

Washington, D.C., March 28, 2008

Editor
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10018

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the news article "Virus Kills Chile's Salmon and Indicts its fishing methods", published on Thursday, March 27, 2008.

The article is written in a damaging way for a relatively new and quite successful industry that has become the second salmon and trout exporter in the world.

The salmon and trout industry in Chile accounts for more than 50 thousand jobs, 2.2 billion in exports in 2007, 45% of the total imports of salmon and trout to the United States, etc. To our surprise, this landmark industry is presented in such a shady way.

I am pleased to fully coincide with the American officials and executives when they refer to the salmon industry in Chile, rejecting that practices are unsafe and reaffirming that the I.S.A. virus is not harmful to humans.

To give further assurances to American consumers, it is important to remember that the FDA informed that in 2007, none of the salmon samples tested positive to any of the chemicals or drugs mentioned in the article.

Moreover, all relevant food industries in the world face different challenges related to safety, sanitary controls, etc. The fact that remains clear is that Chile shows a remarkable record in prevention and management of food safety in this field.

Dear Editor, I consider that Mr. Barrionuevo's article is misleading your readers regarding Chile's salmon and fishing industry.

With the assurances of my consideration,



Mariano Fernández Annunátegui
Ambassador of Chile