



Save Our Salmon Update

November 2009

Closed Containment Update

We are now at the exciting stage of looking at the technical design and permitting needs for a 'Namgis First Nation, land-based closed containment site in the area of Northern Vancouver Island.

Two important pieces of work, commissioned by SOS, have allowed for this progress. They are the business feasibility study that has been completed by Ecotrust Canada and Dr. Andy Wright's closed containment technology study.

The Ecotrust study examined the feasibility of a land-based closed containment project for the 'Namgis First Nation, narrowing site selection to two locations - one on Northern Vancouver Island and the other on Cormorant Island.

Dr. Andy Wright's closed containment study has undergone extensive review with a final version soon to be completed. He concluded that land-based closed containment is technically viable by utilizing commercial off the shelf components. Our great thanks to Andy for all his efforts and success. He undertook the study as a member of the [SOS Solutions Advisory Committee](#).

Commission of Inquiry Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River

On November 6, 2009, Minister Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, as well as the regional minister for British Columbia, announced on behalf of Prime Minister Harper, an inquiry into the decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River in British Columbia.

This inquiry will be conducted by the Honourable Bruce Cohen, Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. He will investigate and report on the reasons for the decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River including consideration of aquaculture. He will also make recommendations for sustaining the sockeye salmon fishery in the Fraser River which could include changes to the policies, practices and procedures of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The Honourable Bruce Cohen has until May 1, 2011 to submit the report to government. However, he is expected to make an interim report by August 2010.

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Legal Update

A recent judgement by Justice Slade will result in favourable timing for the certification hearing of the class action lawsuit of the Kwicksutaineuk/Ah-Kwa-Mish First Nation against the British Columbian Government. The class action lawsuit addresses the impacts of open net-cage salmon farms on wild salmon in their Territory.

Justice Slade determined that the defendants, the B.C. Government and DFO, are not entitled to further particulars at this stage and that their proposed motion to strike the claim on a preliminary basis must proceed at the same time as the certification hearing. Thereby, the hearing will proceed in the week of January 11th.



[Click here](#) for news stories related to the judgement.

Help Save Our Salmon at Christmas

Want to give a green, durable and meaningful gift? Help save B.C.'s wild salmon and all that depends on them while enjoying great deals on salmon-related items. We've got gifts big and small for that fish-fan and nature-lover on your Christmas list. Three great possibilities are:

1. **Take advantage of trips and special offers** donated as fund-raisers to SOS - these include heli-skiing and sailing trips, ski mountaineering, salmon art, spa retreats and more! [Click here](#) for details.
2. Send your fishing enthusiast on the **SOS Fishing Derby and Poker Tournament from July 10th to 13th** in B.C.'s Caamano Sound. This is absolutely prime salmon fishing time and only 20 spots are available with proceeds fully supporting the work of Save Our Salmon. [Click here](#) for details.
3. Make a donation to Save Our Salmon in honour of your loved one. This will be recognized with a card to the address you specify. This can be done on-line by [clicking here](#).

New Video

See the SOS webpage for Canadian film-maker [Damien Gillis' new video](#) on the global reach of the salmon farming industry. The film features international, expert testimony on the environmental, cultural and socioeconomic damage caused by poorly managed open net-cage salmon farms.

It also addresses the devastation that has resulted from the Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) outbreak in Chile.

The video was shown internationally during The Pure Salmon Campaign's Global Week of Action in November.



www.saveoursalmon.ca

Commission of Inquiry

Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River, B.C. - Continued from page 1.

Key terms of reference for this inquiry include:

- to consider the policies and practices of the DFO with respect to the sockeye salmon fishery in the Fraser River – including its scientific advice, its fisheries policies and programs, its risk management strategies, its allocation of Departmental resources and its fisheries management practices and procedures, including monitoring, counting of stocks, forecasting and enforcement,
- to investigate and make independent findings of fact regarding the causes for the decline of Fraser River sockeye salmon including the impact of environmental changes along the Fraser River, marine environmental conditions, aquaculture, predators, diseases, water temperature and other factors that may have affected the ability of sockeye salmon to reach traditional spawning grounds or reach the ocean,
- to investigate the current state of Fraser River sockeye salmon stocks and the long term projections for those stocks,
- to develop recommendations for improving the future sustainability of the sockeye salmon fishery in the Fraser River including, as required, any changes to the policies, practices and procedures of DFO in relation to the management of the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery, to conduct consultations related to the Inquiry as required.

Background:

The Honourable Bruce Cohen will be investigating a sharp decline in sockeye salmon stocks in the Fraser River for a third consecutive year. Analysts from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans had forecasted approximately 10 million sockeye salmon to return, however, tests have shown it was only approximately 1 million. Prime Minister Harper's government had received many calls for a public inquiry and this announcement is in response to this.

Biography:

Mr. Justice Cohen was born in Vancouver and received his B.A. (1962) and LL.B. (1965) from the University of British Columbia and his LL.M. (1966) from the University of California (Berkeley). He was called and admitted to the Bar of British Columbia as Barrister and Solicitor in July 1967, and upon his call he joined the law firm of now Borden Ladner Gervais.

He was elected a Bencher of the Law Society of British Columbia in 1978 and served as its Treasurer (President) in 1986. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1983 and retired from practice to accept his appointment on March 25, 1987, to the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

He is Past President of the Canadian Judges Conference (now the Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association), past President of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice, and member of the Advisory Group to the Chairperson of the Canadian Judicial Council. The Honourable Bruce Cohen is known to have a special interest in the environment and sustainable development.

[Click here](#) for news stories related to the Fraser River sockeye decline and the Commission of Inquiry.

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