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Theme: Special Sessions

Session: TuF1 - The Great Salmon run :Competition between wild and farmed salmon

Title: **Economic Interactions of Farmed Salmon and North American Wild Salmon**

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Abstract: Because of wild salmon's importance as a commercial fishery in North America, many questions and concerns have been raised around the issue of farmed versus wild salmon in recent years. Concerns have been related to the impact of the tremendous growth in farmed salmon production on the markets for wild salmon, and in turn, the economic incentives for ensuring sustainability of the wild resource and the salmon fishing industry. As farmed salmon production has grown, prices for all salmon—farmed and wild—have fallen. The lower prices have created problems for the industries and communities associated with both wild and farmed salmon production. Farmers have managed to reduce production costs, and develop new products and markets, but the traditional wild salmon sector has been slower to adjust. The purpose of this session is to launch the new book *The Great Salmon Run: Competition between Wild and Farmed Salmon*, by Gunnar Knapp, Cathy Roheim and James Anderson, published by TRAFFIC International. The purpose of the book is to educate policymakers, the environmental community, fishermen and the fishing industry about the real dynamics in the North American salmon market. In particular, the report hopes to increase the understanding of the economic relationships between U.S. markets for North American wild salmon and domestic and imported farmed salmon. These relationships are often oversimplified and misunderstood, leading to ill-conceived recommendations for changing policies and the structure of the market. Another important goal of the report is to examine the extent to which market-based incentives lead to a sustainable resource.