

## Concerns about salmon

To the editor:

Being a resident in the Sitka Pioneer's Home gives me lots of leisure time to pursue my life-long hobby and occupation, the taking Chinook and coho salmon. I have closely followed the propagation and lives of all species of wild salmon in Alaska for the past 60 years.

I saw the abundance of all species of salmon in the early days, then the rapid decline in stocks from salmon traps and creek robbers. After that was stopped by strict enforcement and harsh punishment came the destruction of our forests.

This abomination called clean-cutting took all the timber right up to the banks of our best salmon spawning beds.

The Forest Service took the law into their own hands and decreed the virgin forests they were hired to protect belonged to them and not the citizens of the entire United States.

They just brushed our protests to one side until, with the leadership of Nick Begich, we started a savage campaign of ridicule and condemnation in Washington, D.C. That eventually brought the cooperation that exists between the Forest Service and the various state agencies today.

All of this abuse to the salmon stocks forced very short quotas and hard times on all Alaskans who made their living from the salmon.

Gradually, the efforts of conservation paid off, and then through our initial fumbling efforts we finally started mass-producing salmon by means of our aquaculture cooperative associations.

Strict laws make it mandatory for the biologists in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game responsible for keeping the strange viruses in control that attack salmon when they are held in tight bunches.

These strange species of deadly

viruses are caught by humans and salmon when they are too close to their excrement. The humans get hepatitis, polio and deadly diseases from ingesting shellfish that are exposed to raw sewage.

The salmon get strange deadly diseases from their own excrement, too, which makes it necessary to use huge quantities of antibiotics and to constantly monitor the domestic juvenile salmon for diseases that could spread to our wild stock like wildfire and destroy the entire salmon population of all species.

Before the salmon fishermen realized it, the Japanese money people had seized control of virtually all seafood processing plants in Alaska. There were a lot of joint ventures and various percentages of ownership, with some corporations being 98 percent Japanese. Evidently, there are federal laws against total ownership by foreign nationals.

So what the Japanese couldn't do with warfare, they have accomplished by dominating our rotten monetary system. We here in Alaska that go down to the sea in ships are the economic slaves of the Japanese. We fish when they tell us to and stay in port when our Japanese masters issue the order because they control the payment of our catches.

Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread, so the British Columbia politicians are finding out now with the foreign invasions of salmon farmers. Their wild stocks of salmon are doomed to be destroyed by deadly viruses that will originate in the salmon farms of British Columbia and probably destroy most of the intermingling wild salmon stock in the Pacific Ocean. Greed and lust for power attack people, too.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my point of view.

Al Brookman Sr.  
Sitka

## HOPE for rare disease

To the editor:

I am contacting your newspaper because since childhood I have suffered from a rare, debilitating and potentially fatal disease called scleroderma. Not only did I feel frustrated and alone growing up, but to complicate matters, my mother recently came down with this devastating disease.

In our search for answers and support, we eventually located the United Scleroderma Foundation. Not only did we receive information, we received a renewed "hope" that we were no longer alone.

We learned that this disease affects some 700,000 people and that Presi-

dent Ronald Reagan declared the second week of June as National Scleroderma Awareness Week.

I'm so thrilled to no longer feel isolated that I want to shout from the rooftops so others won't have to suffer alone as I did these last 40 years.

Please make your readers aware of the USF Inc., P.O. Box 350, Watsonville, Calif. 95077. Their toll-free number says it all, 800-722-HOPE. They have information and answers I never believed existed. In California, call (408) 728-2202.

Thank you,  
Barbara Wolniakowski  
Anaheim, Calif.

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