

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS  
CONCERNING HR 6966 ‘ADVANCING THE QUALITY AND UNDERSTANDING OF  
AMERICAN AQUACULTURE (AQUAA) ACT’

The SAS reviewed HR 6966/S 3138, also referred to as the ‘AQUAA Act’ on Saturday, November 3, 2018, and offers the following comments.

The SAS cannot support the “AQUAA Act’ as it is currently written for the following reasons:

- Ocean aquaculture practices. Past practices have allowed escapement of non-indigenous salmon that interact and compete with wild stocks and their habitat.
- The Act does not appear to protect against increased environmental issues, which typically arise due to the large amount of fish stocks contained in a compressed area, resulting feces pollution and other contaminates.
- The Act provides no enforcement power allowed to fishery management Councils, state governments or fisheries association – it only allows for “engagements”
- The Act provides no requirement to prevent damage to the facility or control escapement in the event of a significant weather event – it only provides that the design, construction and operators of the facility “may” take such action, but does not appear to require it
- The Act contains no apparent regulations that would prohibit transporting of aquaculture products away for processing from the coastal communities, or exporting for processing, thus provides no protection for our coastal communities
- The Act provides no prohibition on the use of soy based fish food, which is known to be an environmental and health hazard