



Photo: April Bencze

This spring Clayoquot Action launched our Clayoquot Salmon Investigation (CSI) program. We'll be in the field, putting a spotlight on Cermaq's polluting fish farms.



Photo: April Bencze



## SICK FISH IN THE SOUND?

Norwegian-based salmon farming giant Cermaq's federal licenses allow them to put infected fish into their open-net pen salmon farms in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Although a judge ordered the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in 2015 to use the precautionary principle, which would stop the issuing of licenses which contravene the Fisheries Act, DFO has to date failed to comply. A second lawsuit has been launched by biologist Alexandra Morton and Ecojustice.

Just this winter, Dr Kristi Miller from DFO published a paper which showed that a Norwegian disease called PRV (Piscine reovirus) caused HSMI (Heart and skeletal muscle inflammation) on a salmon farm in BC. This came after years of denial by government officials that there was a problem.

PRV lives in fishes' red blood cells where it doesn't cause any symptoms. But when a fish is stressed, PRV causes HSMI (much as HIV is linked to AIDS). Sick farmed salmon

can be observed floating languidly up against the net pens, barely able to move. If a wild fish gets HSMI, it does not have the luxury of lolling around—they need the heart of an athlete to hunt, and avoid predators.

Disease transfer from farmed to wild fish is dangerously easy—a diseased fish farm can shed up to 65 billion viral particles per hour, which are then distributed widely by ocean currents. Because fish breathe water directly through their gills, these particles are transported directly into the bloodstream.

Wild salmon must swim right past Cermaq's salmon farms twice: on their out-migration as tiny fingerlings, and again as adults when they return to spawn in their natal stream.

Local wild salmon runs are dwindling towards extinction—it's time to remove open-net pen salmon farms from the pristine waters of Clayoquot Sound.



Photo: Tofino Photography

## MINING || A Tale of Two Mines

Imperial Metals sparked controversy this winter when they stated during a CBC television interview that their two Clayoquot mine projects are "very high priority". Imperial's mineral claims are in Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations' territories—both nations have vetoed Imperial's proposals. Imperial's statement drew so much attention that SumOfUs—an online campaigning organization—contacted Clayoquot Action and hosted an online petition which reached 30,000 signatures in one weekend!

**IMPERIAL METALS: DROP YOUR OPEN-PIT COPPER MINE PROJECT IN CLAYOQUOT SOUND!**  
Please sign the petition here: <http://bit.ly/2oxh1VZ>

## VOLUNTEER || Ally Mehl

"I met a girl on the Tofino Bus who told me about Clayoquot Action. When I first started volunteering, I felt inspired to be surrounded by people who had similar passions, and had so much knowledge to offer. Working with Clayoquot Action has challenged me to learn and grow in my conservation journey. I have been volunteering for nearly one year now, and still feel I have so much to learn. One thing that I wish everyone knew is that it's never too late to get involved!"



Photo: Sam Rose Phillips



Photo: Adam Chilton



Photo: Sam Rose Phillips

Prime Minister Trudeau approved Kinder Morgan's contentious pipeline expansion, knowing that if it were built, Canada would be unable to meet the climate commitments he made in Paris.

Because the added capacity would be for export, the result would be a sevenfold increase in tanker traffic. Those tankers would travel just 50 km offshore of Tofino and Long Beach, putting Clayoquot Sound at risk of a major oil spill.

Clayoquot Action volunteers organized an enormous Human Banner, inviting west coasters to spell WATER IS LIFE with their bodies. Watch the uplifting result here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPvJ1qxSCyg>

Kinder Morgan claims they will have shovels in the ground this fall. Stay tuned...

**Tuesdays at 8pm in July & August,  
at the Clayoquot Community Theatre.  
Free admission. Everyone welcome!**

"My husband, 13-year old daughter & I attended Clayoquot Action's free presentation in Tofino. The presentation showcased fabulous photography, and rich content regarding the priceless nature of the rain forest, and the need for its protection."  
—Kirsten, Vancouver

**Don't miss this entertaining,  
informative and inspiring evening!**

