1989
Alaska Department of Fish and Game Catch Statistics



"How will salmon farming affect water quality?"

Some environmentalists worry that feed, drugs and fish droppings from salmon farms might have a detrimental effect on water quality. However, no such problem has arisen. In Washington state, the EPA Water Quality Laboratory's seawater intake pipe is located in Clam Bay, 20 feet from the National Marine Fisheries Service net pen and 300 yards from Domsea Farm, the largest salmon farm in the world.¹⁶¹ The EPA has reported no problems in water quality resulting from the salmon farms. After measuring sediment deposits on the seafloor of Clam Bay, the EPA found that such farms have about the same effect on the ocean floor as a large dock.¹⁶² Drugs used in aquaculture should not have any dangerous effect on the environment. They are used rarely to begin with, and most medicated feed is eaten by the fish. Not much is left over to leach into the water, and what is left is quickly diluted.¹⁶³

Dr. Patrick Moore, of Greenpeace fame, supports salmon farming as a means for actually protecting water quality. "A billion dollar program in aquaculture equals a billion dollar insurance policy against water degradation," claims Moore.¹⁶⁴ He feels that fish in a farm will be like a canary in a coal mine; they'll be the first to notice water pollution. If salmon farmers notice pollution in their farms, they can take legal action since they have leasing rights to the water. Fish farming may be the answer for finding a way to regulate water pollution.

"What other needs must be met to support a salmon farming industry?"

One British Columbian farmer made an interesting comparison:

"Salmon farming is much like operating a vineyard. You need time to have the land assembled before you see the results, realize the quality of your grape. But before you have the grape, you have to have the expertise to produce the finest product of which you are capable."¹⁶⁵

Developing a salmon farming industry which is able to produce a large volume of high-quality fish efficiently takes a great deal of research, experimentation and education. The most successful countries have extensive