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## For Salmon, Another Chapter in Farmed vs. Wild

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A SUPERMARKET, a food service company, an environmental advocacy group and a salmon farming company have joined forces in an effort to lessen the environmental impact to coastal waters by salmon raised in open cages.

Studies have shown that salmon farms can pollute the waters around them with their waste and the fish can contain dangerous levels of contaminants like PCB's and dioxin.

On Monday, Wegmans Food Markets and the Bon Appetit Management Company, in collaboration with Environmental Defense, adopted new purchasing policies for farmed king salmon that they say should reduce the levels of contaminants in the fish and help to clean up the untreated waste in coastal waters.

The criteria are also designed to reduce any negative impact on wild salmon populations and reduce dependence on wild-caught fish for salmon feed.

The group has been working with Marine Harvest, one of the world's largest fish farming companies. Although Marine Harvest has recently been sold, it is already selling some of the salmon it raises in British Columbia under these stricter conditions to Wegmans, a 69-store chain in the mid-Atlantic states, including Virginia and Maryland.

The collaboration is not without its critics, and highlights the differences between those pushing to make changes incrementally and those who believe that until salmon is farmed in closed contained tanks

on land, there will always be environmental problems.

The Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform, a nine-organization advocacy group in British Columbia that supports raising salmon only in containers, called the new policies woefully inadequate and still dangerous to wild salmon.

"These standards suggest current production practices are acceptable when they are far from it," the organization, which monitors salmon farming in the province, said in a news release.

Dr. Rebecca Goldberg, a senior scientist with Environmental Defense, said there had been discussions between the two organizations. Dr. Goldberg said Environmental Defense agrees that the ideal farming method

would be closed containment, which would better protect oceans and their fish.

"It would solve many of the problems, but is not viable at this time," she said. "In the interim we want progress in salmon farming."