2014 RISKS TO BRISTOL BAY SALMON MARKETSHARE AND PRICE SUSTAINABILITY

Submitted by Matt Marinkovich

Proposal by Anne Mosness I have read and understand the BBRSDA proposals and by-laws

While Pebble Mine may be perceived as posing the greatest harm to the future of BB's salmon fishery, other significant threats to fish prices and market stability need to be assessed and actions taken or the fleet could experience an economic downturn similar to the collapse of the late 1990's. Since several agencies are funding production and promotion of species that would directly compete in the marketplace, ongoing research is needed, strategic plans developed, alliances formed, and policy makers and public educated while it is still possible to influence outcomes.

Although Alaska fisheries have achieved a well deserved reputation for quality, the US "organics" label is prized and many consumers are willing to pay more for products that meet the standards established for the label. The National Organics Standard Board (NOSB), within the USDA, has already decided that wild fish do not meet these standards yet it is moving towards changing their policies so products from industrial aquaculture operations could qualify for the prestigious label. Farmed salmon certified as "organic" would trump frozen Alaska wild salmon even among savvy and reliable customers. It is important that aquaculture related topics are closely monitored and comments submitted for the next NOSB meeting April 29-May 1, 2014 in San Antonio. As a participant at a previous NOSB meeting in Seattle, my comments are on record and a published article distributed to all NOSB members and attendees (link follows).

The push to certify aquaculture products as "organic" would not be as worrisome if limited to terrestrial operations. However, for more than a decade, the Dept. of Commerce/NOAA has circulated plans to expand aquaculture fivefold by 2025 including allowing fish farming in the US EEZ which could place open cages near wild salmon producing rivers. Several states, such as Washington, are targeted for expanded aquaculture, including "more salmon and steelhead" and "open ocean aquaculture in the Strait of Juan de Fuca" (NOAA 2007).

As we are aware, the FDA is close to approving genetically engineered salmon and proponents include policy makers from agricultural states working on behalf of corporate producers of grains and crops (often genetically engineered/modified) that could be dumped as feed for an expanding aquaculture industry. GE salmon is the first transgenic animal to go thru the shoddy FDA evaluation process and a national coalition (that I've been a part of since Sept. 2010) is working to put into place safeguards and improve the poor precedence for biotech animals that will follow. Labeling efforts continue at the state level and several members of Congress are working on federal legislation so distribution of information to the fleet is important.

PROPOSAL: I will monitor potential actions that the NOSB is considering, draft comments expressing the concerns of the BB fleet, and attend the April meeting with prepared testimony and commitment to influencing other attendees and policy makers. I request transportation, expenses and per diem for this meeting in San Antonio, TX. I will continue to represent commercial fisheries with emphasis on BB in bi-

monthly conference calls on GE fish and report back to the RSDA any recommended actions that permit holders and others concerned about wild fisheries should take. I will continue to monitor NOAA's promotion of salmon farming in near/offshore waters with appropriate advisement to the RSDA so that the fleet can be encouraged to contact lawmakers, media, etc. I can continue this educational work on behalf of BB and terms/expenses can be discussed in the future.

BIO, ANNE MOSNESS: After college/social work background, began fishing in BB in1973, followed by 6 years on the Copper River (charter member of the CR Fishermen's Coop), returned to BB from 1983-2000, and for two seasons w/Peter Pan in Egegik. While fishing in Washington, trustee of the Puget Sound Gillnetter's Association, co-chair of two PACs defeating anti-commercial fishing ballot measures in in 1995 and 1999. Food and Society Policy Fellow/Kellogg Leadership Alliance; represented fisheries at SlowFood/Slowfish in Turin, Genoa, San Francisco and Louisville, UN Forum for Food Sovereignty in Rome and other national/global conferences. Researcher/consultant on fisheries with Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Public Citizen, National Environmental Trust and other organizations. Event coordinator (Bluefestival), created Go Wild Campaign, initiative lawsuit on labeling of colorants in farmed salmon in 2003. On Initiative 522 steering committee on labeling of GE foods in Washington State, interviewed by CNN and other major media on fisheries/labeling issues.

2011 article on GE fish Article on NOSB decision on aquaculture: **"Can Farmed Fish be Organic"** http://www.pccnaturalmarkets.com/sc/1104/farmed_fish_organic.html

2013 article**: "Tampering with our Future, GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH, THE FDA AND LABELING GE/GMO FOODS**
http://www.cascadiaweekly.com/currents/genetically_engineered_fish_the_fda_and_labeling_ge_gmo_foods

2013 Radio interview/ Food Sleuth: http://www.prx.org/pieces/93990
2013 Radio interview/ Joe Teehan show: http://930kbai.com/the-joe-show/the-joe-show-for-12413/

NOSB MEETING
INFO: http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateJ&page=NOSBMeetings

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