WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of making a product, comprising:

providing a cellulosic or lignocellulosic feedstock;

combining the feedstock with ~~utilizing~~ a water source that is saline, or brackish and that comprises 0.5 to 50 ppt (0.05 to 5 wt %) of NaCl; ~~and/or contaminated to convert a cellulosic or lignocellulosic feedstock to an intermediate or product.~~

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 ~~converting~~ combining the feedstock ~~to an intermediate or product~~ 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 ~~source~~ to reduce its salinity ~~or contamination~~ 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 ~~wastewater,~~ 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.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the feedstock has been treated with a mechanical treatment selected from the group consisting of cutting, milling, grinding, pressing, shearing and chopping.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the biomass feedstock is selected from the group consisting of paper, paper products, wood, wood-related materials, grasses, rice hulls, bagasse, cotton, jute, hemp, flax, bamboo, sisal, abaca, straw, corn cobs, coconut hair, human waste, animal waste, plant waste, algae, seaweed, microbial materials, synthetic celluloses, and mixtures thereof.

12. The method of claim 4 wherein the microorganism comprises a marine microorganism.

13. The method of claim 4 wherein the microorganism comprises an engineered microorganism.

14. The method of claim 3, where the microorganism is a bacterium.

15. The method of claim 3, where the microorganism is a fungus.