

## The Salmon of Knowledge

I am the salmon of knowledge  
I am the salmon of science  
I am the salmon of abundance  
I am the salmon of industry  
I am the salmon of scarce resources  
I am the first salmon  
The shape that shifts from tree,  
To bear, to plants and people

I am a term in an equation  
Connection in a model  
A noun in a government report  
A verb in the river  
Lunch for a bear  
I am the depth of the sea  
I am the life of the river

I am a scintilla of stardust  
A speck of sunlight  
I am the death and resurrection  
A chorus of carbon  
A net of nitrogen  
A parable of potassium  
A psalm of phosphorus  
I am the dress of the cedar  
The brawn of the bear  
The dance of many peoples

*I was the wealth of tribes  
I made some fishers rich  
Till barons bought keel and soul  
I am a carcass of corporate concentration*

*Farmed and tamed in Norway  
Bred in a bucket  
Raised in aluminum  
Shipped in Styrofoam  
Enslaved in pens of pestilence  
A smallpox blanket for sockeye  
Pink, coho, chum, chinook, steelhead  
All my relations*

*Still, I am no simple salmon  
My circling captivity  
Spins fishers into farmhands  
Lets them stay home  
Work, and raise families  
Live where they love to be  
While Norsemen ship my silver  
As Spaniards before them  
I am a harsh contradiction*

I am an icon of industry  
A trail in the trackless sea  
10,000 ships sail after me

I am a spectre of scarcity  
A license to litigate  
A can of contention  
A case for caution