

Salmon Share Proposal

When I lived on Long Island I belonged to a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm for over 28 years. A few years back the farm began to offer a Salmon Share from the Iliamna Fish Co. Iliamna Fish Co. (IFC) is family-owned cooperative; they've been fishing together on the Bering Sea in Bristol Bay, Alaska for 4 generations. The founders are tribal members of federally-recognized Native Alaskan tribes.

In 2008, following the example of their farming friends, they started a CSA in their "our boats" catch. Individuals can now join their sustainably-managed wild sockeye salmon fishery as shareholders in the harvest. This link can give you more information about Iliamna. <https://redsalmon.com/>.

Although frozen or canned, this is some of the best salmon I have ever had. It is sushi/sashimi grade salmon!

When I decided to move to RI I asked the Share program manager, Emily, where I could pick up my share near my new home. The closest place was Cambridge MA. When I picked up my share a few weeks ago, I spoke with Emily about developing a share program for RI. Emily said that they could set up a new location if they could get 40 or more people/families to sign up for a share. People travel from as far away as Maine to pick up their share in MA. This is a once a year pick up only in early October.

I wanted to make this opportunity available to my new community friends, hence this proposal. Iliamna offers full fillets, portions, smoked salmon and canned salmon. Fillets, portions and smoked are individually vacuum packed and frozen. I purchased the portions(they come packed in a box with about 30 portions for \$230.00), a few smoked packages along with some canned. For the portions, that's a little over \$7.50 each. Their website has more detailed information.

I am proposing this to Casey Farm CSA (I am a share member) and to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County (UUCSC). I will coordinate with those who would like to purchase a share and work with the Farm and the UUCSC as we try to find 40 or more people/families who would like to participate. I will need to let Emily IFC know if RI will be a drop off so they can set up their website for the RI pickup location. The hope is that we could use either Casey Farm or the or maybe the UUCSC parking lot as a pick up location (pick up is scheduled for a few hours one day in early Oct. annually) I will need to be in contact with Emily by mid-December as long as we get the 40 (or more). If we can get a pickup location here in RI, orders are placed on the Iliamna website.

If you are interested or have questions, email me at mbilecki@yahoo.com .

Looking forward to hearing from folks,

Michael Bilecki