

How can one speak of protecting fishery resources and traditional fishing grounds without considering a project's foreseeable impacts on individual fishermen, and the effect the project will have on the fishermen's ability to pursue their livelihoods on their fishing grounds?

I spoke with Salmon For All president Jim Wells yesterday by phone from Kenai, Alaska, where he is for the summer season on Cook Inlet.

Jim quickly rattled off a list of fishermen who are among those most likely to be adversely affected by development of an LNG terminal at Bradwood. Most of them are in Alaska right now and cannot be here to speak for themselves.

In addition to Jim Wells himself, they include:

Dan Stephan

Tom Svensen

Larry and Steve Telen

Dave Quashnick Sr.

Dave Quashnick Jr.

Johnny Ray, Brian and Frank Tarabochia

Fishing in the drift above them, the Skamokawa branch of the Tarabochias

Gary Backman

Larry Goodell

Alan Takelo

Kent Martin

Marty Kuller

John McKinley

Why are our gillnet fishermen concerned about the Bradwood Landing project? Their concerns are rooted in many of the same issues brought forward in earlier testimony from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission:

It's not good for the environment.

It's not good for the fish.

And it's not good for our fishermen.

On behalf of the fishermen who cannot be here to represent themselves, if you approve the Bradwood Landing-NorthernStar Natural Gas project, you will have failed in your duty to protect some of the most essential salmonid rearing habitat, and some of the most productive traditional fishing grounds on the lower Columbia River.

