



10 YEARS STRONG!

The strength of Clayoquot Action is—people like you! Please consider joining the movement to protect wild salmon.

None of this works unless you read, share, add your voice and donate. You'll feel good, being part of something vital, and helping to make history—again.

SIGN THE PLEDGE:
SalmonPeople.ca

FREE! TAKE ONE & SHARE IT

Clayoquot Action

2023 || SUMMER NEWS

ON THE COVER: ECHOLOCATION: THE BIGGER PICTURE || © Artist Wildly Leanne

RIGHTS & TITLE || Clayoquot Action recognizes and supports the Indigenous Rights and Title of the Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations—stewards since time immemorial of the lands and waters now called Clayoquot Sound.

WHO WE ARE || For over thirty years Clayoquot Action founders Dan Lewis and Bonny Glambeck have been working to protect this awe-inspiring place from the threats of clearcut logging, mining, oil spills, and salmon farming. Clayoquot Action stands for democratic rights, Indigenous rights, and the rights of Mother Earth. Together with local volunteers and backed online by people around the world, we run strategic, people-powered campaigns to help Clayoquot Sound remain one of the most beautiful places left on earth.

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP!

LEARN MORE:



There's something special about Clayoquot Sound—you can feel it in the air.

Clayoquot Sound is the Last Great Rainforest on Vancouver Island—unceded traditional territory of Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, and world-renowned for monumental cedars, whales, bears, wild salmon, and wolves. Wild salmon are the lifeblood of these ancestral forests and ancient cultures, providing sustenance and fertilizing the ecosystem which sustains life.

LEARN MORE

Visit our website at ClayoquotAction.org to find out how you can make the difference for wild salmon.

PEOPLE POWER TO WIN!

Sign up to hear about the latest developments. You'll be the first to know when you can send letters, sign petitions, and more.

VOLUNTEER

Whether you enjoy working with people at public events, doing research, or getting outdoors with a mission, Clayoquot Sound needs your help!

FUND THE CAMPAIGN

The protection of Clayoquot Sound is powered by people like you who dedicate their time and money to wild salmon and ancestral forests. The wild ones need you. Please donate \$25, \$50, or \$100 today to help protect wild salmon.



Clayoquot Action

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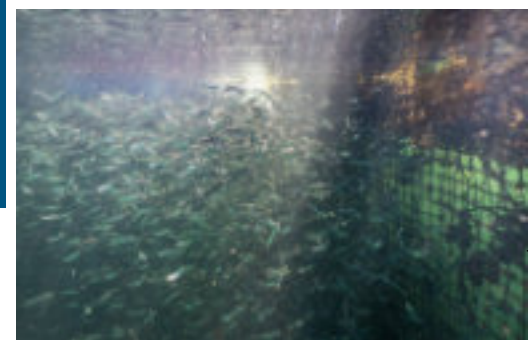
Email/Web: dan@clayoquotaction.org



PLAGUE UPON THE SEA

There are 20 salmon farms located along the wild salmon migration corridors of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Like any industrial-scale agriculture, these floating structures amplify pathogens and parasites. But open-net pens in the ocean allow viral particles, salmon lice, pesticides and more to enter the marine environment, harming wild salmon. Meanwhile, salmon returns are at all-time historic lows, up and down the coast.

SEE OUR VIDEOS:



One advantage of being a rurally-based conservation society, is that we are close to the problem. Our Clayoquot Salmon Investigation (CSI) program gets out in the Sound on a regular basis to monitor fish farms, and expose the industry's dirty secrets. Here's some of what we've found this year...



HERRING

It is well-known that the presence of juvenile herring and salmon in fish farms reduces feed costs. Locally, there have been multiple incidents involving hundreds of thousands of herring being killed at a time. In recent years, herring have spawned in local waters for the first time in decades. We observed massive schools of juvenile herring around and inside the pens, right as local First Nations celebrated a rare herring spawn, which provides a traditional delicacy—herring roe on kelp.



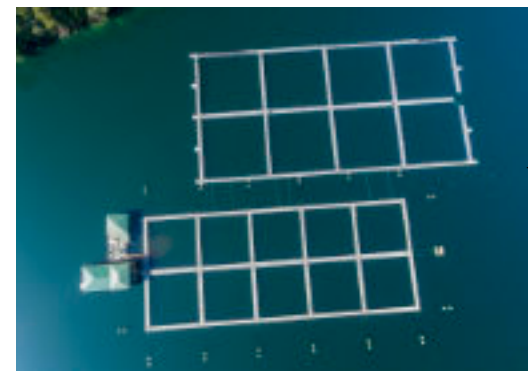
SEA LIONS

We've observed a dramatic increase of sea lions trapped inside fish farms. Last year six sea lions died on Cermaq's operations in the Biosphere Reserve. This is a learned behaviour, so the problem will not go away. It's not clear how they are getting into the open-net pens; nor whether they are able to leave at will. If they are creating holes in the nets, their presence increases the risk of a major farmed Atlantic salmon escape.



SALMON LICE

Salmon lice continue to plague salmon farms globally. Cermaq is using pesticides and power washers to remove the lice. The pesticides are then dumped in the ocean—in a Biosphere Reserve! New science from Norway is showing that these chemicals are fatal at minute concentrations to other crustaceans such as crabs, shrimp and prawn. The power washers are really hard on farmed salmon, making them susceptible to disease outbreaks. We are regularly observing trailers full of morts (dead fish) rolling through downtown Tofino.



EXPANSIONS

Fish farms are being removed from much of the BC coast. At the same time, DFO has granted 3 permits to expand Cermaq's Clayoquot facilities. This expansion is the equivalent of adding 1.25 new fish farms in the Biosphere Reserve, with no public input. And DFO is currently considering an application to expand a fourth fish farm near Tofino!



WHEN WILD SALMON WIN, WE ALL WIN!

'Namgis Chief Ernest Alfred (right) at Swanson Island fish farm occupation

Wild salmon are the backbone of the BC coast. They feed orcas, bears, wolves, eagles and over a hundred other species. They feed people, and have sustained First Nations cultures for millennia. They even fertilize the ancestral forests that create the oxygen we breathe! It is unacceptable to stand by and do nothing, as salmon are pushed to extinction on the west coast of North America.

Three quarters of British Columbians want fish farms out of the ocean—now! One hundred and two First Nations want the farms removed. Any extra stressor on wild salmon that we do have control over, needs to be managed.

This is why the federal Liberal government promised in 2019 to remove fish farms from BC waters by 2025. There has never been a better opportunity to protect wild salmon! And the transition is already well underway, led by First Nations.

In 2017, 'Namgis hereditary chief Ernest Alfred occupied a fish farm near Alert Bay, and stayed there for 280 days. As a result, the Premier of BC and several Ministers met with leadership of First Nations in the Broughton Archipelago in the Alert Bay big house. After a year of talks, a historic agreement was signed, beginning a phase-out of the 19 salmon farms in the Broughton.

This March, the 3 Broughton First Nations announced that the final 2 facilities would be leaving their waters this year. Clayoquot Action was invited to Alert Bay to celebrate with the Nations in the big house. What a party! So much pride in what they were able to accomplish together—and more seafood than I've seen at a feast in many years...

Last fall the shíshálh (Sechelt) Nation announced an end to salmon farming in their waters. Chief Warren Paull said "Protecting this precious resource for future generations has always been our priority".

Then in November, Washington's Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz made history when she prohibited commercial net pen aquaculture in Washington state marine waters. Her announcement leaves British Columbia as the only jurisdiction on the west coast of North America which allows salmon farms in the ocean...

In February, federal Fisheries Minister Joyce Murray banned 17 salmon farms from the narrow migration corridors of the Discovery Islands near Campbell River. She is currently developing a plan to transition the remaining 57 fish farms out of BC waters by 2025.

The momentum is becoming unstoppable. Unlike so many environmental challenges we face, this one is totally winnable. Please take a stand for wild salmon. Visit our website to add your voice, and help put this over the top!

The future will be brighter with wild salmon in the mix. In the Broughton Archipelago and the Discovery Islands, without fish farms in the water there are no salmon lice to speak of. Within 2 years of removal, the pink salmon population at the Ahta River jumped from a low of 2-300 fish to 11,000 spawners! Imagine what could happen up and down the coast when the last fish farm is finally removed...