

Thank you for the opportunity to write regarding legislation regulating Salmon farming,  
Case number 930

I travel to Iceland every year to fish to her magnificent Atlantic Salmon.

Each Icelandic river has its distinct Salmon. They've been tried by the perils of the North Sea for countless generations and carry genes which make them fit, hardy and capable to perpetuate themselves. But across the arch of the North Atlantic, in rivers where Atlantic Salmon have historically bred in great numbers, those numbers, in places, places where open net pen salmon farms have been permitted and are proliferating, there, their numbers have plummeted. And the science is clear why. Clouds of sea lice from the unnatural concentration of farmed fish near the natal rivers of native fish overwhelm the native smolt. And, as is inevitable with open net pens at sea there are releases and escapees that cross-breed with native fish resulting in offspring and ultimately populations whose genetics are not capable of survival to return to spawn. So while the Atlantic Salmon are incredibly strong and tough, they are exquisitely vulnerable to these particular threats. Threats inherent to open net pen salmon farming. And efforts to amend the industry's practices has not, and shows no signs it might, produce different results.

The industry has established farms on the east and west coasts of Iceland already, with devastating impact on many native populations. Significant numbers for farm fish have been inadvertently released and widespread interbreeding demonstrated to already be occurring in a surprising number of Iceland's rivers and to a frightening degree for these distinct and fragile populations. And we've seen what letting foreign salmon farming companies have their way does to salmon rivers. It devastates them. Take a look at Norway, Scotland and Nova Scotia and Quebec, to their formerly great salmon rivers. In fact Iceland, and its proud people have the chance to show the rest of the great salmon nations how it can be done. Stand up for the rivers and for the native salmon, and shut out the salmon farming interests. Issue no new open net pen permits and rapidly sunset the existing ones. Permit only land-based salmon farming with fully sterile stock. There should be no grandfathering of existing or pending permits, no exceptions of any kind.

The people of Iceland and not industry, not foreign interests and not their proxies should retain the full rights to their natural ecosystems. Each generation of Icelanders should inherit the rights to their natural world - whole and un-encumbered.

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