

Healthier Communities

Wild Pacific salmon fisheries provide us with fresh, wholesome food. These local, independent fisheries are run by skilled local fishers and their **families**. Salmon fishing is a heritage and way of life that has been passed down for **generations** along the coasts of Alaska, British Columbia, and the Pacific Northwest. The coastal fishermen are deeply connected not only to their boats, their **communities and their traditions**, but also to the wild salmon and the ecosystems that sustain them. It is in the fisher's best interest to understand, respect, and adapt to the fish and the environment so that both they and the salmon can thrive together.

Unfortunately, this livelihood is becoming a part of history as more and more fishers are **docking their boats for good**. While several changes and factors together have resulted in the plummet in the wild Pacific salmon's market value, the drop most noticeably coincides with the recent **surge in global farmed salmon production**. Over the last two decades, salmon farms have pumped out tens of millions of salmon to the market, flooding the market and undermining the value of better quality wild salmon. It's **basic economics**, where the more supply there is of a product and the cheaper its production, then the lower its value and price. While cheaper prices might seem good news to the consumer, it spells disaster for the local fishers and fisheries being out-competed by mass-producing corporate salmon farms. It also threatens the choice for the consumer who insists on eating or serving wild salmon and won't settle for farmed.

Today's salmon farm operations are predominantly run by **multi-national, multi-billion dollar corporations**. While these salmon farm operations might offer limited jobs for

those who reside near the farms, they often disappear as quickly as they arrived. Recent disease outbreaks in salmon farms have forced corporations to shut the farms down, leaving **employees jobless** for indefinite lengths of time. With multi-nationally run corporations comes the risk of mergers and absorption into other corporations, resulting in unexpected **shut-downs** for consolidation and cost-cutting.

Wild salmon and wild salmon fisheries are at the **very root of Pacific coastal communities** and their economies, and without them wild Pacific salmon would not be on our menus or in our grocery stores.



SALMON FACTS

> Average annual salary of salmon farm employee in BC: **\$35,000**

Combined salaries of seven senior executives of salmon farming corporations: **\$6.19 million**

> Percentage of farmed salmon's contribution to world salmon supply in 1980: **2**

Percentage in 2004: **60**

> Percentage of Alaska's contribution to the world salmon supply in 1980: **43**

Percentage in 2000: **19**