

**HJR**

**46**

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
Bill Version: CSHJR 46(FSH)  
(H) Publish Date: 3/19/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: None  
Title BC Moratorium on Fish Farming BRU \_\_\_\_\_  
Component \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor Special Committee on Fisheries  
Requester Special Committee on Fisheries Component No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0  
Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Special Committee on Fisheries Phone 465-4925  
Division Rep. Stevens, Committee Co-Chair Date/Time 3/19/02 10:24 AM  
Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3/19/02  
Agency \_\_\_\_\_

# Alaska State Legislature

**Representative Gary Stevens - Co-Chair**  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 428  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone 907-465-4925  
Fax 907-465-3517



**Representative Peggy Wilson - Co-Chair**  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 409  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone 907-465-3824  
Fax 907-465-3175

## House Special Committee on Fisheries

Date: March 18, 2002

To: Representative Drew Scalzi  
Co-Chairman House Resources Committee

From: Representative Peggy Wilson  
Representative Gary Stevens  
Co-Chairs House Special Committee on Fisheries

Re: CSHJR 46 "Relating to the moratorium on fish farming in British Columbia"  
This is a formal request to schedule CSHJR 46 for a hearing in front of House Resources as soon as possible.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

# Alaska State Legislature

Representative Gary Stevens - Co-Chair  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 428  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone 907-465-4925  
Fax 907-465-3517



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Alaska State Capitol, Room 409  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone 907-465-3824  
Fax 907-465-3175

## House Special Committee on Fisheries

### **HJR 46 "Relating to the moratorium on fish farming in British Columbia"**

**Sponsor: House Special Committee on Fisheries**

### **Sponsor Statement**

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On January 31, 2002, the Government of British Columbia announced that the provincial moratorium on fish farming would be lifted. This decision could have a substantial effect on the Alaskan economy and environment, both directly and indirectly.

This resolution strongly encourages the Government of British Columbia to reinstate the moratorium on fish farming.

In 2001 there were 29,000 accidental releases of farmed salmon from British Columbia salmon farms. Escaped farmed Atlantic salmon have been caught in Alaska commercial fisheries. The escaped Atlantic salmon pose a threat to Alaska's marine environment and the ecology of Pacific Salmon.

Escaped Atlantic salmon from salmon farms in British Columbia are now spawning in approximately 80 streams on the west coast. These escaped salmon compete with wild Alaskan salmon for food and there is a continuing concern with possible disease transfers.

Seafood is Alaska's number one international export and the commercial fishing industry is Alaska's largest private sector employer.

Therefore the Fisheries Committee strongly encourages the Alaska State Legislature to support the reinstatement of the British Columbia moratorium on fish farming.

**Reported Escapes<sup>1</sup> and recoveries of Atlantic salmon in Washington State, British Columbia, and Alaska, 1987-2001<sup>2</sup>.**

Year	ATLANTIC SALMON ESCAPES					ATLANTIC SALMON RECOVERIES						NUMBER OF SYSTEMS WITH RECOVERIES		
	Washington <sup>3</sup>	British Columbia <sup>4</sup>				Freshwater			Marine			B.C. Juveniles	B.C. Adults	Alaska Adults
	Adults in Marine Waters	Juveniles in Freshwater	Juveniles in Marine Waters	Adults in Marine Waters	Total B.C. Escapes	Juveniles in B.C.	Adults in B.C.	Adults in Alaska	Adults in B.C.	Adults in Alaska	Total Recoveries			
1987							1		1		2			1
1988									106		106			0
1989									8		8			0
1990							3		2	1	6			1
1991				6,651	6,651		8		31	7	46			5
1992			5,000	4,544	9,544		48		349	2	399			9
1993				10,000	10,000		23		4,543	27	4,593			12
1994		7,000	24,262	39,547	70,809		50		1,037	25	1,112			12
1995		941		51,883	52,824		57		678	23	758			19
1996	110,000	40,000		13,104	53,104	54	211		673	138	1,076	2		30
1997	370,000	10,064		7,650	18,114	26	129		2,664	75	2,894	4		37
1998	115,000	200	45,306	43,208	88,814	114	90	1	136	161	502	4		28
1999			482	35,248	35,730	150	184		190	19	543	5		15
2000			1,000	36,462	37,462	12	131	1	7,833	80	8,057	3		18
2001				13,500	13,500	3	11	1		27	42	1		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>595,000</b>	<b>58,705</b>	<b>76,050</b>	<b>261,797</b>	<b>396,552</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18,251</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>20,144</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Unreported escapes include "leakage", the loss of small fish that swim free when small-mesh net pens are replaced by large-mesh net pens.

The salmon farming industry estimates this leakage at 3%-5%; this could total several hundred thousand unreported fish escaping every year.

<sup>2</sup> Information for 2001 is preliminary.

<sup>3</sup> Reporting of escapes or recoveries of Atlantic salmon in Washington State is not required or documented. Those listed here were large enough to make the news.

<sup>4</sup> Known escapes in British Columbia are required to be reported to the Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Atlantic Salmon Watch program<sup>5</sup>.

The extent of compliance with reporting requirements is suspect, a small number of farms have never reported an escape, nor is "leakage" reported.

<sup>5</sup> Canada's Atlantic Salmon Watch Program's with extensive data can be accessed on the internet at: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/aqua/pages/atlsalm.htm>

For further information on Alaska recoveries contact Glen Oliver at 907-465-4229 or [glen\\_oliver@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:glen_oliver@fishgame.state.ak.us)

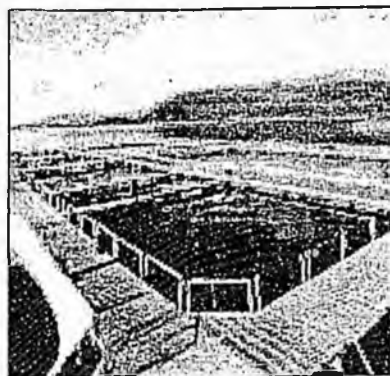
Background

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# CLEAR CHOICES, CLEAN WATERS

THE LEGGATT INQUIRY  
INTO SALMON FARMING  
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Report Summary*



Salmon farm net-cages on B.C.'s coast are a source of pollution, disease transfer and escapes of farm fish

### The Leggatt Inquiry Terms of Reference

Recent reviews of the salmon farming industry by the Auditor General and the Canadian Senate raised concerns that the industry is being inadequately managed and passes on risks and costs to the general public. A citizen's inquiry will ask for community and public input on the salmon farming industry in order to formulate recommendations and pass them on to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of B.C. and the general public.

## Summary statement

*It's time to get on with the job: cleaning up the environmental degradation left behind by the salmon farming industry, preventing further damage and involving residents in this process and the future direction of the industry.*

### Background

The Leggatt Inquiry into Salmon Farming in British Columbia was established September 6, 2001 to gather public input on the salmon farming industry and formulate recommendations. Stuart Leggatt, a retired B.C. Supreme Court judge, was appointed inquiry commissioner. The David Suzuki Foundation established the inquiry in response to calls for public review from the federal Auditor General and the Senate. The inquiry set its own terms of reference and operated independently.

The inquiry held public hearings in Tofino, Port Hardy, Alert Bay, Campbell River and Vancouver from October 1 to 12. There were 109 witnesses and 63 written submissions.

### The following are major issues addressed by the inquiry:

- First Nations and salmon farming: rights, risks, responsibilities
- Economic benefits of the salmon farming industry
- Escapes of Atlantic farm salmon and colonization of Pacific salmon habitat
- Disease and parasite transfer from farm salmon to wild Pacific salmon
- Environmental effects of waste and other substances released from salmon farm net cages
- Removal, storage and disposal of dead farm salmon
- Predation by farm salmon of juvenile wild salmon and other species
- The cumulative effects of salmon farming on the health of wild salmon and other species
- The role of government in regulation of salmon farming, the salmon fishery and wild stocks
- The destruction of marine mammals and other wildlife at salmon farm sites
- Conflicts with other industries such as commercial fishing and eco-tourism
- Cross-border conflicts between British Columbia and Alaska
- Farm salmon and human health issues

## Recommendations

1. **Remove all net-cage salmon farms from the marine environment by January 1, 2005**  
 Removing salmon farm net cages from B.C. waters and replacing them with closed-loop containment systems prevents waste from being discharged and resolves most environmental issues. All salmon farms should be converted within three years, with farms in wild salmon migration routes or other sensitive areas an immediate priority.
2. **Remove responsibility for promotion of aquaculture from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans; increase monitoring and regulation of salmon farming by government regulators**  
 The department's support and promotion of aquaculture is in conflict with its responsibility to protect wild salmon stocks. DFO must place a priority on wild salmon without this conflicting responsibility. Regulators should effectively monitor the industry and enforce the laws designed to protect our resources and environment.
3. **Increase involvement of communities, especially First Nations, in consultation, partnership and ownership of salmon farming operations**  
 Joint-venturing with First Nations and other communities, based on higher environmental standards and recognition of aboriginal rights and local values, would reduce or eliminate conflicts. Local communities should be involved in meaningful consultation to avoid conflict and build support.
4. **Maintain the moratorium on new farm sites with no further expansion at existing sites; complete and update the Salmon Aquaculture Review**  
 Maintain the B.C. moratorium and prohibit any further expansion until significant progress is made on environmental issues at existing farm sites. Resolving these issues requires updating and completion of the Salmon Aquaculture Review.
5. **Apply the precautionary principle to regulation of the salmon farming industry**  
 Regulators should err on the side of caution to protect environmental values and human health. The importance of the values and the resources at stake requires that the precautionary approach be applied.
6. **Require labeling and identification of farm salmon at the consumer level**  
 Farm salmon should be identified distinctly from wild salmon in retail outlets and restaurants so consumers can make informed choices. Farm salmon is often labeled "fresh" or "Atlantic." For many consumers, the relevant distinction is "farm" or "wild."



*The Broughton Archipelago, between northern Vancouver Island and the mainland, where many of B.C.'s salmon farms are located*

*f*  
“We were struck by the courtesy, sincerity and goodwill of witnesses from all walks of life and on all sides of the issue. We were reminded once again that the people of British Columbia, regardless of the passion and commitment they bring to an issue, are almost invariably public-spirited, fair-minded and closely connected to the communities, lands and waterways they call home. These qualities, we feel certain, can resolve the conflicts and contradictions that revolve around this industry.”

[www.legginquiry.com](http://www.legginquiry.com)

**News Release**

Government of British Columbia

Government of  
British Columbia

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
#02-01  
January 31, 2002

## **New standards to be set for sustainable aquaculture**

VICTORIA - New, comprehensive environmental standards and practices will allow for the managed expansion of the salmon aquaculture industry in British Columbia beginning April 30, 2002, the B.C. government announced today.

"The high operating standards proposed by government, along with improved practices, will protect the environment and allow the industry to expand in a sustainable and responsible manner," said John van Dongen, minister of agriculture, food and fisheries. "For more than four years, government has exhaustively reviewed the scientific work done on the salmon aquaculture issue."

In 1995, the previous government placed a moratorium on new marine salmon farm tenures. An Environmental Assessment Office scientific review, completed in 1997, was the most rigorous and costly in the history of the province. It concluded that, as practised, the risks of salmon aquaculture to the environment were low. The review made 49 recommendations that would further reduce risks of salmon aquaculture, all of which were accepted in full by government and industry.

Since October 1999, the government has worked toward implementing policies that will result in the most comprehensive regime of any jurisdiction in the world for managing the salmon aquaculture industry.

"Our government understands that British Columbians expect our environment to be protected and industry to be in full compliance with strict standards," said Joyce Murray, minister of water, land and air protection. "This industry will be managed in a responsible manner."

"This decision will provide the opportunity for careful and sustainable growth of aquaculture in our hard-hit coastal communities," said Stan Hagen, minister of sustainable resource management.

Improved and new policies for fish escapes, fish health, siting and relocations, fish waste and research and development have been developed and will be finalized by April 30, 2002.

Applications for new aquaculture sites will be accepted after April 30, 2002, and are expected to take up to a year to process. Since aquaculture has a long production cycle, businesses need to make decisions now for production to begin by 2003.



**ALASKA IN THE NEWS**

January 31, 2002

Release 02021

**ALASKA ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY BC DECISION TO LIFT MORATORIUM ON SALMON FARMS**

*Knowles Urges Reconsideration to Protect Alaska Fisheries and Marine Life*

Saying today's decision to lift the moratorium on new salmon farms in British Columbia (BC) will have adverse impacts on Alaska fisheries and fishing communities, Gov. Tony Knowles urged the BC government to reconsider its decision and accept the recommendations of the independent Leggatt Inquiry into salmon farming.

"I find it troubling that when others are questioning the safety and wisdom of salmon farming and raising serious concerns about problems such as contamination, disease, and the escapes of non native species of fish, that our neighbors in British Columbia are moving forward with expansion of this industry," Knowles said.

"Already this year we have seen the release of 8,000 to 10,000 Atlantic salmon from BC salmon farms," Knowles added. "Along with the 29,000 accidental releases last year, these fish have been documented in Alaska waters and raise the serious threat of the creation of spawning populations of this invasive species."

Knowles said the State of Alaska backs the recommendations of the Leggatt Inquiry into the salmon farming issue in its report, "Clear Choices, Clear Waters." Led by former BC Supreme Court Justice Stuart Leggatt, the inquiry recommended keeping the moratorium against new salmon farm sites and called for the removal of all net cage salmon farms from the BC marine environment by 2005. The State of Alaska testified in favor of such steps in its testimony before the Leggatt Inquiry last year.

"Salmon farms are a threat to our ocean environment and the ecology of Pacific salmon," Knowles said. "The State of Maine recently destroyed some 700,000 pen-raised salmon because of because of widespread infectious disease. Now Maine has quarantined certain areas from fish farming and is considering a moratorium of its own."

"Alaska wisely took action to ban this practice a decade ago, along with steps to protect and grow our populations of wild salmon for commercial, sport, and subsistence uses," Knowles said. "I now strongly urge our neighbors in British Columbia to reconsider the positive recommendations of the Leggatt Inquiry and this decision to allow unchecked expansion of the farmed salmon industry immediately adjacent to Alaska waters."

##

**Contact:**

Bob King, Press Secretary at (907) 465-3995

[Press Releases](#) | [Press Office Contacts](#) | [Contact the Governor](#) | [Webmaster](#) | [State of Alaska](#)

-- [www.gov.state.ak.us](http://www.gov.state.ak.us) --

# ATLANTIC SALMON

## A White Paper

Alaska Department of Fish and Game – Southeast Region  
February 24, 1999

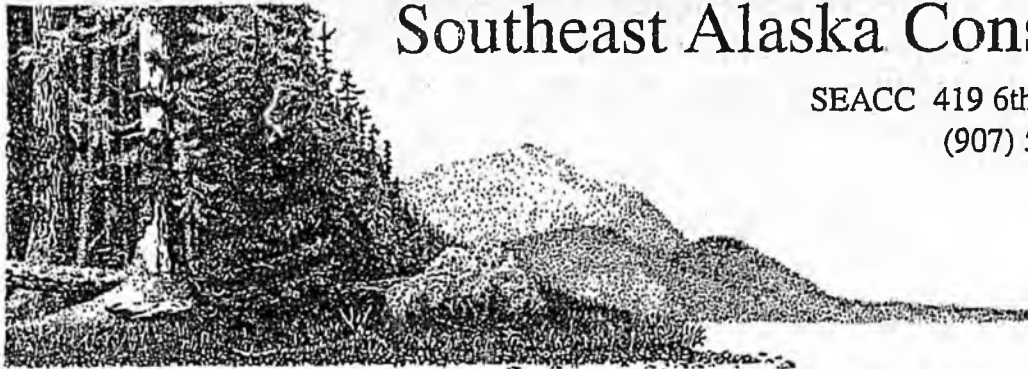
### I. Danger Signals

Historically the enormous number and scope of the wild salmon runs played an important role in defining the Pacific Northwest's unique character. Many of the formerly great runs of Pacific salmon, particularly in southern portions of their range, are now depressed well below historical levels because of the effects of dams, urbanization, and deforestation. In the northern portions of their range most runs of wild salmon remain abundant and a key component of both ocean and coastal ecosystems. These surviving runs represent a renewable resource worth millions of dollars and support rural communities that are dependent on fishing for their cash economies.

Now a new threat to the survival and abundance of wild Pacific salmon appears. In the late 1980's salmon "farms" began to import Atlantic salmon from eastern Canada and Europe. These salmon are raised to maturity in floating saltwater net pens which, damaged by storms and accidents, have released tens of thousands of captive Atlantic salmon.

The annual release of tens of thousands of mature Atlantic salmon into the already challenged Pacific Coast ecosystem amounts to "biological pollution" of the ocean and represents an enormous potential threat to wild Pacific salmon. Introductions of non-native species have frequently resulted in unexpected and often disastrous consequences resulting from competition, predation, crossbreeding, or the introduction of non-native diseases or parasites. Escaped Atlantic salmon are now commonly found in both fresh and saltwater throughout the region. The Canadian press recently reported that Atlantic salmon were spawning successfully in British Columbia's Tsitika River. Sexually mature Atlantic salmon have now been found in streams in Southeast Alaska.

In 1990 Alaska banned salmon farms to protect wild Pacific salmon from potential disease, competition, and other threats. Now, actions by jurisdiction south of Alaska - including the potential expansion of salmon farming by British Columbia threatens Alaska's conservation action. Instead of expanding salmon farm operations, Alaska believes: 1) that there should be a coastwide moratorium on new salmon farms, 2) that Atlantic salmon production in existing farms be immediately capped at current levels, and phased out within a specified timeframe, 3) that farm processes be modified as necessary to eliminate ongoing accidental releases and the chance of disease transmission, and 4) that further imports of fish or fish-products from the Atlantic cease.



# Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

SEACC 419 6th Street, Suite 200, Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-6942 phone • (907) 463-3312 fax  
www.seacc.org • info@seacc.org

## Testimony of Aurah Landau before the House Special Committee on Fisheries on HJR 46 "Relating to the moratorium of fish farming in British Columbia" 03/18/02

- ❑ Salmon farms in British Columbia (BC) are bad for the environment and bad for Alaskan fishermen and communities.
- ❑ As the largest private industry in Alaska, commercial fishing and seafood processing sustain thousands of families and communities throughout the state. Wild salmon are a mainstay of families in Alaska's communities and the heart of the rainforest that stretches across the BC and Alaskan coastline. We need intact high-producing watersheds and wild salmon runs to sustain subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries opportunities on both sides of the border.
- ❑ The BC government lifted its moratorium on new fish farms, ignoring the scientists, government officials, and representatives from fishing, Native, conservation and citizen organizations who testified at the recent Leggatt Inquiry that fish farms cause environmental, social and economic harm.
- ❑ Alaskan and Canadian coastal economies are interconnected and reliant on one another. The effect of the current glut of farmed salmon on the market has been devastating as salmon prices plummet worldwide and small businesses struggle to keep afloat.
- ❑ There is hard evidence that farm fish carry diseases and transfer parasites to wild fish. Fish farms have concentrated amounts of waste and sewage, and waters around fish farms can be fouled by massive die-offs, with vast numbers of salmon rotting in pens. Fortunately, Alaska has a moratorium on all fish farms, and so hasn't experienced BC's direct salmon farm-related disease, parasite, or pollution problems.
- ❑ Alaskan fishermen and biologists are, however, finding escaped farm fish in marine and fresh waters as far north as the Bering Sea. Escaped Atlantic salmon are successfully reproducing in Canadian streams. This non-indigenous species may invade wild fish habitat, spread disease, take food from and prey on wild fish. B.C. also raises chinook and coho salmon. Escapes of those species may genetically weaken local Pacific salmon stocks.
- ❑ Sustainability is the real issue here. Maine recently destroyed many of their farmed fish because of widespread disease. Fish farming in Norway, Scotland and Ireland has contributed to the collapse of wild fish stocks in those countries. Norway found that fish farms expose wild fish to high concentrations of pathogens and parasites. When the BC government promotes fish farms, how long do we have until wild salmon fisheries collapse on either side of the border? It's bad economics and irresponsible to threaten our shared marine systems with even more fish farms.
- ❑ I thank the House Fisheries Committee for their wisdom and responsibility in supporting Alaska's fishing communities by strongly encouraging the BC government to reinstate the moratorium on new fish farms. BC must be a good neighbor and reinstate the moratorium to prevent damage to intact wild salmon runs and marine resources in both countries.

ALASKA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FOREST DWELLERS, Point Baker • ALASKANS FOR JUNEAU • CHICHAGO OF CONSERVATION COUNCIL, Tenakee  
CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL GATHERING COUNCIL OF KAKE • FRIENDS OF BERNERS BAY, Juneau • FRIENDS OF GLACIER BAY, Gustavus • JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY  
JUNEAU GROUP SIERRA CLUB • LOWER CHATHAM CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Port Alexander • LYNN CANAL CONSERVATION, Haines • NARROWS CONSERVATION  
COALITION, Petersburg • LISIANSKI INLET RESOURCE COUNCIL, Pelican • PRINCE OF WALES CONSERVATION LEAGUE, Craig • SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY  
TONGASS CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Ketchikan • TAKU CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Juneau • WRANGELL RESOURCE COUNCIL • YAKUTAT RESOURCE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

**Alaska Trollers Association    City of Cordova  
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association  
Senator Dick Eliason    Southeast Alaska Conservation Council  
Southeast Conference    Taku Smokeries**

For Immediate Release  
December 3, 2001

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**British Columbia Fish Farm Inquiry Recommends Ban on Net-Cage Salmon Farms  
*Proposal Wins Support Across Alaska***

Testimony and findings from the October 2001 Leggatt Inquiry independent investigation into British Columbia salmon farms confirmed what Alaskans already know; net-cage salmon farms in B.C. are bad for the environment and bad for Alaskan fishermen and communities.

The Leggatt Inquiry recently released its findings, *Clear Choices, Clean Waters*, reporting that net-cage salmon farms are the cause of major environmental damage to the coastal environment and pose a significant threat to wild fish stocks. The report lists six recommendations for mitigating damage, including removing all net-cage salmon farms by 2005.

Groups across Alaska are pleased that the Leggatt Inquiry recognizes the environmental and social problems posed by salmon farms.

"Alaskan's worst fears about the ecological, human health, labor relations problems and other dangers of fish farming are coming true. Nearly every day, new information surfaces from points across the globe on troubles and conflicts stemming from salmon farming. As the report says, these problems are serious. We don't want them in Alaska," said Dale Kelley, Executive Director of the Alaska Trollers Association.

"Wild salmon are a mainstay of families in Alaska's communities and the heart of Southeast Alaska's rainforest—they're vital to commercial, sport and subsistence fishermen. We simply can't let farmed salmon damage our healthy wild watersheds and coastal resources," said Aurah Landau, Grassroots Organizer at Southeast Alaska Conservation Council.

The Leggatt Inquiry report cites hard evidence that farm fish carry diseases and transfer parasites to wild fish. Fish farms have concentrated amounts of waste and sewage, and waters around fish farms can be fouled by massive die-offs, with vast numbers of salmon rotting in pens.

"Fortunately, Alaska has a moratorium on all fish farms, and so hasn't experienced B.C.'s salmon farm-related disease, parasite, or pollution problems," noted Landau.

Alaskan fishermen and biologists have, however, found escaped farm fish in marine and fresh waters as far north as the Bering Sea. Escaped Atlantic salmon have successfully reproduced in Canadian streams. This non-indigenous species will invade wild fish habitat, spread disease, prey on, and take food from wild fish. B.C. also raises chinook and coho salmon. Escapes of those species may genetically weaken local Pacific salmon stocks.

Oliver Holm, lifelong commercial fisherman and President of the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association Board of Directors, worries that the fish farming industry isn't held to genetics policies strong enough to protect wild fish. "Here in Alaska, we don't introduce Atlantic salmon, change the genetic make-up of the fish we raise, or release fish where they will interfere with local stocks and displace our vital local runs. Canadian fish farming practices do all this, even if inadvertently. If continued, they can really harm wild Alaskan salmon runs," said Holm.

- more -

"These fish have no idea if they're wrapped in Maple Leaves or Old Glory - we are finding them in Alaskan waters and are deeply concerned," commented Kelley. She cites Canada and Alaska's obligation to protect both fish and fishermen under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, saying that, "Leggatt's recommendations to prevent escapement and reduce environmental problems should be acted on immediately. They are right in line with the overarching principles of the Treaty."

As the largest private industry in Alaska, commercial fishing and seafood processing sustain thousands of families and communities throughout the state.

Southeast Conference Executive Director Loren Gerhard said, "Salmon are clearly one of the most important contributors to our local economy and social well-being. Anglers, subsistence users, and the seafood and guided sportfishing industries all rely on the pursuit of wild salmon. We Alaskans are very interested in maintaining the health of that resource."

Alaskan and Canadian coastal economies are interconnected and reliant on one another. The affect of the current glut of farmed salmon on the market has been devastating as salmon prices plummet worldwide and small businesses struggle to keep afloat.

Sandro Lane owner of Juneau based processing plant, Taku Smokeries, noted that, "Family businesses and viable townships -- in both countries-- are being put out of business as deep pocketed firms flood the market with cheap fish."

The Leggatt Inquiry testimony and findings also raised questions about the wholesomeness of farmed salmon. The report includes a recommendation to label farmed salmon to distinguish it from wild.

Cordova Mayor Margy Johnson expressed concern that fishermen in her town are not given a level playing field when competing with heavily subsidized farmed fish in the marketplace. She added, "As a long-time restaurateur, I find consumers are becoming increasingly conscious of what they eat. Given a choice, most people tend to chose wild salmon over farmed."

Alaskans across the state hail the Leggatt Report's practical overview of the problems with salmon net-pen farming, and its meaningful recommendations.

"Removing net cages by 2005 is a solid first step towards reducing the impact of farmed salmon on our precious wild salmon runs. We are encouraged by the report and hope officials in British Columbia move quickly to implement Leggatt's recommendations," said Kelley.

"Alaskans should urge both British Columbia and Alaska to maintain their moratoriums on new or expanding fish farms," continued Landau.

Twenty-two year veteran Senator Dick Eliason led the late 1980s charge to deny fish farming in Alaska. Eliason told Leggatt that since that time, "I have received many letters, newspaper articles and scientific reports supporting our position and affirming our concerns as valid." He added that he feels good about the choice Alaskan's made on this issue, "From the perspective of safeguarding our resources and local economy, fish farming is clearly not the way to go."

Canada's federal Auditor General and the Senate ordered the Leggatt Inquiry of fish farm policy for public consultation and review. At the Leggatt Inquiry into British Columbia's salmon net-pen industry, Southeast Alaskan citizens and organizations requested the Canadian government to ban new salmon farms and cap growth on existing salmon farms in British Columbia. Canadian and Pacific Northwest colleagues testified with similar requests. The Honorable Stuart Leggatt, retired parliamentarian and B.C. Supreme Court Judge presided as Inquiry commissioner.

- more -

The Leggatt Report advises the Canadian government to:

1. Remove all net-cage salmon farms from the marine environment by January 1, 2005.
2. Remove responsibility for promotion of aquaculture from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans; increase monitoring and regulation of salmon farming by government regulators.
3. Increase involvement of communities, especially First Nations, in consultation, partnership and ownership of salmon farming operations.
4. Maintain the moratorium on new farm sites with no further expansion at existing sites; complete and update the Salmon Aquaculture Review.
5. Apply the precautionary principle to regulation of the salmon farming industry.
6. Require labeling and identification of farm salmon at the consumer level.

-30-

Contacts

Dale Kelley

Aurah Landau

Loren Gerhard

Alaska Trollers Association

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

Southeast Conference

(907) 586-9400 / 723-8765

(907) 586-6942

(907) 463 3445

For a copy of the Leggatt Inquiry report, see <http://www.leggattinquiry.com/Report/InquiryReport.asp>

# Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 65 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska

P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / phone (907) 424-3447 / fax (907) 424-3430 /

e-mail [cdfu@ptialaska.net](mailto:cdfu@ptialaska.net)

March 2, 2002

House Fisheries Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS 3101)  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**SENT VIA FACSIMILE TO 907.465.3517**

**RE: HJR 46 - Relating to the Moratorium on Fish Farming in British Columbia**

Dear Members,

Cordova District Fishermen United represents the commercial fishing fleets of Area E--the Copper River and Prince William Sound.

We recommend your support for HJR 46 recommending reinstatement of the moratorium on fish farms in British Columbia and raising related issues in Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations. The risks posed to Alaska's wild salmon stocks by B.C. Atlantic salmon escapees and disease transfers is unacceptably high.

We urge the governments of Alaska and of the United States to engage the governments of British Columbia and Canada in discussions and negotiations on these issues.

Alaska's wild salmon runs and fisheries are too important to risk!

Sincerely,



Sue Aspelund  
Executive Director

cc: Representative Beth Kerttula

Support

## Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway  
Juneau, AK 99801



Phone 907-586-6652

Fax 907-586-5648

E-mail: seafa@gci.net

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March 4, 2002

Representative Gary Stevens, Co-Chair  
Representative Peggy Wilson, Co-Chair  
Special House Committee on Fisheries  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 124  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HJR 46 Support

The Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFa) appreciates Representative Kerttula and Representative Dyson bringing forward a resolution regarding the lifting of the moratorium on new fish farms in British Columbia and the fish committee for sponsoring the resolution. We fully support a resolution on this issue.

We would like to suggest the following change to the resolution to provide more accuracy.

- Page 2 line 7&8 take out the words native Alaska. At this time there is not any documented disease transfer to Alaska wild salmon but has occurred in places such as Maine, Norway, and Scotland.

As commercial salmon fishermen in Southeast Alaska we are extremely concerned about new fish farms right below the border. We consider the raising of Atlantic salmon on the Pacific Coast to result in the introduction of an exotic species. We currently catch Atlantic salmon escapees from Canada and the Pacific Northwest fish farms while we gillnet in Southeast Alaska. To put the farms just over the border as the expansion of new farms is mostly expected to occur around Prince Rupert is of extreme concern.

We urge the Fish committee to pass this resolution out of committee as additional support for Senator Frank Murkowski and the letter he has written to Honorable Colin Powell, Secretary of State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Hansen".

Kathy Hansen  
Executive Director

# Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

P.O. Box 232  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833  
Phone (907) 772-9323 Fax (907) 772-4495

March 1, 2002

Representative Peggy Wilson  
Representative Gary Stevens  
Co-Chairs  
House Special Committee on Fisheries  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (MS 3100)  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HJR No. 46; Relating to the Moratorium on Fish Farming in British Columbia

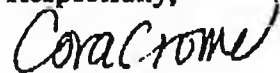
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association is a group of commercial fishermen who participate in many fisheries statewide. Many of our members rely on salmon for a substantial portion of their annual income. In addition, income generated by salmon is very important to our community and to other coastal communities. We would like to thank the Special Committee on Fisheries for introducing this resolution. We are in full support of this resolution relating to the moratorium on fish farming in British Columbia.

We feel that the expansion of British Columbia's fish farming industry poses a major threat to the health of our wild salmon resources. The existing fish farms in British Columbia have already accidentally released a large number of farmed Atlantic salmon that are swimming and reproducing in our streams. In addition to the threat interbreeding poses to our wild stocks, farmed fish are competing with wild Alaskan salmon for food. Disease transfers have been documented from farmed salmon to wild Alaskan salmon.

The full environmental effects of fish farms are yet to be determined. An independent scientific inquiry determined that British Columbia should not lift the moratorium on fish farming. However, the moratorium was lifted on January 31, 2002. We feel that the decision to lift the moratorium and the plans to aggressively expand the number of fish farms in British Columbia will have significant adverse impacts on the health of wild Alaskan salmon and on the Alaskans who rely on them.

We appreciate your support in passing this resolution and your consideration of these comments. If we can provide more information, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

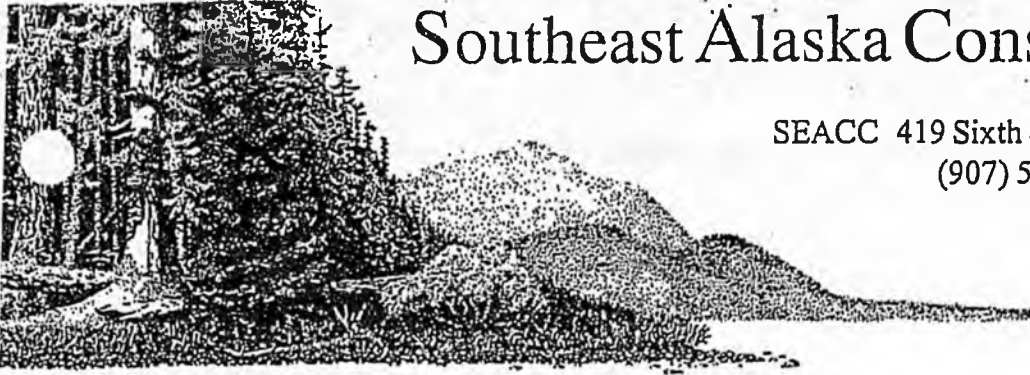


Cora Crome  
Director

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# Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

SEACC 419 Sixth Street, Suite 328, Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-6942 phone (907) 463-3312 fax  
info@seacc.org



## A Resolution Supporting a Ban on Pacific Coast Marine-Based Salmon Farming

Whereas commercial fishing and seafood processing comprise Southeast Alaska's largest private industry;

Whereas more than 80% of Southeast Alaska's rural households rely on subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering and one out of four households harvest more than 250 pounds of wild food per year;

Whereas Tongass streams and lakes spawn and rear 80% of the wild salmon in Southeast Alaska, and wild salmon populations are dependant on wild watersheds;

Whereas Southeast Alaska salmon populations are robust, and not endangered, and can be maintained that way through reasonable effort;

Whereas farmed salmon potentially threaten to contaminate Southeast Alaskan salmon runs through risk of exotic disease transfer, habitat encroachment, competition for prey fish, and genetic weakening;

Whereas salmon farms threaten coastal resources with concentrated amounts of biowaste;

Whereas farmed salmon often contain antibiotics, pesticides, herbicides and dyes;

Whereas farmed salmon are not an environmentally sound, healthy alternative to wild salmon;

Whereas wild Alaskan salmon consume a natural diet, and are prized for their purity and wild origins;

Whereas wild Alaskan salmon set the standard for a wholesome and nutritious commodity, and are managed utilizing sustainable harvesting practices;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council supports Alaska's existing moratorium on salmon farms, and strongly urges the State of Alaska to renew the moratorium when it comes up for review;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council opposes any move towards marine-based salmon farming in the State of Alaska;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council encourages British Columbia to uphold the moratorium on new marine-based salmon farms;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council encourages British Columbia to establish stringent facility maintenance and oversight standards on existing marine-based salmon farms to prevent further escapement;

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council Board of Directors  
Resolution 010902-2

Page 1 of 2

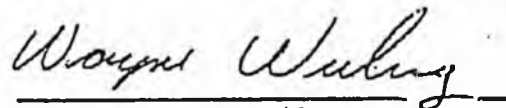
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Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council opposes siting new salmon farms in the ocean; and

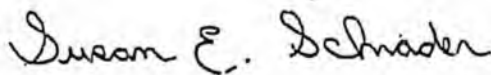
Therefore be it resolved that the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council opposes marine-based salmon farms because of the risks they pose to healthy populations of wild Alaskan salmon and intact Southeast Alaskan coastal resources.

ADOPTED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2001 by the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, by a vote of 12 ayes, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions from all present voting members of the Board of Directors.

CERTIFY

  
Board of Directors President

ATTEST



Board of Directors Secretary

*SEACC is a coalition of eighteen volunteer conservation groups in fourteen far-flung communities across Southeast Alaska, from Ketchikan to Yakutat. SEACC's individual members include commercial and sport fishermen, Alaska Natives, subsistence users, hunters and guides, tourism and recreation business owners, small timber operators and high value-added wood product manufacturers, as well as concerned citizens from all walks of life. SEACC is dedicated to safeguarding the integrity of Southeast Alaska's unsurpassed natural environment while providing for balanced, sustainable use of our region's resources.*

Copies sent to:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Petersburg Vessel Owners Association
Alaska Department of Fish and Game Advisory Committees	Regional Subsistence Advisory Councils
Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association	Sierra Club, Alaska
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association	Sierra Club, B.C
Alaska Marine Conservation Council	Sierra Club, Washington
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute	Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance
Alaska Trollers Association	Southeast Alaska Seiners Association
Alaska Board of Fisheries	Southern S.E. Regional Aquaculture Association
Fishermen Involved in Saving Habitat	Transboundary Watershed Alliance
Governor Tony Knowles	United Fishermen of Alaska
Oceans Blue Foundation	United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
	United States Forest Service