

HONORING SALMON, HONORING LIFE

A GROWING CULTURE X BLOCK CORPORATE SALMON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AUTHORS

[A Growing Culture](#) & [Block Corporate Salmon](#)

INSPIRATION

We thank all Salmon People in Turtle Island, especially Valerie Segrest (Muckleshoot), Melanie Brown (Yup'ik & Unangan), Glen Gobin (Tulalip), and Lisa Wilson (Lummi) for inspiring us and offering their powerful words.

ORGANIZATIONAL APPRECIATIONS

We thank the [Community Alliance for Global Justice](#) (CAGJ), for their long-standing leadership and solidarity on the issue of GE salmon; [Salmon Defense](#), for their advocacy to protect and restore wild Salmon and for being outspoken about the harms of GE salmon; [One Fish Foundation](#) for their statistics on mortality rates in salmon farming around the world; the [North American Marine Alliance](#) (NAMA), for their generous support of the Block Corporate Salmon campaign and their broader work to stop factory fish farming in general; the [Center for Food Safety](#), for their research on GE salmon; and Salmonberry Tribal Associates, for their co-authorship on this zine.

ILLUSTRATIONS

[Pilar Emitxin](#)

INTRODUCTION

For many of us, our experience with Salmon* doesn't stretch beyond the grocery store or our plates. We see Salmon fileted and sitting in a refrigerated display, waiting to be purchased and taken home to prepare. However, the journey of Salmon from rivers to oceans to forests to our plates is far more fascinating — and threatened — than what meets the ordinary eye.

From the mountain streams where Salmon spawn to the vast ocean where they mature, this keystone species nourishes entire ecosystems, weaving the intricate relationships between water, plants, animals, and human communities. Salmon's life cycle guarantees that forests grow, animals are fed, oceans and rivers receive nutrients, and humans thrive.

Part of this intricate life cycle are Salmon Peoples, the numerous Indigenous Peoples of the Coastal and Circumpolar North regions who have [lived in synchronicity](#) with Salmon for millennia. Salmon is not only their primary food source, but also medicine, culture, and a key part of ceremonies. Different Tribes have different traditions, but for Salmon Peoples collectively, Salmon is a [sacred relative](#) — a symbol of renewal and the backbone of [creation stories](#), which often center Salmon's sacrifice for humans in return for humans speaking up for the Salmon and being stewards of the land and water to which Salmon return, maintaining a healthy ecosystem for all.

*The capitalization of wild Salmon serves to honor the way Salmon Peoples relate to Salmon as a relative, a being with personhood and sacred cycles that nourish vs. farmed salmon, which are reduced to captivity and unable to live their full life. The words Tribe, Tribal, Indigenous, and Native are also capitalized in this zine, as per the [Native Governance Center's style guide](#).

“BEFORE MAN WALKED ON EARTH, WE WERE ONCE PART OF THE SALMON PEOPLE THAT LIVED OUT IN THE OCEAN. AND EACH YEAR, WE CELEBRATE THE FIRST RETURNING KING SALMON THAT COMES BACK TO FEED OUR PEOPLE. AND IT COMES AS A SCOUT — A SCOUT TO THE SALMON PEOPLE TO SEE HOW WELL THE PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE HIM.”

GLEN GOBIN

Lifelong fisherman, Leader of Ceremonies from the Tulalip Tribes
Co-Chair of the Billy Frank Jr. Salmon Coalition, Salmon Defense Vice Chair

Indigenous Peoples' perception of Salmon couldn't be further from the plastic-wrapped flesh sitting in supermarket displays. Salmon are seen as relatives, close and intimate beings that guide Tribes' ancestral ways of living. But in recent decades, this ancient and delicate relationship has been disrupted. The commodification of Salmon has led to a rapid decline in populations and has put Salmon People's livelihoods and cultural heritage at risk.

Stemming from the interests of both corporations and governments, the biggest risks to Salmon populations are:

GENETIC ENGINEERING

The production of genetically engineered salmon, which could reproduce with wild fish changing natural Salmon genes

FISH FARMS

Mass production fish farms which discharge toxic water into local water systems, and the escape of farmed salmon which spread disease, compete for food, and breed with wild ones

DAMS & WATER DIVERSIONS

The construction of dams and water diversions that stop fish's natural migration and increase water temperatures

HABITAT DESTRUCTION

Habitat destruction, through mining, development, and agricultural run-off, which contaminates rivers and streams where wild Salmon eggs are hatched

BYCATCH

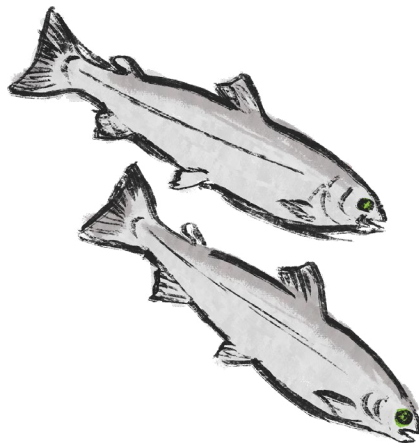
Bycatch of wild Salmon by large industrial vessels

QUOTAS

The imposition of quota systems that allow large-scale corporations to buy permits and outcompete small-scale fisherfolk for access to fish

While corporations and governments create mechanisms that only support the profit-oriented aquaculture industry, Salmon Peoples fearlessly fight to protect and restore these habitats and their culture. By doing so, they're not only stewarding their ways of living but also sustaining hundreds of species and entire ecosystems.

Scientists predict that Salmon populations could decline by 90% over the next 40 years, and billions of dollars in government initiatives have failed to alter this trajectory. It's vital that we take time to understand the stakes of the struggle to save Salmon, from the perspective of the communities most closely connected to them.



“WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SALMON HAPPENS TO OUR PEOPLE. AND OVER THE YEARS, WITH THE SALMON GETTING SICK, ALONG PARALLEL, OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GETTING SICK. AND THE REASON THEY’RE GETTING SICK IS BECAUSE THEY’RE NOT ABLE TO PRACTICE OUR SCHE’LANGEN, WHICH IS OUR WAY OF LIFE.”

LISA WILSON

Qwa’shi’lo’sia, Lummi Nation, Salmon Defense Board Member, Vice Chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Co-Chair of the Natural Resources Committee of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

SIGNIFICANCE OF SALMON

Salmon are a keystone species in all ecosystems they inhabit. They are integral to the health of water bodies and forests, maintaining balance in food webs and shaping entire communities, cultures, and habitats.

It all begins in spring when Salmon eggs hatch in the gravel of rivers and streams. The younglings will develop and grow in their birthplace for five months to over one year, depending on the species, until they journey downstream to the [estuaries](#), where rivers meet the ocean. This is a crucial environment for Salmon – here, their bodies adjust to the new conditions, adapting to the salty sea waters, in a process called smoltification.

Ready to face the open waters, they venture into the seas. Salmon spend most of their adult lives in the oceans – some species in coastal regions, others exploring distances up to 1,600 kilometers to reach their feeding grounds. But the river call is strong – each Salmon will only lay eggs in the exact place where they hatched. From Pink Salmon, which spends 18 months at sea, to Chinook, which can live for eight years in the ocean, all Salmon eventually find their way back home.

When Salmon mature, they start their journey from ocean to river – a distance of up to 3,000 kilometers. Earth’s magnetic field and a strong sense of scent guide them – the smells of their early days are [imprinted in their brains](#) and brought back to memory when the homing time arrives.

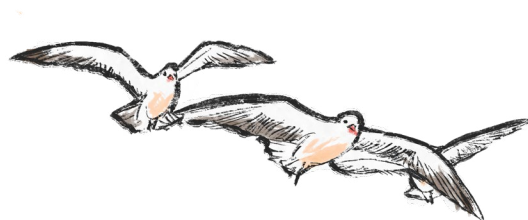


Once Salmon reach fresh waters, they stop feeding. Most of the energy and fat stored in their bodies will be used to swim against the strong river streams, often leaping waterfalls and facing the threats of predators and obstructions such as dams. Due to the extreme exertion, Salmon muscles and most of their organs decay, and they lose the capacity to heal cuts and bruises. With empty stomachs and injured bodies, they reach exhaustion but keep swimming.

For most Pacific Salmon, this return home means [the end of their lives](#). They don't survive beyond this epic journey, dying right after mating and laying eggs. But their life cycle continues. Returning their remains to their birthplace is their final gift to their habitat and future generations, connecting oceans to rivers and forests through their bodies.

Salmon carcasses store ocean nutrients crucial to maintaining terrestrial habitat equilibrium. As bears and other scavengers carry their dead bodies into the forests, their nutrients are absorbed. [Studies](#) have found Salmon nutrients in mosses, herbs, shrubs, trees, insects, songbirds, bears, and wolves. Even the [growth rings of conifer trees](#) have signatures of marine-derived nitrogen. Salmon nourish the forests, which in turn provide shade and cool waters for their younglings. One generation's death feeds the next generation's life.

More than 130 species – including humans – depend on Salmon's nutrients, a testament to the interconnectedness of all living beings.





“FISH CAMP IS WHERE PEOPLE CALL HOME. IN MANY INSTANCES, MULTIPLE GENERATIONS OF FAMILIES MEET AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PRACTICE OF LIVING LIFE. PEOPLE LEARN HOW TO FISH. TAKE CARE OF FISH. TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER.”

LEONARDO P WASSILIE

Yup'ik Subsistence Fishermen

Organizer with Block Corporate Salmon and Salmonberry Tribal Associates

Salmon People's yearly cycles are synchronized with Salmon. The months before the spawning season are preparation for the most important moment of the year. When the spawning starts, whole families migrate from the villages to the rivers and creeks to catch Salmon at Fish Camps, where elders pass down traditional knowledge to families about cutting, drying, and smoking Salmon – a vital food source during the harsh winter months. People dance together, share stories, and cook recipes including traditional dishes such as Stinky Head Stew, which make use of the entire fish, including the head. Such knowledge is vital as the whole Salmon is used not only as a food source, but as remedy for ailments like the flu.

For millennia, Indigenous communities have dedicated invaluable resources to understanding Salmon genetics and replenishing wild Salmon's delicate habitat.

Salmon offer people their nutrients and flesh, laying the foundation for Salmon Peoples' identity. In return, Salmon Peoples take care of Salmon habitats and populations, providing so that the fish thrive, in a pristine example of human-animal reciprocity.

**“PRE-CONTACT, IT’S BEEN SAID,
THERE WAS SUCH AN ABUNDANCE
OF SALMON THAT YOU COULD
WALK ACROSS THE BACKS OF
THEM IN THE RIVER. SALMON ARE
AS IMPORTANT AS THE AIR THAT
WE BREATHE.”**

LISA WILSON

THREATS TO SALMON

Dams, especially mega hydroelectric dams, are among the main obstacles blocking wild Salmon's migration and reproductive patterns, directly affecting Salmon populations.

Built over rivers, dams are a physical barrier cutting off Salmon from their path back home to their spawning grounds. If they can't reach the exact location where they were born, Salmon won't spawn. Upper river communities that rely on Salmon are also impacted if the fish can't reach these areas.

Dams that are part of reservoir systems (connected to public water infrastructure) prevent or restrict the flow of water downriver, reducing the amount of cold water and increasing the temperature to unsafe levels for Salmon, particularly fingerlings (baby fish). The same applies to water diversion systems that move water out of the river, transporting it in pipelines or ducts for agriculture or urban use.

Recent years have shown some of the lowest numbers of Salmon returning to spawn, leading to closures of the fishing season along rivers that have housed Salmon for centuries. Indigenous Peoples today are leading the way to restore wild Salmon habitats for future generations to prosper. Restoration projects in recent years, like that of the [Elwha River](#) dam removal, have made a huge impact in [revitalizing](#) Salmon populations.

MARINE COLLAPSE

The ocean is deeply tied to the well-being of all environments and our collective survival.

As [the UN cites](#), the ocean “generates 50 percent of the oxygen we need, absorbs 25 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions and captures 90 percent of the excess heat generated by these emissions.”

It is estimated that [66%](#) of all marine environments have been altered by human activity and predictions show a grim future if urgent actions are not taken. Coral mass bleaching and endangered whales, turtles, and fish are just some of the marine collapses we’re witnessing.

As with other species, Salmon is also deeply impacted by marine habitat changes, such as warming and changing ocean conditions that affect their returns. Warmer temperatures make young Salmon grow faster, needing [more food to survive the winter](#), but the warmer waters can also deplete smaller fish, making their prey less abundant. [Ocean acidification](#), a direct effect of climate change, also makes it harder for Salmon to smell and avoid predators, making them more vulnerable.

INDUSTRIAL TRAWLING BYCATCH

Along with pollution, rising water temperatures, and acidification due to climate change, overfishing is one of the leading causes of marine disruption. Today, [over a third](#) of global fishery stocks are overfished, [predominantly due to industrial fishing practices](#) such as factory trawling, developed to catch and process fish at a scale that doesn’t allow populations to replenish.

Beyond the fish caught for commercialization, large industrial trawlers kill and discard tens of thousands of fish as bycatch yearly. This non-selective fishing method destroys habitat and swallows up every ocean creature standing in the path of large industrial nets, then simply disposes of any fish without deemed commercial value. All those discarded fish deprive ecosystems of their balance, impacting an array of species.

A recent report disclosed that a trawl fishery in British Columbia, Canada, caught, killed and discarded an estimated [28,117 Salmon](#) as bycatch in a single fishing season. Those discarded were predominantly Chinook Salmon, which serve as the main feed source for the critically endangered Southern Resident Orca Whales of the Salish Sea. Another example is the Alaskan pollock trawling fleet, which catches and discards, yearly, [over 141 million pounds](#) of bycatch like Salmon, halibut, crabs, orcas, turtles, and more.

Because industrial trawling companies operate within a global market, often serving consumers thousands of miles away, they can exploit and [erode local environments](#) and livelihoods without accountability.

While industrial trawlers carve up the seabed, community-based fisheries avoid overfishing by diversifying their catch and following natural reproduction cycles, allowing fish populations to replenish organically.

Community-based fisheries have less environmental impact and bring a higher benefit to local economies.

FISH FARMS

The over-exploitation of the ocean as a result of industrial overfishing and the rising demand for, and price of, seafood have been key justifications for [aquaculture](#), the farming of aquatic animals. Today, aquaculture represents [more than half](#) of the fish production worldwide, and is [one of the fastest growing](#) animal-based food system sectors.

Fish farming, where fish are grown in “controlled” environments, is often [presented as a sustainable solution](#) to maintain current fish consumption without depleting wild populations. However, in practice, the rapid expansion of intensive, industrial aquaculture in the past decades has created a highly unsustainable system of large-scale land- and ocean-based monocultures that consume [large amounts of energy](#) and contaminate the environment.

Whether in the ocean (with free-flowing water in and out of a net pen or cage) or on land (in “contained” systems, usually tanks, separated from a natural body of water), large-scale fish farms trap fish into swimming in their own feces and food waste, polluting wild habitats and local waterways. According to data on salmon farming alone, about [15-20 percent](#) of all farmed salmon die before harvest. In 2022, that accounted for nearly 870 million pounds of dead fish.

Industrial fish farms heavily depend on external inputs and energy. Intensive land-based aquaculture systems require a high energy investment to oxygenate, filter, and cool tanks. However, the highest energy usage comes from the production of fish feed, which accounts for [up to 90%](#) of the total energy input. Industrially farmed salmon depend on industrially-produced feeds, using mainly wild-caught fish and livestock-derived ingredients, as well as genetically engineered soy, corn, and other commodity grains.

The total energy usage for fish farming [is equal to, or surpasses](#), the amount used by industrial beef farming per unit of protein produced.

Beyond the high energy consumption, aquaculture operations can exacerbate environmental damage and threaten global food security through the production of fish feed.

Fishmeal and fish oil, which encompass the majority of industrial fish feed, come from small, oily, ocean-harvested wild fish, such as anchovies, herrings, and sardines. These species are prey for other fish, marine mammals, seabirds, and humans, and play an essential role in marine ecosystems and food chains. For example, [studies](#) have shown that small fish depletion has negatively impacted seabird breeding. In the late 1980s, low spring-spawning herring stock caused a fall in Atlantic puffin populations in Norway; in the early 2000s, low sand eel populations in the North Sea had the same effect on black-legged kittiwakes. From 2000 to 2019, [almost 50%](#) of the global fish caught each year was used for fishmeal and fish oil.

When it comes to seafood, aquaculture operations often produce less protein in the form of farmed fish than they [extract](#) from the ocean in the form of wild fish. Often the wild fish is taken from fisheries that communities in the Global South depend on for food, to feed farmed fish destined for markets in wealthy countries. One study found that the amount of wild fish used by Norwegian salmon farms in 2020 alone could feed up to [4 million people](#) in West Africa.

The high cost of producing feed from wild-caught fish, coupled with the growing recognition of their marine impacts, has led to an [increase in crop-based feed](#). However, crop-based fish feed comes mainly from monocultures of genetically modified (GMO) soy and corn, which depend heavily on pesticides and are a [major cause](#) of deforestation, soil loss, and community displacement worldwide. Using soy and corn as a base aquafeed ingredient [increases the global demand](#) for those grains, expanding their unsustainable impacts.

While wild Salmon lay eggs that hatch themselves, fish farms have to buy them. While wild Salmon swim through naturally filtered and cool waterways to forage and get nutrients on their own, fish farms have to filter and cool water and buy enormous amounts of feed, transport it, and feed it to fish that swim in circles their whole lives.

Another dangerous outcome of industrial fish enclosures is that a single breach in containment can mean multi-generational damage.

When farmed salmon breed with wild ones, their offspring grow faster and mature at a younger age, making young salmon more susceptible to predators, which can lead to population reduction. Beyond that, escaped salmon outcompete other fish for food, driving major shifts in marine and aquatic ecosystems, and spread sea lice and diseases that deplete wild populations.

In 2017, Cook Aquaculture's net pen collapsed, and over 150,000 Atlantic-farmed salmon escaped into the Pacific Ocean. The Lummi Nation, expert fisherpeople from the affected area, were left with no choice but to catch the fish as soon as possible before it affected the waters in which they fish. They were the first to respond to the threat, mobilizing their ships and spending over US\$800,000 to protect their homelands, water, and way of life. Tribal fishers were responsible for capturing 90% of all the recovered fish, amounting to 43,522 Atlantic salmon.

A State investigation found that the Cooke Aquaculture net pen failure was the result of severe negligence on the company's part. Cooke Aquaculture even tried to bribe the Lummi Nation, offering a premium price for the captured fish in exchange for their silence on a proposed salmon farm net pen ban in Washington.

“INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE TRADITIONALLY MANAGED BY ONLY TAKING WHAT WE NEED. NOW THE NUMBERS ARE TOO LOW FOR ANY FISHERY, SO THE INDIGENOUS FIRST NATIONS AND ALASKA TRIBES AND OTHER USERS OF THE FISHERY HAVE LITTLE CHOICE ON THE YUKON RIVER BUT TO ACCEPT CLOSURE.”

LEONARDO P WASSILIE

FISHING POLICY

Declining Salmon populations has led the US and Canadian governments to impose more regulations and fishing bans, which rarely distinguish between large fishing corporations, small fishers, and Indigenous Peoples, who are disproportionately affected.

The Yukon River has been closed to fishing for the past four years, and will continue to be (closed) for the next seven. This ban directly impacts Indigenous communities who rely on subsistence fishing for their food and traditional ways of life. Without access to Salmon, one of their staple foods, they need to buy store goods, [prohibitively expensive](#) for many. Industrial pollock trawlers [kill and discard thousands of Salmon](#) in the ocean as bycatch yearly, impacting the number of fish returning to spawn in the Yukon River, while Indigenous Peoples are prohibited to fish in rivers, paying the price for an environmental disruption they did not create.

For millennia, Indigenous communities have developed localized methods to manage coastal regions and responsibly ensure a sustainable food source, all without harming the environment. These traditional methods continue to be practiced in sync with aquatic life cycles, respecting fish populations' natural breeding and migration patterns.

While large fishing businesses pollute the environment and threaten marine ecosystems and Indigenous ways of life, traditional wild fishing has been a source of life, culture, traditions, and healing since time immemorial.



GE SALMON

With fish farm development on the rise, the biotechnology industry has created a genetically engineered (GE) salmon, the world's first GE animal approved for direct human consumption.

In 1989, researchers at Memorial University in Newfoundland set out to create a faster-growing and larger species of salmon, fusing the genes of the ocean pout and the Chinook Salmon, the largest Salmon species in the world, and injecting it into an Atlantic Salmon egg. The resulting fish grows all year round, rather than just in the spring and summer, reaching market size twice as fast. In 1991, US-based corporation AquaBounty (formerly AF Protein) began plans for the commercialization of "[AquAdvantage Salmon](#)."

Transgenic salmon is presented as an affordable, safe, and sustainable protein. But this new species poses serious risks. AquaAdvantage salmon's main selling point is its ability to produce growth hormones year-round, allowing this GE species to reach market size in just [16-20 months](#), compared to the 28-32 months it takes for industrially farmed Atlantic salmon. Due to their rapid artificial growth in overcrowded and hazardous conditions, GE salmon are [more prone to deadly health issues](#), such as ruptured stomachs, increasing the already high mortality of farmed fish.

And while AquaBounty declares that its product is a "highly nutritious" protein, virtually indistinguishable from wild Atlantic Salmon, research has demonstrated that GE salmon provides [significantly lower nutrients](#) and may be more likely to cause [allergic reactions](#) in consumers. Omega-3, for example, can be 189% lower in transgenic fish compared to wild Salmon. Protein, calcium, zinc, and Vitamin C are also less available in GE salmon.

**“GE SALMON CONTAINS 33%
LESS HEALTHY FATS THAN WILD
SALMON. IT IS PROFOUNDLY
DISRESPECTFUL TO CAPITALIZE
ON THE LEGACY OF A CULTURAL
KEYSTONE SPECIES, AND THE
NUTRITION AND GOOD MEDICINE
THAT SALMON CARRIES, THAT MY
ANCESTORS AND MY FAMILY HAVE
ORGANIZED OUR LIVES AROUND
FOR SO LONG.”**

VALERIE SEGREST

Muckleshoot Tribal member and nutritionist

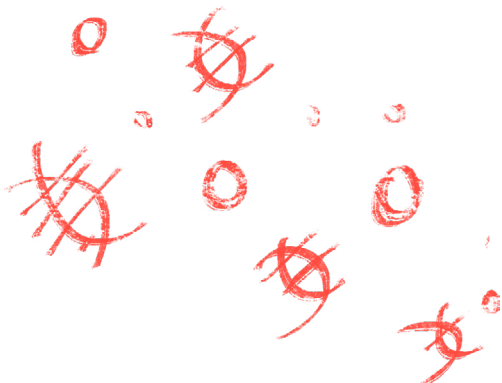
Despite the health risks GE salmon presents, transparency regarding where GE salmon can be found is severely lacking.

Labeling requirements are weak in the US and non-existent in Canada. As of 2023, AquaAdvantage salmon sold in US markets will have to include a [notice](#) indicating it is “bioengineered,” which may be either “words, a symbol, scannable links, text message instructions, or in some cases phone numbers or web addresses that convey the information.” But restaurants, AquaBounty’s main buyers and distributors, are exempt from this disclosure.

Back in 2018, AquaBounty’s CEO claimed the company sold 4.5 tons of GE salmon in Canada alone, but refused to say to whom, meaning the public has been consuming transgenic protein without knowing.

Beyond all the issues from fish farming, AquaBounty’s facilities are far from sustainable. The corporation plans to build a new facility in Ohio, capable of producing 10,000 metric tons of GE salmon per year. This will require withdrawing 5 million gallons of water every day from the Michindoh Aquifer, the water source of over 50% of drinking water for Williams County, Ohio and for almost 400,000 people living in eight other counties across the states of Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

[Residents of the counties](#) directly affected by the plans are [pushing back](#), concerned that the exploitation of the aquifer could affect its ability to regenerate, causing wells to go dry. In addition, AquaBounty’s facility would create nearly 5 million gallons of wastewater each day, which would be discharged into the nearby east branch of the St. Joseph River, the water supply for hundreds of thousands of people in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Lastly, there's a risk of GE salmon escaping into wild ecosystems, crossbreeding with wild fish, and reconfiguring their DNA forever, causing unimaginable ecosystem damage.

Instead of addressing the threat of Salmon extinction by protecting existing species, corporations are using biotechnology to create a new commodity species altogether.

This poses a greater risk to wild Salmon and, more significantly, sets a dangerous precedent by contributing to the normalization of patenting sacred species for commercialization.

AQUABOUNTY

The risks of GE salmon are even more concerning given the practices of AquaBounty, the company behind its development. A [whistleblower report](#) from a former employee of AquaBounty's industrial fish farm in Indiana has exposed a history of violating standards for food safety, consumer health, worker safety, animal welfare, and environmental impact.

According to the whistleblower report, AquaBounty's Indiana farm had persistent contamination from deteriorating fiberglass in their tanks, which caused eye, skin, gill, and intestinal irritation. With such low water quality, workers could not keep track of individual fish health, and many fish could not be effectively euthanized if ill or suffering. The report mentions countless dead fish regularly swirling at the bottom of tanks, polluting the water and spreading diseases to other agonized fish around them.



The report cites that the intensive amount of fish feces and fish feed within AquaBounty's overcrowded rearing system caused dangerously high concentrations of toxins in the water.

Daily testing of AquaBounty's tanks not only exceeded its own limits for water toxicity but also regularly went over the range of what the lab's refractometer (a device for measuring water health) could even measure.

AquaBounty claims to operate chemical-free. However, due to high toxicity, they have used hydrochloric acid to regulate water pH levels. They also [claim](#) non-exposure to environmental contaminants, but images from the whistleblower report show a hose spouting reddish-brown well water laden with iron, which is especially toxic to fingerlings and younger fish development.

The report cites numerous cases in which AquaBounty has endangered their employees' safety and well-being by not properly training them, and failing to adequately maintain an operable and non-hazardous facility. There have been severe instances of aerosolized hydrochloric acid affecting workers, improper storage for chemicals such as biogel, coliform bacteria present in onsite drinking water, and worker injuries being taken lightly. The report makes clear that AquaBounty workers have raised concerns about these (and other issues) on multiple occasions, yet they've often gone ignored.



A SHARED VISION FOR SALMON

We envision a world where Salmon and Indigenous Peoples are free to live in their ancient interconnectedness. Where Salmon spawn upriver unhindered, delivering their rich nutrients along the way, and Salmon Peoples celebrate the fish's cycles with their immemorial traditions.

A world where Salmon don't need the prefix "wild" to be recognized as the fish people grew up with. Where we don't need to distinguish them from transgenic creations that are detached from natural cycles, developed with the sole objective of maximizing human consumption and profit.

Today, Salmon Peoples are fearlessly fighting to make this vision possible, by restoring Salmon's ecosystems and preserving ancient heritages. There are no Salmon Peoples without Salmon. There are no Salmon without unhindered, unpolluted rivers; without forests; and without all the animals that are part of the intricate balance orchestrated by Salmon's life cycle.

As long as Salmon Peoples' ways of living are under threat, Salmon will be under threat. As industrialization expands over foodways, commodifying everything it touches and erasing the ancient interconnectedness between human beings and food, we are losing cultures and ecosystems altogether. The threats to Salmon are looming. We need to act now. And the answers are already here.

**“FISHING FOR SALMON
IS WHO WE ARE.**

**WE ARE THE
SALMON PEOPLE.”**

LISA WILSON

Real solutions must center Indigenous knowledge and call for critical action to restore Salmon habitats.

We need to protect Indigenous ways of being, which have been in harmony with Salmon for millennia. Like Salmon Peoples, we need to reject the idea of Salmon as a commodity, reduced to a single genetic variety, confined to dense tanks, owned by corporations. We must once again recognize Salmon as a sacred species.

Salmon Peoples give us direction in how to be of service. We must listen to their demands and support their restoration initiatives. Here are some of their actions and proposals:

DAM REMOVAL

For generations, Tribes have been pushing for the removal of dams to restore habitats and allow wild Salmon's return. In 2012, Northwest Tribes succeeded in removing the Elwha River Dam. Today, the fish, wildlife, and vegetation in the region have transformed into a thriving ecosystem for wild Salmon, providing clean and healthy watersheds.

WATERSHED AND HABITAT RESTORATION

Tribes have long been pushing for the restoration of whole river systems previously altered. This includes fostering the natural creation of beaver dams, which filter water and provide safe habitats for young fish, protecting river banks and water from chemical runoff, and planting more trees and vegetative buffer zones to cool rivers down and provide shade.

BYCATCH REDUCTION

Tribes actively demand policies that regulate the factory trawler industry and support inclusion and respect for Tribal fishing and hunting rights.

OPPOSING GE SALMON

Indigenous Peoples are advocating to shut down GE salmon and revive traditional ways of being that purposefully balance and support local biodiversity, as they have been doing for generations.



TAKE ACTION

The Block Corporate Salmon campaign is dedicated to stopping the release of Genetically Engineered (GE) salmon into the US and world markets. It is led by Indigenous, Black, and People of Color working together to uplift Indigenous solutions for Salmon protection and restoration.

The campaign is supported by the North America Marine Alliance, Friends of the Earth, Community Alliance for Global Justice, Center for Food Safety, and other allies. Today there are 80 corporate buyers in the US pledging not to sell GE salmon, including major grocery chains and food service companies like Aramark, Walmart, Costco, and Trader Joe's. Help us advance the fight.

Here's what you can do to get involved:

FOLLOW

Follow [@BlockCorporateSalmon](#), blockcorporatesalmon.com

SHARE

Share this post to your story. Send it to your friends and loved ones in Canada and the US.

TAG

Tag journalists and media in the comments.

BUY SUSTAINABLE

If you're based in the US or Canada, use the Local Catch Network's [seafood finder](#) to find sustainable Salmon near you.

BOYCOTT

Join the boycott and sign the petition: bit.ly/boycottGMOsalmon