

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES RESOLUTION
CONCERNING INVASION OF ATLANTIC SALMON IN ALASKA WATERS
#2001-205-FB

WHEREAS, the annual release of tens of thousands of farmed Atlantic salmon into the Pacific coast ecosystem amounts to biological pollution of the ocean and poses an enormous threat to the survival and abundance of wild Pacific salmon;

WHEREAS, introductions of non-native species have frequently resulted in unexpected and often catastrophic consequences from habitat destruction, hybridization, reproductive proliferation, predation, and competition;

WHEREAS, Atlantic salmon are now commonly found in both freshwater and saltwaters of British Columbia and Alaska;

WHEREAS, Alaska has banned salmon farms to protect wild Pacific salmon from potential hybridization, disease, pollution, and competition for food and other threats;

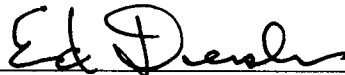
WHEREAS, actions by jurisdictions south of Alaska, including the potential expansion of salmon farming by British Columbia, will result in further biological pollution of this invasive species, undermining Alaska's salmon conservation policies, programs, and economy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Alaska Board of Fisheries supports the Alaska Department of Fish and Game efforts to convince British Columbia to adopt a "Zero Risk Management" policy that includes measures aimed at minimizing risks of marine based farming operations by eliminating failed farms, phasing in land-based operations, and eliminating the deliberate release of hundreds of thousands of small, non-performing Atlantic and Pacific salmon;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Alaska Board of Fisheries strongly supports the Alaska Department of Fish and Games efforts to obtain funding from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and other available sources to conduct education and outreach programs and to conduct important research needed to document the occurrence and evaluate the impacts of invasive Atlantic Salmon. The Board will assist the department in these efforts through the North Pacific Anadromous Commission, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and other State and Federal Boards and Commissions.


CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a publicly noticed meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries held on October 11-13, 2001 in Anchorage, Alaska, at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 7 IN FAVOR 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSENT, and 0 ABSTAIN.



Ed Dersham, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Attest:



Diana Cote, Executive Director
Boards Support Section, ADFG