

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2001-2002 8672

10665 SENATE RESOURCES

510

National Marine Fisheries Service

FY01 Budget-\$7.85 million

Study (<i>Preliminary</i>)	Cost (000s)
Localized depletion (cod, pollock, Atka mackerel)	1600
Satellite tagging SSL	400
Food habits/foraging behavior	350
Forage fish assessment	550
Regime shift- AI passes (with PMEL)	400
Implement Recovery Plan	2300
Predation studies	750
AKR Management Activities	1500

Alaska SeaLife Center FY01 Budget-\$6 million

Study (<i>Preliminary</i>)	Cost (000s)
Feeding behavior	1000
Remote monitoring/branding	1500
Collection of pups-short term hold	1500
Endocrine and immune function	300
Chiswell Island prey study	500
Chiswell Island predation study	200
Disease and reproductive biology	500
Instrumentation (e.g., implants)	500

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
FY01 Budget- \$2.5 million

Study (<i>Preliminary</i>)	Cost (000s)
SSL body condition and life history	2000
Estimation of vital rates	300
Model response to incidental take	150
Survey of blood borne diseases	25
Measurement of contaminants	25

University of Alaska

FY01 Budget- \$1 million

Study (<i>Preliminary</i>)	Cost (000s)
Seasonal diets of SSL at Kodiak	200
Prey availability at Kodiak	300
Prey quality at Kodiak	100
Diet of SSL competitors	200
Killer whale/shark diets at Kodiak	200

North Pacific Universities Marine Mammal Research Consortium FY01 Budget- \$0.8 million

Study (<i>Preliminary</i>)	Cost (000s)
Bioenergetics of SSL	250
Bias in scat analysis	35
Telemetry (implants)	40
Amack food quality/SE scat collection	24
Bioenergetic modeling/timing of molt	31
KW predation model/subs. Harvest	120
Diet in Oregon/WA/forage fish abund.	22
SSL vital rates and condition indices ?	120

North Pacific Fisheries
Management Council
FY01 Budget- \$2 million

Study (<i>Preliminary</i>)	Cost (000s)
NAS Independent review	700
Management and legal compliance	1300

Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

FY01 Budget- \$6 million

Study (<i>Preliminary</i>)	Cost (000s)
Analysis of existing environmental data	500
2-yr field study and modeling-combination of PMEL and RFP (CIFAR)	5000
Coordination, communication, outreach	500

National Ocean Survey

FY01 Budget- \$2 million

Study (<i>Preliminary</i>)	Cost (000s)
Competitive process for directed research on predator/prey relationships (CIFAR)	2000

Dept. of Commerce
FY01 Budget- \$15 million

Study (<i>Preliminary</i>)	Cost (000s)
Competitive process for directed research on predator/prey relationships	15,000

% of Funds in FY01 Budget to inhouse
research, contracts, management and reviews
\$43.15 million

- 36% in-house research
- 56% contractual studies (research determined by competitive process)
- 6% management related to ESA/NEPA
- 2% external reviews
- Possible Problem- FY02 budget currently has \$7-10 million assigned to SSL-groundfish research and management
- Possible Problem- Contractual studies may not provide information in time for October 2001 review

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

March 16, 2001

Senate Resources
Senator John Torgerson, Chair
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Fax 465-4779

RE: HJR 10

The Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance is in support of HJR 10 relating to the management of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries and protection and restoration of Stellar sea lions.

While the decline of Stellar sea lions is very disturbing, it is equally disturbing that a whole industry and the communities dependent upon the industry are being asked to make sacrifices that are not based on sound science.

Please pass this resolution supporting the efforts of the United States Congress and Senator Ted Stevens last year and in requesting that a scientifically sound management program be developed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Hansen" followed by a horizontal line.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

HJR

19

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HJR 19
 (H) Publish Date: 3/29/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: Digital Orthoimagery & Elevation Data BRU: _____
 Sponsor: House Resources Committee Component: _____
 Requester: House Resources Committee Component Number: _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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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)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

It is estimated that there will be no fiscal impact from this resolution.

Prepared by: House Resources

Phone 465-2689

Representative: DREW SCALZI & BEVERLY MASEK
Committee Co-Chairs

Date 3/28/01

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Beverly Masek
Co-Chair
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-3715
Fax: 465-4822
1-800-505-2678



Representative Drew Scalzi
Co-Chair
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-6890
Fax: 465-3472
1-800-665-2689

House Resources Committee

House Joint Resolution 19 Sponsor Statement

"Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to fund the acquisition of high-resolution digital orthoimagery and digital elevation data for the entire state of Alaska."

Orthoimagery combines the image characteristics of aerial photography with the geometric qualities of a map. Major uses of this imagery include hazard prevention and public safety, land transfer programs, resource assessment, exploration and development, and community and economic development.

Current maps and imagery of Alaska are very old, inaccurate and of limited usefulness. The majority of our current maps were produced in the 1950s and the latest statewide imagery was produced mainly between 1978 and 1982. Neither of these mapping efforts reflects the current conditions of Alaska's landscape and environment. In addition, both are in analog form and are difficult to incorporate into modern geographic information systems.

Reliable geographic data is necessary for the economic and resource development of our state. Orthoimagery and digital elevation data for Alaska will greatly enhance our land management capabilities and benefit resource development and conservation as well as public access, recreation, safety, emergency response to wild fires and other natural disasters, design and management of transportation corridors, community development and tourism, environmental assessments and permitting. Most of the coterminous states now have this technology and geological information available to them. This resolution seeks to encourage Congress to offer the same benefit to Alaska that it has provided to other states.

The data management for these geographic systems strives to provide a nationally consistent and cost effective means to share geospatial data at all levels of government and industry. An Internet-based network, the Alaska Geospatial Data Clearinghouse (AGDC), would be the initial focal point where data users could access the digital orthoimagery and elevation data produced by the initiative. Currently AGDC is investigating the potential of setting up an in-state repository for this data in the Supercomputer Facility at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Doing so would provide real-time access and long-term management of the data and an important, secondary data archive site in addition to the Earth Resource Observation Systems (EROS) Data Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Over 50 organizations have expressed support for this mapping effort. Organizations including Resource Development Council (RDC), Alaska Land Managers Forum (ALMF), Arctic Power, Inc. and the Alaska Airmen's Association as well as many state departments, native corporations, oil companies, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited and the Sierra Club.

Given the numerous advantages of digitally accessible geophysical data and its broad support, I encourage your positive consideration of this resolution.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1400
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3650
PHONE: (907) 269-8431
FAX: (907) 269-8918

February 9, 2001

Randy Phillips
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Phillips:


Thank you for the letter on the Alaska Geographic Data Committee Orthoimagery Initiative. I appreciate your concern for federal funding of digital elevation modeling and orthoimagery efforts in Alaska. We would all like to have better topographic data and orthoimagery for Alaska.

It is my understanding that this year the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) has included an approximately \$6 MM Initiative in their federal FFY02 budget submittal to Congress for the Alaska Orthoimagery Initiative. I also understand other Interior Department agencies may supplement this request. As part of the normal federal budget process, this Initiative is now progressing through the various steps that are required of all federal budgets. DNR applauds the federal recognition of the shortcomings of topographic elevation data and orthoimagery in Alaska and we certainly support the funding effort they are making to address the issue.

This initiative is becoming a part of the President's budget and funding has already been officially requested. Endorsements will probably not affect the outcome of this initiative in the federal Office of Management and Budget one way or the other and if the Initiative reaches the Senate Appropriations Committee, I believe the chances are good that it will receive favorable consideration.

DNR supports the work that the Alaska Geologic Data Committee is doing to bring this matter to the attention of the USGS National Mapping Division at the national level.

Sincerely,


Pat Pourchot
Commissioner

LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT SUMMARY LIST

1. Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc
2. Alaska Land Managers Forum
3. Arctic Power Inc.
4. Institute of the North
5. Alaska Airmen's Association, Inc.

6. Association of ANCSA Regional Corporation Presidents and CEOs, Inc.
7. NANA Corporation
8. Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.
9. Calista Corporation
10. Chugach Alaska Corporation
11. Bering Straits Native Corporation
12. Ahtna Inc.
13. Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.
14. Bristol Bay Native Corporation

15. State of Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
16. State of Alaska Dept. of Community and Economic Development
17. State of Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
18. State of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
19. State of Alaska Dept. of labor and Workforce Development
20. State of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service

21. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
22. Phillips Alaska Inc.
23. BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.
24. URS Corporation
25. AeroMap U.S.
26. Racal Pelagos
27. Evergreen Helicopters of Alaska, Inc.
28. GeoNorth

29. National Digital Orthophoto Program
30. US Air Force
31. Federal Aviation Administration
32. "CAPSTONE" Project
33. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
34. Joint Pipeline Office
35. Corps of Engineers
36. Census Bureau
37. Environmental Protection Agency
38. US Fish and Wildlife Service
39. Bureau of Land Management

40. National Park Service
41. Bureau of Indian Affairs
42. US Forest Service
43. Alaska Soil and Water Conservation District

44. North Slope Borough
45. Municipality of Anchorage
46. Matanuska-Susitna Borough

47. The Nature Conservancy of Alaska
48. Ducks Unlimited National Office
49. Ducks Unlimited Western Regional Office
50. Sierra Club

51. Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors
52. American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
53. Urban Regional Information Systems Association

EXCERPT FROM: ALASKA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

March 2001

ASTF Invests In Project that Paves the Way for Better, More Accurate Maps of Alaska

Alaska remains the least-mapped state in the nation. For useful maps, Alaskans determine the specifications for the maps so the resulting product is useful for the many applications that Alaskans will use higher resolution images for: mining exploration, environmental monitoring, land use changes, resource assessment and others. While vendors and different government agencies propose different mapping standards, the challenge is to have both public and private users define requirements so the Alaskan end user has a product that is useful and cost effective.

At its February Board Meeting in Juneau, the ASTF Board of Directors voted to support a \$20,000 project that would provide different sample products so Alaskans can better determine user requirements. ASTF is working with a number of key vendors (Aeromap, Intermap, etc.) who have competitive technologies (airborne vs. satellite, etc.) to produce a catalog of products. The catalog will help Alaskans determine appropriate mapping standards for different applications. The project will also involve the Alaska Geographic Data Committee, United States Geological Survey (USGS) and private users such as mining companies and regional corporations to take the next step in creating a consensus on the degree of resolution needed in different areas of the state. The project also will also recommend the most useful format for remote sensing data.

For information on the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation (ASTF), visit the web site at www.astf.org or call (907) 272-4333.

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HJR

26

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HJR 26
 (H) Publish Date: 4/21/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: none
 Title: HJR26: STELLER SEA LION RESEARCH BRU: _____
TEAM TO ALASKA Component: _____
 Sponsor: Rep. Stevens Component Number: _____
 Requester: House Resources Committee

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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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)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Resources Committee Phone (907) 465-6890

Representative Drew Scalzi Date 4/18/01
Committee Chair

Alaska State Legislature

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Kodiak, Alaska 99615
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Fax: (907) 486-5264

Representative Gary Stevens

SPONSOR STATEMENT - HJR 26

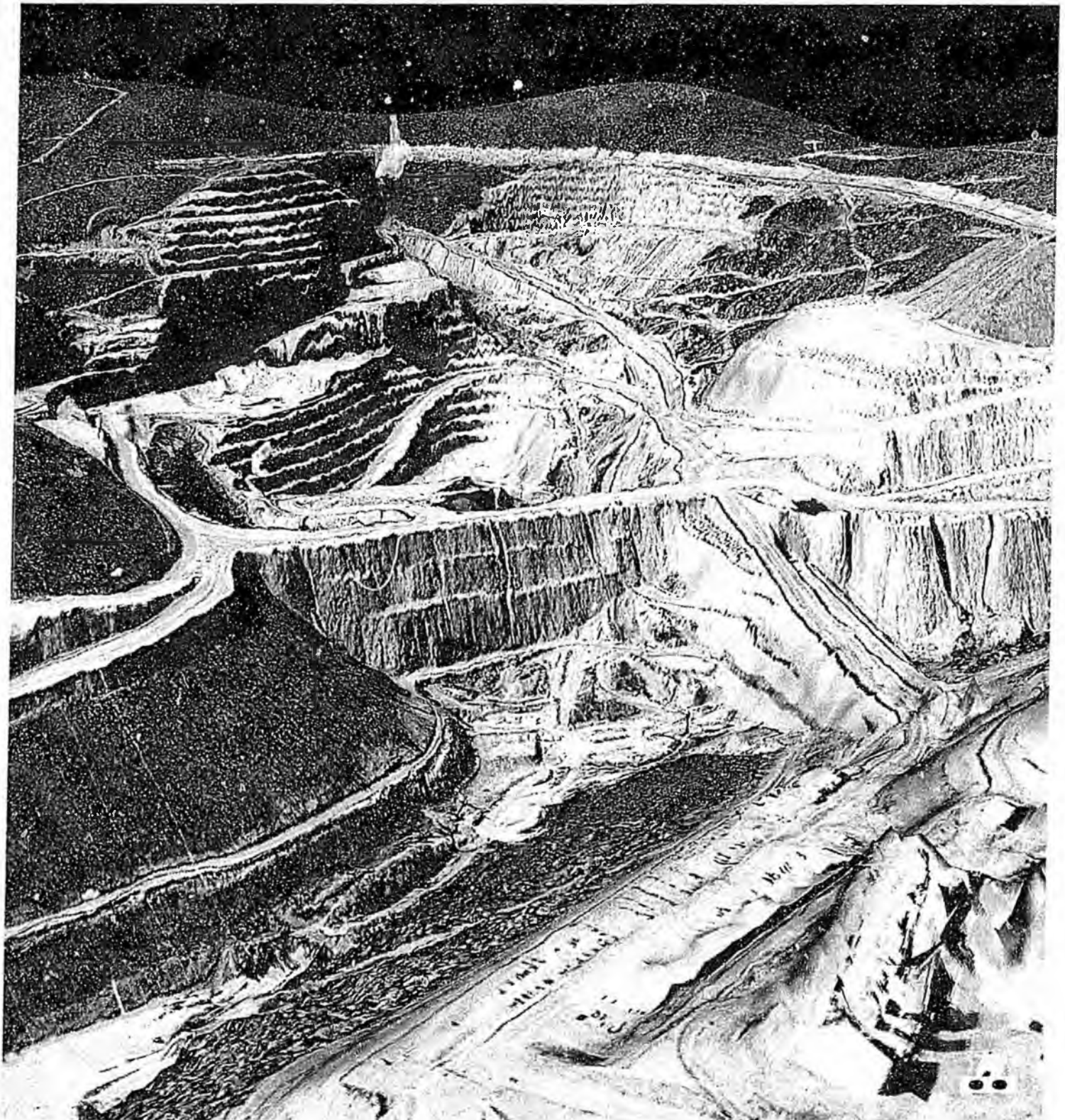
"Requesting the National Marine Fisheries Service to relocate the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Steller sea lion research team to Alaska"

This resolution requests the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to relocate the research team that has been assigned to study the decline of the Steller sea lion, to Alaska, where the actual research is being conducted.

There are facilities located here in Alaska that have the space available to accommodate the research team and with the recent travel restrictions that have been placed on the NMFS staff, it just makes sense to have the team located here in Alaska.

By sending this resolution, it is my hope that the National Marine Fisheries Service will honor this request, and that those Alaskans who are directly affected by the status of the endangered western Alaska Steller sea lion will have local access to the personnel conducting this critical research.

Airborne Interferometric Radar



Fort Knox Mine, Alaska

This anaglyph view is of the Fort Knox gold mine approximately 25 miles north of Fairbanks, Alaska. This oblique view looking to the southwest is compiled using an orthophoto image draped over a STAR-3i DEM.

AEROMAP U.S.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAMMETRIC CONSULTANTS





Fort Knox Mine, Alaska

This anaglyph view is of the Fort Knox gold mine approximately 25 miles north of Fairbanks, Alaska. This view is compiled using an orthophoto image draped over a STAR-3i DEM.

AEROMAP U.S.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAMMETRIC CONSULTANTS



Airborne Interferometric Radar

AeroMap U. S.
is proud to be
the Alaskan
distributor for
Intermap
Technologies'
STAR-3i data
and value added
products
including:

Digital Elevation Models
Orthorectified Radar Images
Topographic Line Maps
Custom Map Products



Disenchantment Bay & Hubbard Glacier, Yakutat, Alaska

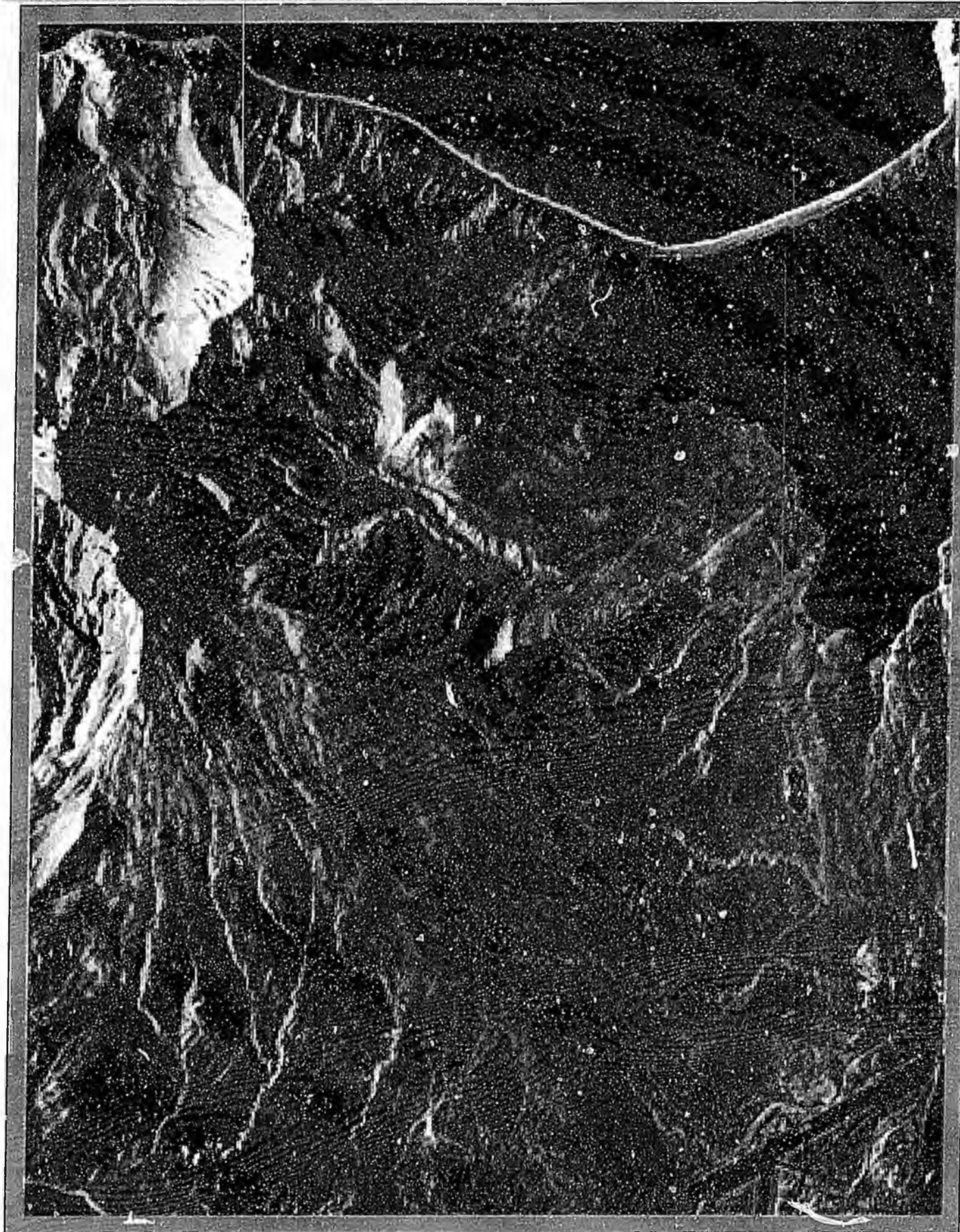
This is an anaglyph 3-D view derived from STAR-3i orthorectified radar image and digital elevation model. The GT-2 data has 2-meter vertical accuracy and 2.5-meter horizontal accuracy with a 5-meter posting. The projection is UTM and the datum is WGS 84.

AEROMAP U.S.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAMMETRIC CONSULTANTS

February 2001
Anaglyph Hubbard Glacier - Yakutat Handout.cdr

Airborne Interferometric Radar

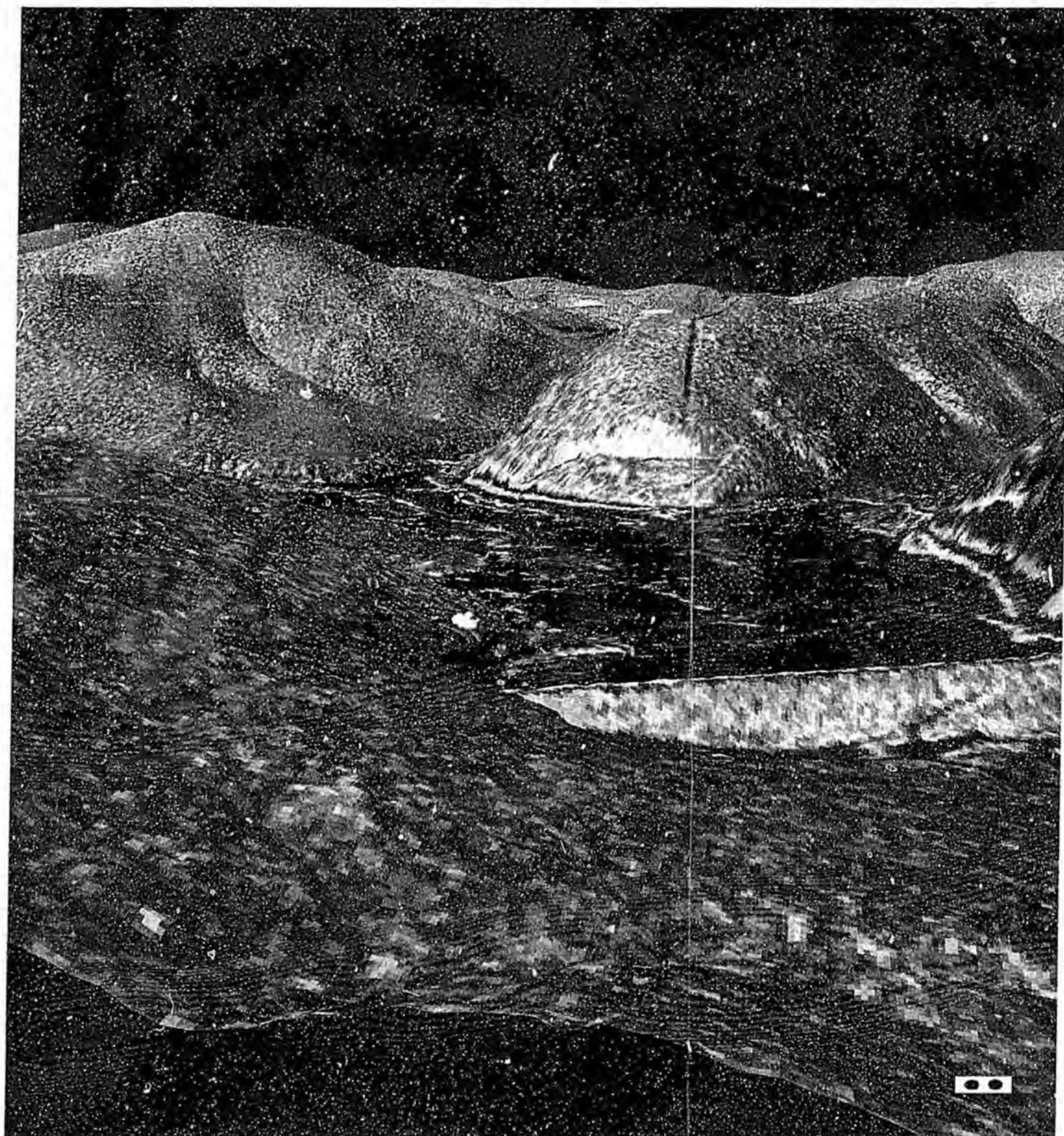


AEROMAP U.S. 

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAMMETRIC CONSULTANTS

Adak, Alaska
STAR-3i DEM & ORI





Fort Knox Mine, Alaska

This anaglyph view is of the Fort Knox gold mine, approximately 25 miles north of Fairbanks, Alaska. This oblique view of the lower reservoir looking upstream to the southwest is compiled using an orthorectified radar image draped over a STAR-3i DEM.

Company Profile

AeroMap U.S.

Services - AeroMap is a full-service mapping sciences firm with expertise in aerial photography, photogrammetry, remote sensing, satellite image processing, GIS services, geodetic surveying, photo laboratory processing, digital orthophotos, topographic mapping, and custom software development.

Clients - Our visual and digital geographic information is customized to meet the needs of individuals, energy and exploration companies, engineering consultants, business, military and civilian government agencies, and world organizations.

Applications - Our clients rely on our services for feasibility studies, natural resource evaluation, engineering design and construction, temporal change detection and assessment, environmental monitoring, volumetric determinations, and numerous related applications.

Staff - AeroMap, headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska, maintains a staff of over 70 multi-disciplined professional and technical employees. Design, implementation and management of our products and services are accomplished by our Professional Land Surveyors and Certified Photogrammetrists.

AeroMap is a member of the Aero-Metric family of companies, with offices in Sheboygan, WI; Sterling, VA; Minneapolis, MN; Fort Collins, CO; and Seattle, WA.

New Capabilities in Remote Sensing - We continue to expand our airborne and satellite capabilities to provide high quality remote sensing services to our clients. As software and sensors evolve AeroMap continues to offer the newest technology and capabilities by aligning with other specialty firms, when appropriate, to provide our clients with the best solutions and best service available.

In addition to multispectral data from our airborne DMSV system, we can also provide airborne thermal and hyperspectral data and products. We are the Alaskan distributor for STAR-3i interferometric synthetic aperture radar products which include high resolution DEM (0.5 - 3-meter vertical accuracy, 2.5-meter horizontal accuracy and 5-meter posting) and Ortho-rectified Radar Imagery (ORRI).

Since the 1980's we have been involved in marketing and processing satellite imagery, most recently for ORBIMAGE products that include SPOT and RADARSAT.

In short, we can respond to your routine or complex remote sensing requirements for acquisition or image processing.

AEROMAP U.S.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAMMETRIC CONSULTANTS

2014 Merrill Field Dr. Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 272-4495 Fax: (907) 274-3265
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HJR

44

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(907) 465-3265



Interim:
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Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 376-4866
(907) 373-4724

House Special Committee on Oil & Gas

HJR 44

ALASKA NATURAL GAS PIPELINE ROUTE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HJR 44 was introduced to clearly articulate Alaska's position regarding the commercialization of Alaska's vast natural gas reserves.

It is important to keep the momentum going on the gas pipeline issue and it is imperative for the State of Alaska to give a clear message to Congress as to our position on the various issues that are being considered at this time.

Currently, energy legislation is being debated in the Senate. Talking heads that have never been to Alaska are constantly in the news expressing opinions about policy issues that affect Alaska. It is past time that Washington D. C. seriously considers what Alaskans think about issues that determine our fate.

This resolution will send a clear and unambiguous message to Congress on how Alaskans want their resources developed. Our congressional delegation will be able to add this resolution to their tool chest when working on legislation that greatly affects the future of Alaska.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HJR 44
 () Publish Date: 2/19/2002

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Route BRU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor House Special Comm on O & G
 Requester House Special Comm on O & G 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						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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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)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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: Linda Hay Phone 465-2283
 Division H. O&G Date/Time 3/24/02 4:54 PM
 Approved by: Representative Ogan, Chairman Date 3/24/2002
 Agency _____

HJR

45

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HJR 45
 (H) Publish Date: 3/6/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: None
 Title Salmon Labeling BRU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Rep. Kertula
 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						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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 3/5/02 1:35 PM
 Approved by: _____ Date 3/5/02
 Agency: _____



Representative Beth Kerttula

Alaska State Legislature, District 3
State Capitol • Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 • (907) 465-4766 • Fax (907) 465-4748
E-mail: Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us • <http://www.kerttula.net>

Sponsor Statement

HJR 45

"Relating to the labeling of salmon food products."

As Alaskans, we know that wild salmon is superior to farmed salmon – both in taste and nutritional value. However, other Americans may not know all of the differences. House Joint Resolution 45 supports the efforts by the U.S Congressional Delegation to require that salmon and salmon food products be labeled as farmed or wild salmon. With the glut of farmed salmon from countries such as Chile, the Alaska seafood industry has been faced with market challenges. Labeling will give American consumers the information they need to make intelligent choices about the food they eat. Along with informational programs regarding the health benefits of wild salmon, the label could become a viable marketing tool.

Amendments to the national Agriculture Bill, introduced by Senators Murkowski and Stevens, call for both country-of-origin labeling and "organic" classifications. Senator Murkowski has stated that "for over 70 years we have recognized that consumers have an important interest in knowing the origin of the goods they buy, whether it be a Taiwanese radio, a Venezuelan T-shirt or a canned ham from Denmark." HJR 45 supports the Alaska delegation's efforts to give Americans the right to know about what is in their food and where it came from. Thank you for your consideration of HJR 45.



Wild Alaska Salmon

Tuesday, February 19, 2002

Voice of the Times

A CONSERVATIVE VOICE FOR ALASKANS

WILLIAM J. TOBIN
Senior editor

LABELING LAW BOOSTS CHANCES FOR ...

Alaska seafood

ALASKA'S WILD seafood will get a valuable boost in the marketplace under a bill introduced by Sen. Frank Murkowski and passed by the U.S. Senate.

The measure will require that any seafood product sold at retail in the United States be labeled with its country of origin. That should be easy when it comes to canned or frozen products, but it isn't quite clear how the labeling would work when it comes to buying a whole fish over the counter. No matter the details, however, the objective is good — to put Alaska's seafood on an equal or better footing with fish caught or processed in foreign countries.

Most fresh and frozen U.S. products already are labeled with the state of origin, and under Murkowski's proposal consumers also will be able to make intelligent choices at the seafood counter. The Alaska "mystique" will become a viable marketing tool.

The bill also clears the way for wild-caught Alaska fish products — such as salmon — to be labeled "organic." That heads off an expected ruling by the National Organic Standards Board classifying pen-reared fish as organic, but not wild salmon.

The board's thinking, if you could call it that, is that since wild salmon roam the world's oceans, you couldn't tell where they had been or what they had eaten. Murkowski scoffed at their concerns. "What could be more natural than fish swimming in the ocean?" he asked.

The labeling requirement corrects an inequity faced by seafood products. "American consumers have come to expect ready access to information about where the goods they buy come from," Murkowski said. "They already know whether a T-shirt comes from Venezuela, a radio from Taiwan, or a canned ham from Denmark."



Senate panel approves fish labeling

RETAIL: Consumers will know origin of salmon, other perishables if bill becomes law.

(Published: December 6, 2001)

Juneau -- Alaska fishermen won a victory Tuesday when the U.S. Senate Finance Committee approved a provision that would force retailers to label foreign seafood products to show country of origin.

If the measure becomes law, consumers in America would be able to distinguish Chilean salmon from fish harvested in the United States, said Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, the sponsor of the provision.

The measure, which also applies to perishable agricultural goods, would give Alaska fishermen more tools to compete with seafood imports, which have undercut Alaska seafood sales, Murkowski said.

"For over 70 years we have recognized that consumers have an important interest in knowing the origin of the goods they buy, whether it be a Taiwanese radio, a Venezuelan T-shirt or a canned ham from Denmark," he said. "This will simply extend the concept to salmon steaks, tomatoes or grapes."

Under the provision, retailers would have to label, stamp or place a placard clearly identifying the country of origin at the time of retail sale, Murkowski said. Retailers would be allowed to identify the state of origin in American products, meaning a fillet labeled Chilean salmon might have to compete against a fillet labeled Alaska salmon.

The provision was added to a trade bill that still must pass the full Senate and House.

H.R.2646

Agriculture, Conservation, and Rural Enhancement Act of 2002 (Public Print)

SEC. 1001. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

Subtitle D--Country of Origin Labeling

SEC. 281. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **BEEF**- The term beef means meat produced from cattle (including veal).

(2) **COVERED COMMODITY**-

(A) **IN GENERAL**- The term covered commodity means--

(i) muscle cuts of beef, lamb, and pork;

(ii) ground beef, ground lamb, and ground pork;

(iii) **farm-raised fish;**

(iv) **wild fish;**

(v) a perishable agricultural commodity; and

(vi) peanuts.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS**- The term covered commodity does not include--

(i) processed beef, lamb, and pork food items; and

(ii) frozen entrees containing beef, lamb, and pork.

(3) **FARM-RAISED FISH**- The term farm-raised fish includes--

(A) **farm-raised shellfish; and**

(B) **fillets, steaks, nuggets, and any other flesh from farm-raised fish or shellfish.**

(4) **FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT**- The term food service establishment means a restaurant, cafeteria, lunch room, food stand, saloon, tavern, bar, lounge, or other similar facility operated as an enterprise engaged in the business of selling food to the public.

(5) **LAMB**- The term lamb means meat, other than mutton, produced from sheep.

(6) **PERISHABLE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY; RETAILER**- The terms perishable agricultural commodity and retailer have the meanings given the terms in section 1(b) of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930 (7 U.S.C. 499a(b)).

(7) **PORK**- The term pork means meat produced from hogs.

(8) **SECRETARY**- The term Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Agricultural Marketing Service.

(9) WILD FISH-

(A) IN GENERAL- The term wild fish means naturally-born or hatchery-raised fish and shellfish harvested in the wild.

(B) INCLUSIONS- The term wild fish includes a fillet, steak, nugget, and any other flesh from wild fish or shellfish.

(C) EXCLUSIONS- The term wild fish excludes net-pen aquacultural or other farm-raised fish.

SEC. 282. NOTICE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

(a) IN GENERAL-

(1) REQUIREMENT- Except as provided in subsection (b), a retailer of a covered commodity shall inform consumers, at the final point of sale of the covered commodity to consumers, of the country of origin of the covered commodity.

(2) UNITED STATES COUNTRY OF ORIGIN- A retailer of a covered commodity may designate the covered commodity as having a United States country of origin only if the covered commodity--

(A) in the case of beef, lamb, and pork, is exclusively from an animal that is exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States;

(B) in the case of farm-raised fish, is hatched, raised, harvested, and processed in the United States;

(C) in the case of wild fish, is--

(i) harvested in waters of the United States, a territory of the United States, or a State; and

(ii) processed in the United States, a territory of the United States, or a State, including the waters thereof; and

(D) in the case of a perishable agricultural commodities or peanut, is exclusively produced in the United States.

(3) WILD FISH AND FARM-RAISED FISH- The notice of country of origin for wild fish and farm-raised fish shall distinguish between wild fish and farm-raised fish.

(b) EXEMPTION FOR FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS- Subsection (a) shall not apply to a covered commodity if the covered commodity is--

(1) prepared or served in a food service establishment; and

(2) (A) offered for sale or sold at the food service establishment in normal retail quantities; or

(B) served to consumers at the food service establishment.

(c) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION-

(1) IN GENERAL- The information required by subsection (a) may be provided to consumers by means of a label, stamp, mark, placard, or other clear and visible sign on the covered commodity or on the package, display, holding unit, or bin containing the commodity at the final point of sale to consumers.

- (2) **LABELED COMMODITIES**- If the covered commodity is already individually labeled for retail sale regarding country of origin, the retailer shall not be required to provide any additional information to comply with this section.
- (d) **AUDIT VERIFICATION SYSTEM**- The Secretary may require that any person that prepares, stores, handles, or distributes a covered commodity for retail sale maintain a verifiable recordkeeping audit trail that will permit the Secretary to ensure compliance with the regulations promulgated under section 284.
- (e) **INFORMATION**- Any person engaged in the business of supplying a covered commodity to a retailer shall provide information to the retailer indicating the country of origin of the covered commodity.
- (f) **CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN**-
- (1) **MANDATORY IDENTIFICATION**- The Secretary shall not use a mandatory identification system to verify the country of origin of a covered commodity.
- (2) **EXISTING CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**- To certify the country of origin of a covered commodity, the Secretary may use as a model certification programs in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, including--
- (A) the carcass grading and certification system carried out under this Act;
- (B) the voluntary country of origin beef labeling system carried out under this Act;
- (C) voluntary programs established to certify certain premium beef cuts;
- (D) the origin verification system established to carry out the child and adult care food program established under section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766); or
- (E) the origin verification system established to carry out the market access program under section 203 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623).

SEC. 283. ENFORCEMENT.

- (a) **IN GENERAL**- Except as provided in subsection (b), section 253 shall apply to a violation of this subtitle.
- (b) **WARNINGS**- If the Secretary determines that a retailer is in violation of section 282, the Secretary shall--
- (1) notify the retailer of the determination of the Secretary; and
- (2) provide the retailer a 30-day period, beginning on the date on which the retailer receives the notice under paragraph (1) from the Secretary, during which the retailer may take necessary steps to comply with section 282.
- (c) **FINES**- If, on completion of the 30-day period described in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary determines that the retailer has willfully violated section 282, after providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the Secretary with respect to the violation, the Secretary may fine the retailer in an amount determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 284. REGULATIONS.

- (a) **IN GENERAL**- The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this subtitle.

- (b) PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATES- In promulgating the regulations, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into partnerships with States with enforcement infrastructure to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 285. APPLICATION.

This subtitle shall apply to the retail sale of a covered commodity beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subtitle.

SEC. 1055. WILD FISH AND WILD SHELLFISH.

Section 2104 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6503) is amended-

- (1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and
- (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) WILD FISH AND WILD SHELLFISH-

(1) IN GENERAL- Notwithstanding section 2107(a)(1), the Secretary may allow, through regulations promulgated after public notice and opportunity for comment, wild fish or wild shellfish harvested from salt water to be certified or labeled as organic.

(2) CONSULTATION AND ACCOMMODATION- In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall--

(A) consult with--

- (i) the Secretary of Commerce;
- (ii) the National Organic Standards Board established under section 2119;
- (iii) producers, processors, and sellers; and
- (iv) other interested members of the public; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, accommodate the unique characteristics of the industries in the United States that harvest and process wild fish and shellfish.”



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Press Releases



ALASKA IN THE NEWS

May 17, 2000

Release 00129

**ORGANIC LABEL FITS ALASKA WILD SALMON
Knowles Supports Certification in Letter to Agriculture Secretary**

Touting Alaska's strict protection of water quality and sustainable fishery management system, Gov. Tony Knowles has again urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to certify Alaska wild salmon as organic. It's the latest effort by the governor to help the Alaska seafood industry participate in the fast growing market for organic foods.

"Up to 60 percent of the total U.S. production of seafood is from Alaska's clean, pristine waters," Knowles said in a letter today to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "Alaska is the only state in the nation with a constitutional mandate for conservation and sustainability of natural resources. Furthermore, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's in-season fisheries management system is widely recognized as a model for sustainable fisheries worldwide."

Designation of Alaska wild salmon as organic is seen as important since the trade for certified organic protein products, including seafood, is growing at a rate of between 15 percent and 25 percent. Overall seafood consumption in the United States in 1998, nearly four billion pounds, has grown at an annual rate of just 1.9 percent since 1980.

The \$1.2 billion seafood industry is Alaska's largest private sector employer comprised of many small businesses, including over 50,000 fishermen and 700 processors.

Alaska opposed the USDA's first proposed organic regulations in 1998 because wild seafood was essentially excluded. Since then, the state has worked closely with USDA and members of the National Organic Standards Board to show how Alaska seafood fits the intent and approach of the Organic Food Production Act.

"In the intervening two years, respected private organic groups have certified two Alaska seafood processors, Prime Select Seafoods and Capiliano Pacific," Knowles said. "These certifications open up critical new markets for Alaskans living in rural and very isolated communities who participate in the sustainable harvest of wild seafood as their primary economic activity."

Knowles' letter to Glickman was submitted in response to a request from the USDA for public comment on the organic labeling of seafood, and was accompanied by 50 pages of technical comments prepared by various state agencies.

##

Contact:

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

Claire Richardson, Deputy Press Secretary, (907) 465-3996

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

WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

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

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 45 - Relating to the Labeling of Salmon Food Products

Dear Members,

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

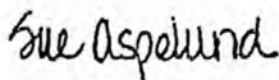
We are pleased to support HJR 45, which in turn supports the efforts of Alaska's Congressional delegation to require labeling of farmed fish products. The huge growth in the production and importation of farmed fish products that compete with Alaska's wild salmon is severely impacting the viability of Alaska's fishing families, our processors, and our fisheries-dependent communities, and the State economy.

Additionally, consumers have a right to know where the food they purchase comes from and what is in it.

An effort to require farmed fish producers to label their products as such will help differentiate farmed from wild for consumers, and support Alaskan's efforts to educate consumers about the benefits of buying healthy, sustainable, wild Alaskan salmon.

We appreciate your support of this resolution.

Sincerely,



Sue Aspelund
Executive Director

cc: Representative Beth Kerttula



P.O. Box 762 • Kodiak • AK • 99615
Phone: (907) 486-8899 • Fax: (907) 486-7058 • Email: kodiak@unitedsalmon.org

Alaska Fishermen Support Salmon Labeling

Kodiak - The United Salmon Association today voiced support for legislation that would require labeling of salmon that is farmed in floating net-cages. The bill would also require country of origin labeling for all retail fisheries products. These measures are contained in the Farm Bill recently passed by the U.S. Senate.

"Consumers have a right to see this information at the retail counter because it affects their health," said USA president and fisherman Bruce Schactler.

USA supports the proposed requirements because of the significant differences between Alaskan wild salmon and farmed salmon. Unlike farmed salmon, Alaska salmon are not fed color additives, or treated with antibiotics, pesticides or fungicides.

The group maintains that the consumer has the right to know what they are buying and that wild-caught Alaska salmon are a vastly superior product. Schactler cited numerous studies showing that farmed salmon have increasingly high levels of cholesterol, depending on ingredients in their feed pellets. The quality and composition of the feed also affects the amount of health-enhancing Omega-3 essential fatty acid levels in salmon. Levels of Omega-3s in farmed salmon are lower than their wild counterpart, and are expected to be reduced even further as grains and vegetables replace fish oil and meal in their feed pellets.

Schactler further pointed to a recently published study in the scientific journal *Chemosphere* showing that the manufactured feed pellets and flesh of farmed salmon contain unsafe levels of PCBs and organochlorine pesticides.

Currently most salmon is sold without differentiation between farmed and wild. This makes it almost impossible for educated consumers to distinguish wild salmon from farmed salmon in their supermarkets. Under the new law, all U.S. markets will be required to label seafood indicating whether it is farm-raised or wild-caught, as well as the country of origin.

"For salmon harvesters and their families, this identifies the products that they are proud to bring to the public. It is similar to organic vs. non-organic labeling," said Schactler. He scoffed at retailer claims that it is too expensive and inconvenient to properly label fish. "If they can stick on the price, they can stick on what it is and where it came from."

The United Salmon Association is a fishermen's marketing association representing nearly 1,000 Alaskan salmon fishermen.

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
403 Lincoln St., Ste. 237
Sitka, AK 99835

March 2, 2002

Representative Kerttula
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kerttula,

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association's (ALFA) approximately 100 members to express our support for HJR 45, An Act relating to the labeling of salmon food products.

ALFA members recognize the health benefits of Alaska's seafood, and believe consumers will be well served by a labeling system that requires "farmed" and "wild" salmon to be identified as distinctly different. Farmed salmon do not provide the same health benefits as wild salmon, and pose both an environmental and a resource threat. As American consumers become more health conscious and better educated about the environmental impacts associated with farmed salmon, they will demand to know the origin of the seafood products they are purchasing. HJR 45 anticipates this demand, providing a valuable and essential service.

HJR 45 will also provide badly needed marketing assistance to Alaska's salmon industry. Given the current crisis in salmon marketing, the Act is extremely timely and should be approved expeditiously. Many ALFA members participate in the salmon fisheries, along with the sablefish and halibut fisheries, and will directly benefit from the enhanced market recognition offered by this Act. Although members support the Act as written, may we suggest that it be expanded, or a companion act introduced, requiring sablefish and halibut to be labeled as wild and organic. Although farmed sablefish and halibut are not yet a threat, they are likely to become one in the future. Building consumer recognition now would ensure that Alaska's wild fish retain market share despite expansion of the farmed seafood industry.

In closing, ALFA supports HJR 45, and appreciates your introduction of this Act. We will help in any way possible to ensure its approval during this Legislative session.

Sincerely,



Linda Behnken
(Executive director, ALFA)

4/18/02 10:00 AM



P.O. Box 762 • Kodiak • AK • 99615
Phone: (907) 486-8899 • Fax: (907) 486-7058 • Email: kodiak@unitedsalmon.org

March 1, 2002

Representative Beth Kerttula
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Beth;

Thank you for sponsoring HJR 45, supporting our U.S. Congressional Delegation in their efforts to procure labeling standards for salmon sold in the domestic market.

The United Salmon Association fervently supports this measure, which would give the Alaskan salmon industry a leg up as it works to educate salmon consumers about the differences between a wild-caught fish and a farm-raised fish. Consumer education about the benefits wild-caught fish will be an important cornerstone in successful marketing of Alaska salmon in the future, and the language contained in the U.S. Senate's Farm Bill will provide us with an invaluable tool in that effort.

By passing HJR 45, the Legislature would be placing the strength of the state of Alaska behind these efforts and sending a strong message of support to the fishermen and policymakers who are striving to assure that Alaska's salmon industry will flourish for years into the future.

Thank you for your support on this front.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thom Wischer".

Thom Wischer
Chairman
USA/Kodiak



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

March 1, 2002

Representative Beth Kerttula
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Kerttula,

Re: HJR 45 Salmon Labeling

United Fishermen of Alaska supports passage of this resolution to urge the U.S. Congress to require that finfish be labeled as having been farm raised using antibiotics, dyes, and/or chemicals, or as wildfish. The U.S. Senate has passed a "Farm Bill" which contains the provisions we seek on labeling requirements. This labeling requirement will not only serve as a health and safety notice, it will also serve as a marketing tool to help distinguish wild Alaska salmon. This resolution could be very timely as the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives work out their "Farm Bill" differences in conference.

The twenty-nine members groups of UFA would appreciate your support in passing this bill.

If you have any questions about our position or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Gemmell
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Alaska Processors Association • Bristol Bay Packers
Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association • Conchinit Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Copper River Salmon Producers Association • Crowe District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Park and Clam
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Old Harbor Fisherman's Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Pure Gene Vessel Owners Association • Sealard Producers Cooperative
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fishermen's Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Unimuk Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

United Cook Inlet Drift Association
Kenai, Alaska

March 4, 2002

House Special Committee on Fisheries
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Chairman and committee members,

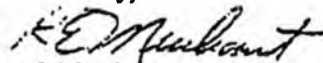
We at United Cook Inlet Drift Association would appreciate the full support of the Alaska legislature toward approval of HJR 45.

Country-of-origin labeling will serve an important purpose by allowing consumers world wide to make informed decisions as to what they are buying and where it came from. Such labeling will prevent unscrupulous jobbers and salesman from substituting inferior products for superior products and, thus, duping the uninformed consumer.

Product labeling will fit nicely with ours and ASMI's efforts to educate the public about the fact that Alaska produces only "wild salmon." If it says "Alaska" it has to be wild.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,


Bob Merchant
President UCIDA



Southeast Alaska Seiners

RECEIVED

MAR 04 2002

March 4, 2002

Representative Peggy Wilson
Chair, House Special Committee
On Fisheries
State Capital (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

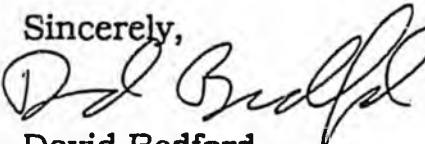
Dear Chairwoman Wilson,

I am writing on behalf of Southeast Alaska Seiners (SEAS), an organization representing over 300 commercial fishermen, to express support for House Joint Resolution 45.

HJR 45 puts the Alaska Legislature on record supporting the efforts of our congressional delegation to secure legislation requiring the labeling of farmed and wild salmon food products. At present the Alaska commercial salmon industry faces a serious downturn in its prospects largely due to intense competition from the salmon farming industry in Chile and Norway. The federal labeling legislation supported by HJR 45 will help the Alaskan commercial fishing community to differentiate our state's natural salmon from the domesticated fish produced by foreign salmon farmers and thereby help Alaskans market the advantages that our salmon offer to the consumer.

SEAS asks that you support HJR 45.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

David Bedford
Executive Director



United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
PO Box 22427
Juneau, Alaska 99802
(907) 586-5860
E-mail: usag@gci.net

March 2, 2002

Representative Beth Kerttula
Alaska State Legislature, District 3
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RECEIVED
MAR 04 2002

Dear Representative Kerttula:

This letter is to offer the support of the United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) for approval of House Joint Resolution 45, which you recently introduced.

From your letter to us and the included copy of HJR45, we understand that the main thrust of the resolution is to support the efforts by the Alaska congressional delegation to require labeling of farmed and wild salmon food products.

We applaud your efforts and those of law makers at the state and federal levels to inform and educate the consumer to the benefits of eating Alaska salmon.

Be assured that USAG will actively work with you to gain approval of HJR45. Thank you for letting us participate in your efforts to help the Alaska salmon industry.

Sincerely,

Jim Becker

USAG Board Secretary

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						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

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)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

CSHJR 46 "Relating to the moratorium on fish farming in British Columbia"

Sponsor: House Special Committee on Fisheries

Sponsor Statement

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 as far west as the Bering Sea. 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 found 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 Escapes¹ and recoveries of Atlantic salmon in Washington State, British Columbia, and Alaska, 1987-2001².

Year	ATLANTIC SALMON ESCAPES					ATLANTIC SALMON RECOVERIES						NUMBER OF SYSTEMS WITH RECOVERIES		
	Washington ³	British Columbia ⁴				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	10,464		7,650	18,114	26	129		2,664	75	2,894	4		37
1998	115,000	300	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
Total	595,000	58,705	76,050	261,797	396,552	359	946	3	18,251	585	20,144			

¹ 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.

² Information for 2001 is preliminary.

³ 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.

⁴ Known escapes in British Columbia are required to be reported to the Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Atlantic Salmon Watch program⁵. The extent of compliance with reporting requirements is suspect, a small number of farms have never reported an escape, nor is "leakage" reported.

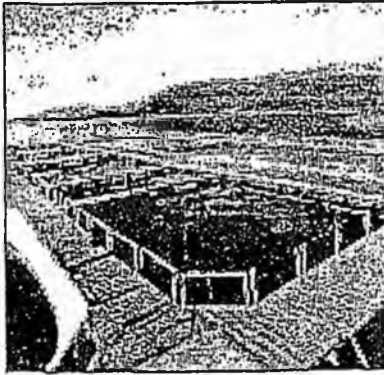
⁵ Canada's Atlantic Salmon Watch Program's with extensive data can be accessed on the internet at: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/aqua/pages/atlsalm.htm>

For further information on Alaska recoveries contact Glen Oliver at 907-465-4229 or glen_oliver@fishgame.state.ak.us

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.

"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.leggartinquiry.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 --

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.

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

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,

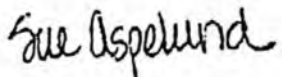
Cordova District Fishermen United represents the commercial fishing fleets of Area E--the Copper River and Prince William Sound.

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

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

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

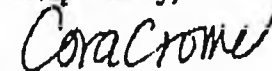
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association is a group of commercial fishermen who participate in many fisheries statewide. Many of our members rely on salmon for a substantial portion of their annual income. In addition, income generated by salmon is very important to our community and to other coastal communities. 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

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.

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

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:

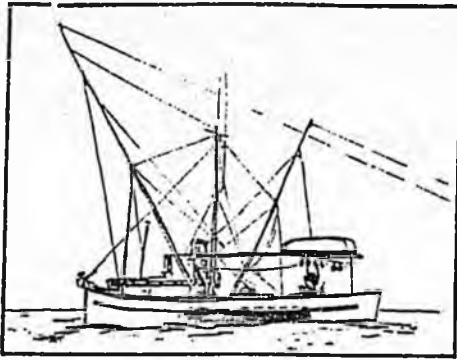
1. Remove all net-cage salmon farms from the marine environment by January 1, 2005.
2. Remove responsibility for promotion of aquaculture from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans; increase monitoring and regulation of salmon farming by government regulators.
3. Increase involvement of communities, 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	Alaska Trollers Association	(907) 586-9400 / 723-8765
Anrah Landau	Southeast Alaska Conservation Council	(907) 586-6942
Loren Gerhard	Southeast Conference	(907) 463 3445

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



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward St., No. 505
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-9400
(907) 586-4473 Fax

March 25, 2002

Representative Beverly Masek, Co-Chair
Representative Drew Scalzi, Co-Chair
House Resources
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representatives Masek & Scalzi:

The Alaska Trollers Association supports HJR 46, which opposes the recent decision by British Columbia's government to lift its moratorium on new finfish farm sites.

Attached please find testimony that I presented last fall to the Leggatt Inquiry in Vancouver, BC, which outlines some of our concerns about fish farming. The state of Alaska also testified at this hearing in opposition to B.C.'s proposed lift of the 7-year moratorium.

ATA is extremely concerned about finfish farming, particularly in waters where our shared fisheries resources mingle. We believe the threat of disease, parasites, competition for food and invasion of spawning habitat are too great a risk to bring to bear on salmon, trout, halibut and blackcod stocks upon which Alaskans depend.

Since the moratorium was implemented in B.C. waters, production at existing farmed sites has tripled. Many farm sites are not yet in service, meaning expansion can and likely will occur.

Feral (wild) populations of Atlantic salmon have now been documented in B.C. and it's not unlikely they also exist in Alaska. This is of significant concern, as it suggests the environment may be ripe for successful expansion of this non-indigenous species. For years fish farm advocates explained that Atlantic salmon could never reproduce in our coast. A quick search of information on invasive species issues in this country shows that it is not unusual for a species to be present at low levels in an environment and then take off when something in the ecosystem changes. For instance, Zebra mussels were in the Great Lakes for 120 years before becoming the nuisance species they are today.

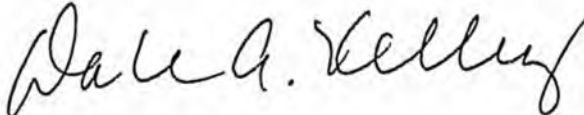
Atlantic salmon are actually a trout and spawn multiple times. They are territorial and are more aggressive feeders than Pacific salmon, they also may grow faster and over time these characteristics could be devastating for Alaska's wild salmon stocks.

Disease has proven a significant issue around the world, on the east coast and, over the last month, in B.C. as well. February 14 brought word from B.C. of an outbreak of the disease IHN, which forced one farm to destroy 1.6 million fish. Two injunctions and many questions about where to dispose of those fish brought to light many of the problems we face trying to safeguarding wild fish from farmed. Since then, 8 farms owned by 4 companies have been identified as having the same disease in the pens. The specific details are difficult to come by, and Canadian citizens have told me that some government officials claim the information is "confidential".

Fish farming brings with it numerous issues to sort through, from environmental impacts to the near shore areas to questions of protecting resident species, food safety and impacts on local economies. Fortunately, Alaska was forward thinking enough to avoid the situation first hand. However, it's obvious fish farming is taking its toll on our industry and communities, and looks to be poised to encroach on our wild salmon's turf.

We encourage you to support HJR 46 and join with industry in opposition to expanded ocean finfish farming.

Cordially,



Dale Kelley
Executive Director

Press Release

February 14, 2002

Marine Harvest Canada and Kitasoo Aquafarms Ltd.

In late January Marine Harvest and Kitasoo Aquafarms Ltd. reported an outbreak of Infectious Hemopoetic Necrosis (IHN) in one of the 7 pens at a salmon farm in Klemtu on the north coast of British Columbia. "Marine Harvest moved quickly to minimize the impact of this outbreak. Risk management was adopted to protect the remaining farm stock. This disease outbreak as managed on this farm site did not pose a risk to wild stock", says Marine Harvest Canada Veterinarian, Dr. Diane Morrison.

Although reporting of this disease is not mandatory, DFO and Ministry Agriculture, Food & Fisheries were notified immediately upon confirmation of IHN. This timely communication demonstrates an ongoing commitment by Marine Harvest Canada to work cooperatively with all levels of government.

IHN is a naturally occurring, endemic disease routinely found in British Columbian Pacific salmon.

The Kitasoo Fisheries Management Department operated by the Kitasoo Indian Band in Klemtu has sampled and monitored IHN levels for several sockeye stocks in the area, over the past 10 years. "IHN is known to occur naturally in varying levels in most wild sockeye stocks in the Klemtu area. Unfortunately, Atlantic salmon have little resistance to this disease", says Kitasoo Fisheries advisor, Larry Greba. "We will be carefully monitoring the outbreak to ensure the most responsible actions are taken by Marine Harvest Canada."

The fish were removed within 24 hours of suspecting the presence of IHN. These fish were removed January 23rd and all fish were placed in sealed metal containers and transported to a licensed composting site as per Best Practices in the BC Salmon Farmers Code of Practice. "IHN does not affect fish quality and poses no human health risk", says Linda Sams, Senior Biologist, Marine Harvest Canada.

IHN was first detected in B.C. during the 1950s, in wild salmon. It is known that IHN is an endemic disease of several species of west coast salmon, including sockeye, Chinook, chum, and other wild fish including herring. The pen in question was stocked with smolts October through November, 2001. Prior to transport to salt water the fish were tested and found to be free of all viruses as per DFO transfer permit regulations. For more information about IHN visit the MAFF web-site at, www.agf.gov.bc.ca/fisheries/health/IHN.htm

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Salmon Roulette:

Are we risking our Pacific salmon heritage for Atlantic salmon aquaculture?

The Ring (The University of Victoria's Community Newspaper)

OCTOBER 1, 1999 page 5 (<http://web.uvic.ca/ucom/Ring/99oct01/viewpoint.html>)

By John Volpe

Not since the days of Juan de Fuca and Cook has the thought of invasion weighed so heavily on the collective conscience of people on our coast. These current invasions are not ones of foreign cultures - but of foreign plants and animals.

There is almost daily media coverage of the latest species to land upon B.C. shores. If it's not mussel-devouring green crabs then it's the Asian longhorn beetle, or the honey bee-destroying varroa mite, or bullfrogs with a taste for ducklings.

Movement of species beyond their natural borders has invariably resulted in negative consequences for native species in the target region. This is why the United Nations has declared the introduction of exotic species as the second greatest threat to global biodiversity after habitat destruction.

The latest invasion story to grab front page ink in B.C. is that of Atlantic salmon. More than 32,700 ready-for-market adults escaped two weeks ago at a Vancouver Island fish farm. The depressed state of our native salmon populations and the commercial and sports fisheries that depend on them make this potential invasion particularly worrisome. In the public's eye this is one invasion story that should have and could have been avoided. Are we risking our native salmon heritage for Atlantic salmon aquaculture?

Answers are not so straightforward. Salmon aquaculture is big money in B.C., and with it comes persuasive lobbying power. On the surface it's an easy sell: stitch some nets together, fill your pens with young salmon, feed them to maturity, and harvest for a handsome profit. You provide employment for beleaguered coastal communities and reduce harvest pressure on over-exploited Pacific salmon stocks. The program sells itself.

However, the reality is not quite so cheery. To satisfy the need for fish meal, vast quantities of fish are being removed from southern oceans. Three kilograms of wild fish (plus an unknown quantity of bycatch) are required to produce one kilogram of salmon. This is not a sustainable enterprise.

Most fish farms are owned by offshore multinational companies and are high-tech facilities geared towards minimizing on-site personnel. As technologies mature, the industry will no longer be a significant coastal employer.

Further, to be profitable, fish farms are run feedlot-style and like similar land-based operations, rely on drugs to maintain a healthy population. The inadvertent breeding of "superbugs" or drug-resistant bacteria is promoted in this way, and the potentially devastating long-term ramifications of such practices are only now becoming fully appreciated.

And the notion that salmon farming reduces harvest pressures on wild salmon is a fallacy. For years, there's been an oversupply of salmon on the world market due to aquaculture overproduction, and salmon prices have remained correspondingly low. As prices dropped, commercial fishermen have had to increase their harvests just to maintain their earning power.

The most immediate concern is the large number of fish being released from fish farms. In B.C., more than 80 per cent of production is of Atlantic salmon, which, as its name plainly states, is not native to the Pacific. An estimated 60,000 to 100,000 Atlantic salmon escape into B.C. coastal waters annually (in reality no one really knows how many escape). When escapes occur, the big question on everyone's mind is: What effect are the escapees going to have on our native stocks?

Unfortunately for the uninformed, there is a variety of answers being offered. Most are products of media-savvy organizations that have only thinly veiled their particular slant on the issue. Last summer, I confirmed the first natural spawning of escaped Atlantic salmon in a B.C. stream. The response from the B.C. Fish Farmers Association was that this discovery meant nothing. A few fish here and there does not make an invasion, it claimed. Meanwhile, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans ignored its primary mandate of conservation and parroted the words of industry without a moment's hesitation, and provincial authorities cautiously sat on the fence.

The most recent escape at Port McNeill has again provided fodder for the spin machines, resulting in a dog's breakfast of presentations to the public. What does it really mean though?

The short answer is we don't know. Industry continues to hold up the 1997 provincial salmon aquaculture review as evidence of the benign nature of fish farms. The outcome of the review was a set of volumes larger than the Toronto phone book and a vague "cautious yellow light" for industry expansion.

Unfortunately, the review was just that - a review. Data from the North Atlantic and local historical anecdotes were seamlessly applied to present-day B.C. without anyone questioning the soundness of the underlying logic. To think that the current escapees will share the same fate as those a continent away is hopelessly simplistic.

For similar reasons, because Atlantic salmon failed to colonize 70 years ago bears no relevance to today. Lake Ontario was exposed to zebra mussels for a century before they "stuck" in the mid-1980s. Ten years of consistent releases were required to establish European starlings (in New York City's Central Park) in the early days of this century. The natural world is a dynamic place and in a constant state of flux. If a species is introduced often enough, chances are that conditions will eventually swing in its favour.

What may seem like subtle changes to our eyes may result in significant biological effects. For instance, many Pacific salmonid populations are augmented with hatchery fish. Yet it's now well documented that hatchery fish can be deficient in a number of traits necessary for survival. Is it possible that in our zeal to artificially augment wild stocks we've created populations lacking the competitive ability to retard invaders such as Atlantic salmon? Only time will tell.

Atlantic salmon have been reared in B.C. for nearly two decades, yet no one has wondered what might happen if some escaped. The assumption of the public is that someone, sometime must have addressed the ecological issues prior to the importation of Atlantic salmon to B.C. But this is not the case. With the exception of my work, there are no scientific investigations whatsoever, past or present.

We urgently need more science to address these issues before it's too late. My work has shown that escaped Atlantic salmon are capable of surviving in the Pacific, do successfully spawn, and produce young that appear to be every bit as capable of surviving as their native cousins.

A few fish here or there may not be a problem, who knows? But ask yourself this: If an eight kilogram female Atlantic salmon can deposit 15,000 eggs, how many spawners do you need in a river before you have a "problem"?

John Volpe is a PhD candidate in UVic's biology department. His work focuses on the ecology of invading organisms, particularly Atlantic salmon.

**Testimony of
Dale Kelley On Behalf of
United Fishermen of Alaska and Alaska Trollers Association
Leggatt Inquiry
Vancouver, British Columbia
October 11, 2001**

Good morning. My name is Dale Kelley and my testimony will reflect the positions of both United Fishermen of Alaska and the Alaska Trollers Association. Both UFA and ATA are located in Juneau, Alaska.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment for UFA and ATA on the proposed lifting of the current moratorium on new salmon farm sites in British Columbia, a move that both organizations oppose.

My primary job is executive director of the Alaska Trollers Association, but I am also recent past president of United Fishermen of Alaska, where I serve on the executive board and chair the National Issues committee. Over the years I have represented the commercial fishing industry in a wide variety of forums and am currently a Commissioner on the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and president of Fish Habitat Alaska, Salmon for Alaska's Future, and the Alaska Salmon Coalition. In past years, I have served on such bodies as the US Northern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission, which is the implementing body of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and chaired the Alaska's Citizen's Advisory Committee on Federal Reauthorizations and Allied Fishermen of Southeast Alaska, as well as participated in several Gubernatorial and Congressional advisory panels. Part of my academic training focused on fisheries science, the rest in pharmacy and paramedicine. I've worked as a fish culturist in Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska, and as a deckhand in troll and seine fisheries. In short, fish, fishermen, the seafood industry and the issues surrounding them are all familiar territory to me.

United Fishermen of Alaska is a statewide organization representing commercial fishermen on issues of common concern. Presently, 26 fishing groups and a large number of individual fishermen, processors and businesses make up UFA's membership. Alaska's commercial fishing fleet is 100% US owned and about 80% Alaska resident. The seafood industry is the largest private sector employer and second only to oil in terms of the revenue it generates for the state and its residents. Salmon makes up the lions share of the state's commercial fisheries production.

Alaska Trollers Association represents hook and line salmon fishermen who operate exclusively in Southeast Alaska. The Southeast troll fishery is one of the largest salmon fleets in the state and is 86% resident, with over 40% of the permit holders living in rural communities. Roughly one of every 30 people living in our region works on a troll boat – and this figure does not include the processing and support sector that rely on our fleet. When you add in the rest of

the commercial salmon fleets, the guided sportfishing industry, resident anglers, and subsistence users, the pursuit of wild salmon is clearly one of the most important contributors to our local economy and social well-being.

So... why am I here? Why would a fishing representative from Alaska come to Vancouver to testify on this issue? Why do I think the people of Canada should care what me, or others in Alaska, think about economic decisions made by your country? Why should Canadian's listen to us, and perhaps even deny additional growth in the farmed industry as we suggest, as opposed to applying a boot to my uppity behind and pointing me towards the border?

I am here because we Alaskan's are watching – we are concerned – and we are affected by the decisions you make about your salmon resource. Most importantly to you, Canada will be deeply affected by the decisions you make, and Canada will be affected if Alaska is harmed.

There is a simple truth about the commercial fishing industry – our US and Canadian coastal economies, particularly in North Central BC and Alaska, are inter-connected and reliant on one another. I have Canadian fishermen in my organization. Alaskans buy gear from Canadians. Canadian processors own packers and processing plants in Alaska. Some of the fish we harvest in Alaska is processed by plants here in B.C. Would it surprise you to know that there have been years when over 80% of the sockeye processed in Canada were harvested mostly by Alaska's Bristol Bay fishermen?

Canada and Alaska share a salmon resource – these fish have no idea if they are wrapped in Maple Leaves or Old Glory. We have a combined obligation under the Pacific Salmon Treaty to protect BOTH fish and fishermen. In Alaska, we believe we do our part – sometimes at great expense to fleets like mine. We make decisions with regard to resource development that are sometimes counter-intuitive to corporate CEOs, but make absolute sense to a fishing economy. We safeguard our natural resources and those who rely on them. We honor management agreements made with others for conservation and allocation.

Given the acrimony we experienced live and in the press just a few years ago, and the hits we took in the Treaty, it has been nothing short of amazing to we Alaskans to watch the Canadian government continue to tear up its habitat and dismantle its coastal fishing industry, only to replace it with operations that appear far less durable over time. Fish farming is a prime example – it's not sustainable now and might never truly be. Note that everywhere this industry exists in the marine environment, something else seems to suffer – typically local fish populations, the environment, artesians fishermen and their communities.

Canada looks to be trading off homegrown coastal economies primarily for multinational corporations based in distant lands. Family businesses and viable townships – in your country and mine -- are being put out of business as deep pocket firms flood the market with cheap fish... and wait. Widgets...semi-

conductors...fish, it's all the same. Capture the market share and topple the competition – out last them. Do these corporations care about you? Us? The long-term future of our region? Looks to me like they're just filling the voids which they create as they shove existing industries aside.

Do the benefits of these large-scale, often subsidized, 'aqua-business' ventures really pencil out for a region like ours? It's not difficult to see that fish farms often mean the trade-off of higher paying seafood jobs and independent businesses for a smaller set of unskilled low wage jobs.

Fish farmers don't appear to internalize their costs like fishermen do – we have to pay for ourselves, and we ALL seem to pay for the farms one way or another. Take for instance a recent year disease problem on the east coast, which was likely caused by farming, directly or indirectly. The problem was made worse by some fish farmers' refusal to kill fish suspected of harboring the disease. When the disease spread over a wide area, the farmers finally admitted that to stop the disease they'd have to eliminate the fish in their pens. Of course they insisted the federal government come to their aide to the tune of \$10 million. In contrast, when a problem erupts in commercial fisheries, we sit on the beach and draw down our savings accounts. Pure and simple. Whether it's to protect the resource, or move fish to other users, fishermen usually absorb the costs of doing business.

On the other hand, fish farmers have been allowed to externalize their costs. Who pays to clean up the toxic sludge under those net pens? Not the farmers, by what I can tell. Apparently dilution is seen as their solution to pollution - they aren't being held accountable for the impacts of their trade. But pity the person with the allergy who pays the price by bringing up the animal, that eats the waste under the net pen, that's full of the antibiotics, which makes them suddenly feel ill, yet they don't know why. Or the resource that pays via the many crustaceans killed inadvertently when doused by the drugs used to kill their cousins the sea lice; or, the sea lions killed after being chummed in by the fish hung in front of their noses? And what about the oyster farmer who relies on a pristine water source to rear his product to market size? The pollution near those net pens takes it's pound of flesh out of that person as well. Yep, someone or something pays, yet often it's not the ones who do the damage.

Given the spate of new information coming to light, along with criticism being leveled from high within your government's ranks, what will happen when Canada decides to truly regulate these firms and make them liable? And, what about when the price gets too steep to protect the resource AND maintain their margins? Can salmon farmers really compete without subsidies and liberal regulations? Or will they drag up and head to a developing country with more lax rules and restrictions? History suggests that could happen. And what with Japan and Russia recently cutting a deal on fish farming, China searching out new mariculture opportunity and the Chilean's stated intent to leave their doors wide open to expansion, well, it just makes you wonder.

Alaskans are committed to sustainable resource development and cared enough to build that philosophy right into our Constitution. In fact, if not for the quest to save our salmon from extinction from the brazen, short sighted activities of a few, I wonder whether we'd even be a state today. By law, every decision we make about fish and wildlife mandates that the health of the resource comes first. Have we made mistakes? Certainly, but the state and user groups strive to correct problems as they surface. The process involves the public, is dynamic and the results have been rewarding – in Alaska we have both salmon and working salmon fishermen.

Our state has thus far denied fish farming in its waters. I was one of many people around the state who fought for these provisions. The effort to ban fish farming was led by Senator Dick Eliason, who's testimony I will add to the record today. When we argued against fish farming there was a large number of suppositions and fears, but very little real evidence of the associated problems. Of the verifiable problems, advocates told us most could be controlled. They were wrong. How do we know? Because, the problems have only gotten worse. We don't even allow fish farming, yet your Atlantic salmon are now found in our rivers, and we catch them in our fisheries. Farmed salmon are spawning in Canada, and most likely in Alaska, too.

The dam has burst on the silence surrounding the dangers of fish farming. All the things Alaskans feared, and more, have come true somewhere. Nearly every day there are articles from points across the world regarding the troubles and conflicts stemming from salmon farming. From ecology and water quality, to public policy regarding land and water use, to transmission of disease, to development of feral populations, to human health matters and labor relations. It's all out there. If I can ask your patience, I'd like to share just a small sampling of information I've gathered from a number of different countries and sources.

This one was a little predictive and actually includes quotes from one of your own, Brian Riddell of DFO, "Salmon Farm Problems Mount in both Norway and B.C." It talks about disease and parasite issues in 1990.

Here's one from 1999, "Disease Found in Fife Sound Fish Escapees". Nothing to worry about there.

"Stellar Sea Lions Beleaguered by Salmon Farmers." This one's in B.C., but it's happening all over Chile and anywhere else they have critters in the water. We're managed under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. We are stringently regulated all over the State of Alaska, and some fisheries right now are suffering deep restrictions to preserve marine mammals. These are integrated, interrelated coastal populations. There's hundreds of these mammals being killed each year. I believe without an enforcement and reporting process you don't even know how many.

Here is "Salmon Virus Found in Three Maine Fish Farms." So we have troubles in the U.S., too.

Then we have Tasmania totally up in arms and alarmed about importing Canadian fish into their country because of disease issues. They have

fish farms in Tasmania. They don't want to transmit those diseases down to their farms.

Scotland, very concerned...lots of stuff out of Scotland these days, "Fish Farms Spawn Trouble for Salmon Anglers," has to do with integration of their wild and farm stocks and reduced production in their streams. They've got sea lice problems everywhere, and disease; it's a mess.

Here's the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, "Pollution from Fish Farms Seen as Bad Sewage." The Scottish shellfish farmers are ticked off and they don't want the Shetland Islands to remove the moratorium on salmon farming. Why? Because all that salmon farming is affecting their water purity, it's transmitting chemicals into the water that's harming their resource. So they're bummed out, and they're actually farmers.

We've got "Officers Threatened." Now, I'm Irish so I can joke about this one. Violence was threatened in Northern Ireland over fish farm releases there. They've got fish farmers that are --

JUDGE LEGGATT: As if they didn't have enough trouble in Ireland.

KELLEY: Yeah. Yeah, in County Antrim no less. Right before a trip of mine a couple of weeks ago to talk about fish farming in DC, they had a huge escape of farmed fish. The anglers don't want those fish in the rivers. Can you imagine? So they're snagging them. Of course, they're selling them and that's a little tacky, but their main point seemed to be that they didn't want them in the rivers, so they're pretty riled up.

Here's NASCO. You know them, they're charged with looking after fish. They're pretty concerned about interactions between wild and Atlantic salmon stocks. Canada does have a farm industry on the opposite coast, as do we, and we have Atlantic salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act. So, how much sense does that make? They're killing those fish in pens because of disease. The fish are escaping due to storms. It's ridiculous.

Here's Chile accused of dumping farmed fish. That's affecting your fishermen here in this state as much as yours. Our price is in the toilet. They're kicking our ass. Can I say that in Canada?

JUDGE LEGGATT: Yeah, that's okay.

KELLEY: I write to a salmon farmer in Chile actually, and you know, the fish farm issues break down into the big boys and the little guys, too. And this guy is very concerned. He writes me all the time about his concerns. Labour concerns are a big issue, and others, but here's one really charming, "large amounts of open mortality pits on private and fiscal land that when discovered are sealed off by a thin layer of sand and soil that after a few days sinks into the rotting mess that stinks for miles and attracts rodents, flies, et cetera." You know, I've cultured fish. Fish die in pens. You've got to do something with them. And, especially if they're diseased, you don't want them in the water. So, just what are the fish farmers doing with their mortalities?

And finally there's a lot of discussion about what goes into these fish - we always hear that those chemicals are perfectly harmless. Well,

here's the European Commission. Their Scientific Committee for Food has written an opinion that they're very concerned about the colouring agents fed to these fish. We've all been told that that's the most natural thing going into farmed fish. Well, apparently it's causing crystallization on people's retinas and other charming things...liver toxicity and other matters. So what is going into these fish and what's the risk of what's on these dinner plates?

Fish farming is proving a poor substitute for Mother Nature. For thousands of years we've relied on nature to raise the fish we catch and eat. With careful management programs, salmon return wild and pure and healthy, they eat what salmon are supposed to eat - it's an efficient system that's produced lovely colored, firm fleshed, disease free fish to feed people and our economies. Contrast that with the self-appointed new age salmon producers who use copious amounts of space and precious natural resources to grow out fish. We're talking about the ones who use about 1300 litres of diesel fuel per metric ton of feed delivered to the Campbell River area and feed grotesque amounts of perfectly good food fish to salmon in pens - like, 100,000 metric tons of those other food fish to make only 40,000 metric tons of farmed Atlantic salmon. Apparently, it takes even more resources to produce farmed chinook salmon.

Farmed salmon are laced with growth hormones, anti-virals, antibiotics, coloring agents, and chemicals to rid the critters of parasites. The poor things are bathed in this cosmic-stew until they're the appropriate size and shape to be pushed to a consumer, who often has no idea how many resources and chemicals went into the manufacture of his or her 'middle of the plate protein'. Will the consumer even be informed when that fish on the plate has been genetically modified? I'm not talking about line-breeding to highlight the natural strengths of a particular stock - I'm talking about crossing salmon species...or worse. How about mixing a fish and a cow for faster growth rates? Does this sound like a bad sci-fi flick? Am I a total paranoid? Well, just look at what's happened to corn and soybeans.

According to a New York Times report last June, nearly all the available seed - worldwide - is genetically modified. One morning we woke up and they spilled the soybeans, as it were, AFTER there was virtually nothing to be done about it. By the way, flounders (the fish) can provide a pretty good gene for cold weather tolerance in those plants. And, how about the pesticides that they've built right in - no muss, no fuss, no harm, no foul...we hope. Did anyone ask YOU if they could experiment in this way with your food? Well, they didn't ask me, and I doubt the fish farming industry intends to ask if you'll accept a genetically modified salmon, yet they've already asked the US Food and Drug Administration to allow them to be exported into our country.

Whether or not genetically modified salmon is a health risk for humans isn't so much my point in this context as the fact that an influx of genetically modified fish into our rivers could definitely harm the salmon we all depend on. However, this type of food safety question is worthy of public debate before such altered products wind up on someone's dinner plate. But most of the regions fish farmers didn't even give the people at this inquiry the respect to show up and hear their concerns, much less discuss those concerns and share their industry

perspective about expanding its turf. You think they're going to waste time with us on something like food safety or safeguarding the genetic integrity of wild salmon? What happens to Canadian and Alaskan markets when the consumer gets confused about which salmon is "safe" to buy, so turns away from salmon altogether? Even worse, what happens when those genetically modified fish pair up with wild salmon or trout in the streams? Just think about what it could mean to salmon stocks that have already been listed under the Endangered Species Act. We're told that's just not gonna happen, but farmed fish weren't going to escape in any large number, and those that did weren't expected to survive, much less spawn. So, forgive us if we remain skeptical.

Fishermen and communities in Alaska do not support salmon farming. The short-term benefit for a few does not appear to outweigh the long term risks to our natural resources or our shared coastal economy. Today, Senator Eliason still says no to fish farming and believes he made the right decision on behalf of the people of Alaska. He is supported in that belief by the Southeast Conference, which represents the communities of Southeast Alaska, and by many others throughout the state. I am certain that had this hearing not occurred in the final days of our fishing season, you would have seen even more Alaskan comments in support of not only sustaining Canada's current moratorium, but also for reducing the size and scale of the existing industry and requests that your government deny expansion into other species, in order to help ensure both the integrity of the coastwide fishery resource and the vitality of our communities.

Alaska fishermen recognize this as an issue of mutual concern between our regions and stand willing to assist in the efforts to preserve the existing moratorium on new salmon farm permits.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this important topic.

Oh, just one last thing...

I'd like to respond publicly to a recent editorial in a Canadian paper that referred to this hearing as a gathering of so the called 'eco-elite', and went so far as to compare this inquiry to a Taliban undertaking. Shame on them!

Maybe it's because I happened to be at the US Capitol Building on September 11th. Perhaps it's because I was simultaneously evacuated from two different buildings within an hour, felt the moment of impact when the Pentagon was hit and saw the twin towers crumble LIVE on the TV screen. It might be because I experienced first hand WA DC's short loss of contact with the outside and witnessed its transition to a police state - with its associated military presence - F16's and helicopters over head day and night, streets cordoned off, ID's checked at every turn and people's nervous musings about what and who was next, all blended with the incessant blaring of sirens. Or, it could be the fact that I was stuck there for nearly an extra week, then had to drive to Chicago to fly home from the busiest airport in the nation, which had all the ambience of some eerie ghost town. That said, I also witnessed the best of what America, and