

SALMON OF THE AMERICAS



info@salmonoftheamericas.com

Until recently, much of the information about farmed salmon has come from advocacy groups who have issues with the *business* of salmon farming. These groups would like to see this healthful food disappear. Because little of the misinformation has been refuted, much of it has been published as fact. Some of the erroneous information pits wild salmon against farmed salmon in an attempt to convince consumers that they can get the nutritional benefits of salmon without any of the alleged liabilities of farmed salmon or salmon farming. Those allegations don't hold up under reasonable scrutiny.

This kit provides information to help you balance what you may have heard about farmed salmon with the facts. Here is one way you can balance the credibility of what is in here with what you have heard.

Below are short items from independent sources about two key issues— PCBs and environmental impact. These are credible sources that will help provide the proper perspective on these key issues. There is other factual, independent evidence available on these and other related subjects.

1. A study done by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife on PCB levels in wild salmon showing levels greater than any found in farmed salmon. Note that the sample size is over 10 times the size of the sample in the study used to indict farmed salmon which has been criticized by independent scientists as flawed. We have included the cover page and page 316 combined onto one page for your quick review. The full report can be found online at: <http://www.wfga.net/news.asp?id=4737>

2. An editorial from the *Alaska Fisherman's Journal*, whose audience is wild salmon fishermen. It is about the same study and succinctly summarizes the facts.

Our intent here is not to malign wild salmon. While being somewhat higher than farmed salmon in PCBs, in this study and others, wild salmon is still well within the FDA tolerance and a safe and healthful food. But, as many have stated using erroneous information from the anti-farmed advocates, switching from farmed to wild salmon does not eliminate PCBs.

3. The result of a lawsuit filed by environmental groups against Washington State Department of Ecology and several commercial firms challenging the environmental regulations and operating procedures. Included are the cover page and page 22, which contain the findings of fact and law. The entire document can be viewed at: <http://www.eho.wa.gov/searchdocuments%5C1998%20archive%5Cpchb%2096-257%20final.htm>

The claims that "salmon farms pollute and are uncontrolled" are simply not true. The environmental permitting process is extensive and the standards rigorous. Seven state and federal agencies are involved in this process in Washington State. When the regulations were challenged in court, the conclusions unequivocally upheld the environmental soundness of salmon farming.

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