



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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Winter 2017 - 2018

Salmon Solidarity Takes Aim at Fish Farms: Escapement, Court, & Monitoring



Skookum Lennie John, the Yaakswis Warriors Legal Team, and Friends of Clayoquot Sound outside the Provincial Court in Ucluelet.

On August 21, 2017 following the solar eclipse, 300,000 farmed Atlantic salmon escaped when a Cooke Aquaculture fish farm pens collapsed in Washington State. In response, the Lummi Nation declared a state of emergency and Washington State's Department of Fish and Wildlife urged the public to help out by catching as many Atlantic salmon as possible. In the weeks following the disaster, Atlantic salmon were being caught over a geographic area ranging from the Fraser River to the Atleo River within Ahousaht territory in Clayoquot Sound.

Just a week prior, Friends of Clayoquot Sound were at the BC Provincial Courthouse in Ucluelet supporting Skookum Lennie John of the Ahousaht First Nation for his fourth court appearance. A year prior to the escapement, on August 22, 2016, Cermaq, the Mitsubishi-owned fish farming corporation, was transporting a barge loaded with Atlantic salmon

smolts to reopen a fish farm in Dixon Bay. The site had been shut down since 2012 following an outbreak of infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus, also known as IHNv.

Skookum led other Indigenous Wild Salmon Defenders out to patrol Ahousaht waters and monitor Cermaq. They made their voices heard emphasizing that the reopening of a fish farm for Atlantic salmon at the Dixon Bay site is without the collective consent of the Ahousaht people. The following day, the RCMP arrested and served papers on four Indigenous Wild Salmon Defenders, with charges of mischief and intimidation. The case was looking like it would go to the Supreme Court, however, due to personal health concerns, Skookum plead guilty to mischief. In exchange, the other 8 charges against the Salmon Defenders were dropped.

Meanwhile, Chief George Quocksister Jr. of the Laichwiltach

WHAT'S UP in this issue

Why I confronted Justin Trudeau on Vacation

Clayoquot Salmon Festival Hosts Dr. Kristi Miller

Protecting Wild Salmon Through Unity & Celebration

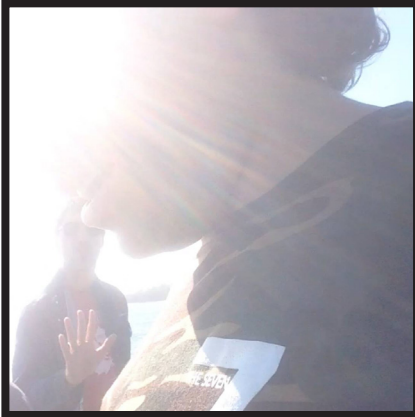
Salmon Solidarity Movement Grows & Escalates

Indigenous Advocate's Private Prosecution Against Imperial Metals

Ancient Rainforest Protection

Nation and Chief Kwakwabalas Ernest Alfred of the Nagmis, Lawit'sis and Mamalilikala Nations traveled to 11 farms at the north-east end of Vancouver Island between Campbell River and Alert Bay, gathering underwater footage of the fish farms. Their footage, revealed emaciated and diseased Atlantic salmon, some with sea lice, and what appeared to be tumours, sores, blisters and swollen gills. This footage provided further evidence to the images produced in the summer of 2016 when leaders of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw First Nation boarded three fish farms to perform cleansing ceremonies and issue eviction notices. Read more on Pages 4 & 5.

Why I confronted Justin Trudeau on Vacation



Jeh Custer

FOCS Campaigner, Jeh Custer, sending Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau a message to protect the water.

This may have been the one time Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was not keen for a photobomb.

Prior to vacationing in Clayoquot Sound this past summer, Trudeau was touring around BC justifying the expansion of the Kinder Morgan tar sands pipeline, breaking his commitments to Indigenous rights, while declaring a war on the climate and coastal ecosystems. The Kinder Morgan pipeline and tanker project would release 100 million tonnes of carbon annually, negating climate commitments made by the Canadian government at the UN Climate Summit in Paris. The pipeline would also mean 400 tankers a year, putting communities and ecosystems at much greater risk of catastrophic oil spills.

On Friday, August 18, I was hanging out with some friends at Cox Bay in Tofino within Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation territory when I looked over to notice Justin Trudeau sitting there. As

I approached, he refused to talk with me, so I shared some ideas with him. I told him reconciliation is more than just talk, and that free, prior, and informed consent with Indigenous Nations is essential. I told him the water he was on vacation to surf, needs to be protected. I told him an oil spill would ruin what he was there to appreciate. He didn't want to hear what I had to say, and vacated the area quickly.

For the Kinder Morgan tar sands pipeline, the government of Canada does not have the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples and communities, consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to which Canada is a signatory, and to which Trudeau has committed. With pipeline construction scheduled since September, running through unceded Indigenous territories, Canada's approval is a betrayal of International Law as there has been no treaty or purchase of the lands from the Indigenous Nations. Not only is Trudeau on the wrong side of history

promoting the pipeline, but Canada actually has no jurisdiction to approve the pipeline.

For Trudeau to even consider using RCMP forces against the people of the Indigenous Nations asserting their inherent jurisdiction and title over their own territories is a dangerous violation of the Nation to Nation relationship. The use of intimidation and force as a method to settle land claims in favour of the Canadian government is contrary to the creation of a healthy and just partnership between Nations. If Indigenous people are prevented from asserting their sovereignty and rights to say no, true reconciliation cannot occur.

Trudeau, like Canada, is now at a cross roads: either to continue with a rigid system of aggressive resource extraction, colonial violence, and environmental destruction; or to embrace natural law by making reconciliation with Indigenous Nations the highest priority. It seems that after 150 years, Canada still has an enormous amount to learn.

Salmon, Science, & Censorship

Clayoquot Salmon Festival Hosts Dr. Kristi Miller



Dr. Kristi Miller conducting scientific tests to benefit wild salmon.

focuses on the role of infectious disease in wild salmon declines. Disease transfer and impacts to wild salmon are fiercely debated, and up until just a few years ago - Dr. Miller and other scientists were muzzled by the Harper government.

In 2011, Dr. Miller published an article in the world-leading journal *Science* that suggested a virus might be linked to premature deaths in migrating sockeye salmon. However, she was prohibited from discussing her research with the media by the

that Piscine Orthoreovirus (PRV) causes HSMI (Heart and Skeletal Muscle Inflammation)," emphasized Dr. Miller during her presentation. "PRV was the only infective agent that was correlated with the development of those (heart) lesions."

Friends of Clayoquot Sound are aware that to determine pathogens and diseases to focus risk assessments on, DFO relies heavily on information that the fish farms provide. When asked about the regulatory audit program, Dr. Miller implied the need for more thorough auditing.

"The regulator randomizes the farms that will receive visits," explained Dr. Miller. "They basically go to farms and collect, traditionally it was 2-6 fish, whatever fish died on the farm that day. Just normal daily mortality. They don't target mortality events."

Friends of Clayoquot Sound will be bringing forward the need for more thorough auditing with larger sample sizes and targeting mortality events to upcoming meeting of the Clayoquot Salmon Roundtable.

The 2017 Clayoquot Salmon Festival hosted a keynote presentation by Dr. Kristi Miller, leading scientist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Her research

Harper government. Since the change of government federally, Dr. Miller is able to speak freely about their scientific research.

"Now we can say definitively

Protecting Wild Salmon Through Unity & Celebration

The 2017 Clayoquot Salmon Festival, organized by Friends of Clayoquot Sound, took place from September 15-23. The annual festival offers residents and visitors an opportunity to reflect upon, and build an active appreciation for, the irreplaceable value of salmon in Clayoquot Sound. Over 700 festival-goers attended a diversity of events that included research presentations, short documentary screenings, a beach cleanup, a salmon forest walk, a canning workshop, and four evenings of concerts.

Following the Clayoquot Salmon Festival, Friends of Clayoquot Sound contributed to Wild Salmon Caravan events. During the week of October 7 - 12,

2017, the Wild Salmon Caravan traveled from the Salish Seas in Vancouver to the Adams River near Chase in Secwepemc territory, home of some of the best salmon spawning grounds in the world. Activities included cultural stories and ceremonies, Indigenous song, dance and regalia making, silk screening, wind puppet making, lantern making, mask and costume making, poetry and music.

Together, the Clayoquot Salmon Festival and the Wild Salmon Caravan continue to provide communities with a chance to celebrate wild salmon and their amazing story, but also a time to unite communities through art, community and culture.



Salmon Solidarity Movement Grows & Escalates with First Nations & Solidarity Occupations



Indigenous Solidarity Working Group

Voices from the Salmon Frontlines at the Circle at the BC Legislature.

We don't want fish farms in our territory, and we're going to sit here till they're gone.

- Chief Ernest Alfred, representing the 'Namgis, Mamalilikala, Lawit'sis First Nations.

More than 30 fish farms owned by Cermaq or Marine Harvest operate in Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw territory within the in the Broughton Archipelago. The Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw, 'Namgis and Mamalilkala First Nations have never given their consent to open-pen Atlantic salmon feedlots operating in their territory and are now demanding that the provincial government respect their traditional fishery and have the fish farms removed.

In late August, First Nations leaders from the 'Namgis, Mamalilikala and Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw began occupations at two Norwegian-owned Marine Harvest fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago on Swanston and Midsummer Islands within their territories. The occupations were established by deploying tents and quickly building weather-resistant tiny

houses on the fish farms.

"We don't want fish farms in our territory, and we're going to sit here till they're gone," said Chief Ernest Alfred, representing the 'Namgis, Mamalilikala, Lawit'sis First Nations.

Locally in early September, members of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation symbolically paddled cedar canoes around fish farms in their territory to send a message in solidarity with the occupations. Following that, Skookum Lennie John, of the Ahousaht Nation's Yaakswiis Warriors, and Friends of Clayoquot Sound Campaigner, Jeh Custer, responded to the call for solidarity from the occupations.

Four days after the Action Guide was distributed, a solidarity action targeted BC Attorney General David Eby with a day long occupation of his constituency office in Vancouver. Two weeks later there were coordinated solidarity actions. In Victoria, solidarity group Fish Farms Out Now occupied the office of Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham. While in Port Alberni, Friends of Clayoquot Sound led an occupation of the office of the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Scott Fraser, with support from members of the Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht Nations. The BC Government Ministers indicated a meeting with the First Nations would happen within weeks.



Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation paddling cedar canoes for a solidarity action.

Jeh Custer



Fish Farms Out Now office occupation of Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham.

For 30 years we have been saying 'No!' to fish farms, and for 30 years we have been watching salmon returns decline. My relatives have no fish in their freezers. Enough is enough!

- Sherry Moon, of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw

On October 10th, BC Government Premier John Horgan accompanied by Indigenous Relations Minister Scott Fraser, Agriculture Minister Lana Popham, and Transportation Minister Claire Trevena, met with 40 hereditary and elected leaders from Mamalilikala, 'Namgis, Tlowitsis, Mamtagila and Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw. The First Nations communicated a united stance against open net salmon farms in the Broughton Archipelago. Unfortunately, the Premier was not yet able to commit to removing the fish farm occupation permits.

"We are going to be reviewing tenures, consistent with the Cohen Commission recommendations, to ensure migratory routes for wild salmon are clear of obstacles or any other deterrents," BC Premier Horgan said in response to the actions. "These are important issues for wild salmon, and that's our focus on this issue."

Solidarity groups responded on October 13th. Friends of Clayoquot Sound supported an occupation of the constituency office of Environment Minister George

Heyman in Vancouver, and reached out to the Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance to target Tourism, Arts, and Culture Minister Lisa Beare. Near Victoria, Fish Farms Out Now rallied outside Premier Horgan's office, which closed because of the action. In response, a solidarity occupation camp was established outside his office.

"For 30 years we have been saying 'No!' to fish farms, and for 30 years we have been watching salmon returns decline. My relatives have no fish in their freezers," emphasized Sherry Moon, of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw. "Enough is enough!"

On November 2nd, Chiefs and members from the Namgis, Lawitisis, Mamalilikala and Mugamagw Dzawada'enuxw,

Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis and Gawaneuek First Nations traveled to Victoria to deliver an urgent message firsthand to the BC Legislature -- Fish Farms Out Now! After meeting with Members of the Legislative Assembly, the First Nations leaders shared their stories with hundreds of supporters who formed a giant circle below the steps of the Legislature to hear the voices of the frontlines.

"The provincial and federal governments have promised to ratify the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). And yet, we have been threatened with RCMP and court injunctions. Is this what reconciliation looks like?" observed Chief Ernest Alfred.

Amidst the worst Fraser River sockeye run in history, First Nations are enforcing their sovereignty and jurisdiction by telling the governments of BC and Canada to revoke the illegal and invalid permits for these uninvited fish farms which do not have First Nations consent. Norwegian-owned fish farms operating in the Broughton Archipelago have pushed Sockeye and other native salmon populations to the brink of extinction and must be immediately removed from the marine environment. Government and industry need to work with First Nations to commit to just transition strategies for workers and communities. The timing is critical, and escalation beyond the province is imminent.



Fish Farm occupiers and supporters at Swanson Island Worker Camp reclamation.

Indigenous Advocate Files Charges Against Imperial Metals Over Biggest Mining Spill in Canada

On the third anniversary of the Mount Polley mine disaster, August 4, 2017, Indigenous advocate Bev Sellars filed a private prosecution against Imperial Metals Mount Polley Mining Corporation at the Provincial Court of British Columbia in Vancouver. Sellars was acting Chief of Xat'sull First Nation when the disaster struck near her community 3 years earlier.

"If we allow this disaster to go unchecked, it will be a free for all for all resource extraction and the environment and all of us will pay the price. I could not bear to witness BC simply stepping aside and giving up on its own responsibility to protect our shared environment and waters," stated Bev Sellars. "In my culture, we have a sacred responsibility not only to care for the land, waters, animals, and people living today, but also for the next seven generations to come."

The legal action came after BC's newly formed NDP-Green government announced it would not file



Imperial Metals Mount Polley Mine Disaster from August 4, 2014.

charges before the August 4 deadline, stating that "an investigation was still ongoing." This also presses the Trudeau government to enforce the federal Fisheries Act in the matter.

Sellars filed charges under 15 counts: 10 under the BC Environmental Management Act and 5 under the BC Mines Act. The main charges related to the dumping of contaminated mining

waste into the environment and surrounding waterways, and to poor and unsafe operational practices, allegedly in violation of multiple permit conditions and general provisions of both Acts and associated regulations. Sellars, a grandmother of 3, believes her action could be a test for BC laws.

"If BC laws cannot be enforced when such a massive mining spill occurs, then we have a serious problem in BC and we must act to fix these laws. Justice ultimately would be to make sure that nothing like this happens again. A message has to be sent to both governments and resource extraction companies that the industry has to be cleaned up. Profit in the form of money, is not the ultimate goal. The environment and the people who depend on it have to be factored in."

Sellars has retained environmental lawyer Patrick Canning as legal counsel. The first court appearance to determine the date for a process hearing has been set for November 29, 2017.

"With the federal and provincial governments neglecting to enforce environmental protection laws, I'm stepping up and fundraising for our legal team to be ready to go to trial in 2018."

Donate to Bev Sellars' Legal Team & Help Hold Imperial Metals Accountable:
www.gofundme.com/mount-polley-disaster-legal-action



Bev Sellars and Jacinda Mack outside the Provincial Court of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Ancient Rainforest Protection: Trail Building & Land Use Visioning



Mark Hobson

Veteran Forest Watcher, Maryjka Mychajlowycz, standing among the giants of Meares Island.

FOCS launched this summer's Trail Building with Friends program to support First Nations' management of local trails found within Clayoquot Sound in partnership with Wilderness Committee. Directed by the Ahousaht Guardians, two weekends focused on the Wild Side Trail on Flores Island within Ahousaht First Nation's territory. Participants helped clear paths through overgrown wild salal bushes. We also worked with Tla-o-qua-aht

Tribal Parks Guardians for a weekend to build and repair the cedar plank trail to welcome the thousands of summer visitors to the Wah-nuh-jus—Hilthoois Tribal Park on Meares Island.

Vancouver Island's coastal temperate rainforests are among the rarest ecosystems on the planet. They have never covered more than about 0.5 per cent of the world's land mass. Since industrial logging began on Vancouver Island, the area equivalent to two soccer

fields have been cut every hour. More than 9,000 hectares of old-growth rainforest are still being logged every year on Vancouver Island.

FOCS are the local representative of Clayoquot Sound Conservation Alliance which includes Wilderness Committee, Stand, Greenpeace, and Sierra Club. Collectively, we advocate for improved management of the ancient rainforests. Looking beyond resource extraction for short term profit, we support conservation financing and community investment alternatives for long term economic diversification and stability.

It is an honour to support the industrial logging ban of the Ahousaht First Nation's Land Use Vision. Similar land use visioning discussions are happening within the Tla-o-qui-aht and Hesquiaht First Nations, which is encouraging. We continue to monitor any proposed logging operations within Clayoquot Sound and remain committed to the protection of the intact ancient rainforest.

Earth Keepers: Investing in the Next Generation of Leaders

For summer 2017, FOCS hired Cypress Seitcher of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation as the Earth Keepers Organizer. In his work, Cypress focused on youth engagement and personal development. His employment supported him to assist in Nuuchahnulth Cultural Workshops led by Gisele Martin, and contribute to Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation Days, two trail building weekends, four beach cleanups, and cedar canoe steaming at Esowista. He also helped distribute FOCS newsletters and Clayoquot Salmon Festival promotions. With his interest in music, he invested his earnings in DJ turntables which he utilized in Hip Hop Workshops he helped facilitate in Ty-Histanis and Ahousaht.

"I live on planet Earth and I am Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation living in Ty-Histanis. My father, Terry Doward, is the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks Coordinator. I enjoy being in the forest and building trails with him. I'm passionate about skateboarding, playing drums, guitar, and listening to music. Currently, I'm learning more about culture, language, and environmental issues."

Through Earth Keepers, FOCS aim to engage youth, the next generation of leaders, who want to develop communication skills and explore artistic techniques in a supportive and fun environment. Earth Keepers engages local youth in the creation of artistic projects to strengthen youth leadership, artistic voice, environmental stewardship, and

regional connectedness. Engaging youth in creative ways about sustainability issues empowers their ability to have their voices heard on the issues facing the coming generations.



German Ocampo

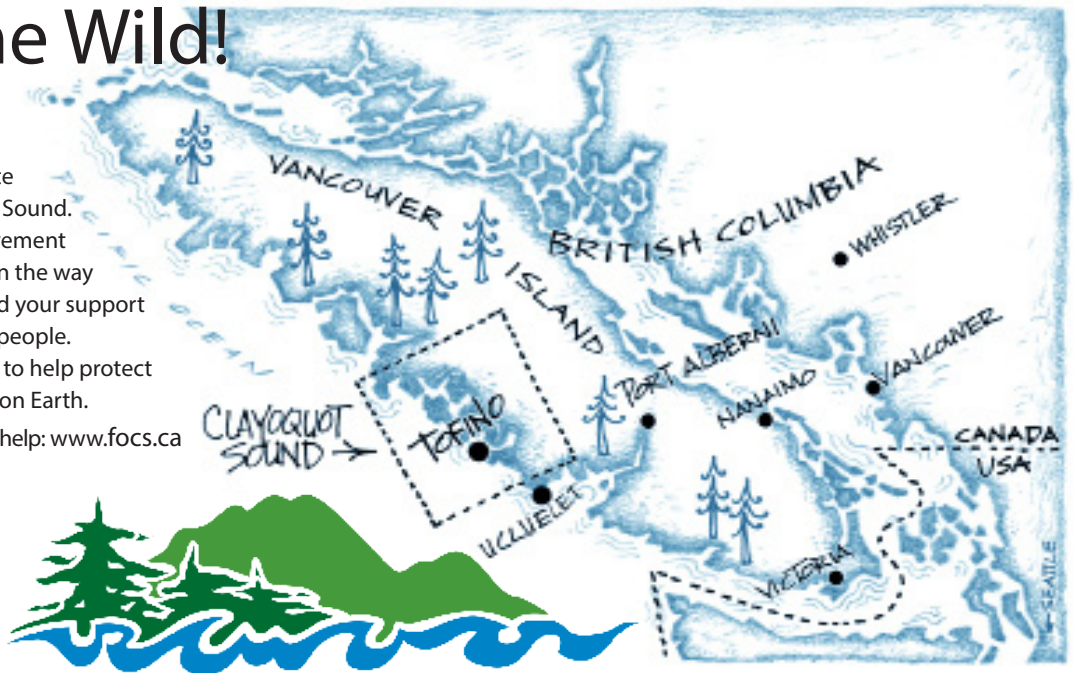
Support the Wild!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforest ecosystems of Clayoquot Sound. We are part of an international movement calling for a shift of consciousness in the way humans relate to the Earth. We need your support to continue to educate and inspire people. Please send in your donation today to help protect one of the most spectacular places on Earth.

Visit our website to find more ways to help: www.focs.ca

Send your donation to:

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Join our Coast Action Team!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound has always been sustained through the commitment and action of our community members. Today there are many opportunities to contribute your skills to our important work including:

Earthkeepers Youth Programming
Training Workshops
Adventure Outings • Trail Building
Direct Action Support
Beach Cleanups • Market Tabling
Event Planning & Coordination
Benefit Concerts
Banner & Sign Making
Photography & Video Production
Designing Publications & Merch
Distributing Posters & Newsletters
Social Media Promotion
Gathering Petition Signatures
Blogging • Fundraising
Data Management
Gear Maintenance

Ideas you have?
Together we can build a movement
for environmental justice!



Join our Wilderness Team by becoming a monthly donor!

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