

June 13, 2008
Letter
New York Times

Salmon That's Good to Eat

To the Editor:

“Sardines With Your Bagel?,” by Taras Grescoe (Op-Ed, June 9), about swearing off salmon, is on the mark in describing how urbanization, dams, agriculture and other human activities have caused declines in Pacific salmon, especially the mighty chinook or king salmon.

Mr. Grescoe is also correct that pollution, parasites and disease make farmed Atlantic salmon a poor substitute.

Fortunately, Alaska still has healthy salmon fisheries, particularly the many millions of sockeye (red) salmon runs of Bristol Bay, which yields a third of the state's annual harvest.

Yet even here, salmon habitat is threatened by new plans for oil and gas drilling and the development of one of the world's biggest gold and copper mines.

Buying Bristol Bay sockeye, keeping local fishermen and women working and sustaining a profitable fishery will go a long way to protect this salmon stronghold.

Tim Bristol
Alaska Program Director
Trout Unlimited
Juneau, Alaska, June 10, 2008