



Wild, Natural & Sustainable®

March 25, 2011

Every state, federal and international agency as well as every credible independent scientist is saying seafood from the Alaskan waters of the North Pacific Ocean is safe to eat. On March 23, 2011 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a “Questions about Food Safety” document, which includes the statement,

“Seafood from the United States waters for the North Pacific is safe to eat. In the unlikely scenario that airborne pollutants could affect U.S. fishermen or fish landed in the U.S., FDA will work with NOAA to ensure frequent testing of seafood caught in those areas, and inspection of facilities that process and sell seafood from those areas.”

The FDA goes on to explain that assessment by stating:

“The great quantity of water in the Pacific Ocean rapidly and effectively dilutes radioactive material, so fish and seafood are likely to be unaffected. Steam with radionuclide contamination disperses in the air and deposits on water/ground surface. Over how wide an area depends, among other things, on how high the steam is propelled and on wind speeds at that altitude range. If it deposits on water, it is further dispersed by currents and, ultimately, the laws of diffusion. If the amount of water available is large, the concentration becomes very low.”

A link to the full document can be found at:

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm247403.htm>

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is currently considering implementation of active monitoring systems for United States fishery areas which would include frequent testing of seafood caught in those areas and inspection of processing and sales operations from those areas, should those measures become necessary. However, due to the reasons stated above, no testing regime is in place at this time.

A joint press release on March 19, 2011 from the State of Alaska Office of the Governor, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Social Services stated:

“Because there is no immediate or anticipated indication of harmful radiation reaching Alaska or its waters, all seafood and other food items produced in Alaska remain safe to consume.

State officials will notify the public by way of media channels and department websites in the event of any changes in the current situation.”

A link to the full document can be found at:

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/press/2011/radiation_pr_032011.pdf

The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute will remain vigilant in monitoring the all information on Alaska Seafood safety and relating that information to the many consumers, customers, fishermen, processors and distributors of Alaska Seafood.