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Response to New York Times article: Salmon Virus Indicts Chile's Fishing Methods
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Considering the article written in the New York Times, our association must clarify some of the issues incorrectly raised regarding the salmon anemia virus (ISA) and the boldly erroneous reference to the lack of sanitary controls as contributing factors. ISA has been found in most Salmon Farming countries and today is controlled by strict government regulations.

The article lacks merit by referencing the use of hormones to make the fish grow faster. Hormones have never been used in the history of salmon farming in Chile. This malicious statement that hormones are used is false and serves to dissuade consumers from eating farmed Salmon, the safest of all fish according to the study requested by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and published by the Institute of Medicine (attached).

Equally irresponsible is the unfounded implication that farmed salmon must be to blame for the reduced catch and flabby texture of the locally caught Robalo. A sound bite from a local fisherman might add spice to the article, but it does little to add to its credibility.

It is important to note that the infrequent administration of approved antibiotics to the Salmon is done only under the close supervision by certified veterinarians and complies with all governmental regulations – just as it does in the Cattle, Pork and the Poultry industry. A zero tolerance of antibiotics residue is mandatory in farmed salmon and all production is controlled before harvesting is permitted by the Chilean government as well as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is patently false to state that consumers will be purchasing farmed salmon with any type of medicinal residue.

Salmon of the Americas Inc. (SOTA) is a U.S. based non-profit association of U.S., Chilean, and Canadian salmon farming companies. Its mission is to promote the many health benefits of eating salmon.