WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of making a product, comprising:

providing a cellulosic or lignocellulosic feedstock;

combining the feedstock with a water source that is saline, or brackish and that comprises 0.5 to 50 ppt (0.05 to 5 wt %) of NaCl;

saccharifying the feedstock; and

producing a product from the saccharified biomass;

thereby making the product.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the feedstock has been treated to reduce its recalcitrance.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein combining the feedstock with the water source comprises contacting the feedstock with a microorganism in aqueous solution.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the microorganism is adapted to function in saline, or brackish water.

5. The method of claim 3 further comprising treating the water to reduce its salinity and utilizing the treated water in the aqueous solution.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the water source comprises seawater~~, or brackish water.~~

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the water source comprises grey water~~, or collected rainwater.~~

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the water source comprises a microbially contaminated freshwater supply.

9. The method of claim 2 wherein the feedstock has been treated with a physical treatment selected from the group consisting of mechanical treatment, radiation, sonication, pyrolysis, oxidation, steam explosion, chemical treatment, and combinations thereof.