



## 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](http://SalmonPeople.ca)

FREE! TAKE ONE & SHARE IT

# Clayoquot Action

CONSERVATION NEWS  
WINTER 2023

ON THE COVER: **IN THE FLOW** || © Kari Lehr

**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. Our small but mighty staff, together with local volunteers and backed online by people around the world, 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](http://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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**PROTECT  
WHAT YOU  
LOVE**







Chief Homiskanis. Jérémy Mathieu photo

# PEOPLE OF THE SALMON

**The First Nations of the Broughton Archipelago have removed all 17 fish farms from their territories! First the Swanson Island facility was occupied by Chief Ernest Alfred and others, which led to negotiations with the Province and aquaculture companies.**

Members of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations here in Clayoquot Sound were curious to know how it was done. So we teamed up to co-host an event with Tyee Chief Hiyoueah. Leadership from 'Namgis, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis, and Mamallikulla First Nations travelled down from Alert Bay to the west coast.

Hereditary 'Namgis Chief Homiskanis (Don Svanvik) spoke first. He started with a brief synopsis of his Nation's creation story. In short, their first ancestor chose to become what is now known as the Nimpkish River. That is how deep his people's connection with salmon is.

After screening a short film (MI'MA'OMAKW: People of the Salmon), each panel member spoke passionately about their journey to cleanse their territories of fish farms. How it gave the Nations renewed strength and great pride. How they were

rewarded with an immediate and abundant return of pink salmon. How they were able to monitor aquaculture facilities to see what was really happening in those open-net pens. How horrified they were with what they found.

Tla-o-qui-aht Chief Hiisquishsinuptshilth responded first, and his speaker said "get the fish farms out—NOW!" Local members of Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations then stood up to speak about how they have resisted fish farms from the beginning. How they have seen the terrible impacts, not just on wild salmon, but on the entire ecosystem—and thus all forms of seafood.

The evening ended with an exchange of gifts. The guests from Alert Bay had brought many big jars of oolichan grease, a now rare traditional delicacy. It was an honour to witness this ancient trade relationship being renewed in the modern era.

Clearly there is a lot of opposition to salmon farming in Clayoquot Sound. Local Nations have led the way on halting the logging of ancestral forests. Now it's time to protect wild salmon!

Just when the TV news is covering the spectacular recovery of wild salmon wherever salmon farms have been removed on the East Coast of Vancouver Island, Cermaq is applying (again) to expand their facilities in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region.



Cermaq at Ross Pass. Jérémy Mathieu photo

## CERMAQ EXPANDING?



**REMOVING FISH FARMS WORKS!**

Tavish Campbell photo

First Nations of BC have been leading the way on removing fish farms from their waters.

And they are being richly rewarded. Pink salmon returns on the East Coast of Vancouver Island are through the roof!

Because DFO does not recognise the harms being caused by salmon farms, they have no reason to believe the removal of farms will allow wild salmon to recover.

Independent scientists have a different view. Alexandra Morton was able to study outgoing juvenile salmon during the transition. She found in 2022 that the lice load was 96% lower than in 2020. As Alex writes, these fish are "not only making a comeback, they are making history".

In August, the Pacific Salmon Commission reported the largest number of pink salmon ever caught in DFO test sets along northeastern Vancouver Island. The increase over the last three generations is jaw-dropping!

Clearly, removing salmon farms works. Nature will rebound, given half a chance. Take 3 minutes to watch this inspiring video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvsPNRUZCRE>

The federal government has promised to remove salmon farms from BC waters by 2025. There is no social licence for in-water salmon farming in BC. Over 120 First Nations are calling for removal, there is an unprecedented alliance in the commercial fishing fleet as well as amongst wilderness tourism operators, and over 75% of British Columbians want fish farms out of the ocean. With such clear public support, you'd think the momentum would be unstoppable.

But: Department of Fisheries' Aquaculture Management Division still does not believe that salmon farming is causing harm to wild salmon. How could they? Their mandate is to promote the industry, and farmed salmon as a product.

Enter Cermaq Canada, a Norwegian-owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi. This company has lost their licences to farm salmon elsewhere in BC. It is clear that they believe that 14 facilities near Tofino will not generate the maximized profit they desire.

So Cermaq has been applying for, and receiving, permits to expand their Clayoquot operations. The permits approved so far have allowed them to add the production equivalent of 1.25 new fish farms in the UNESCO Biosphere, with no public input.

Cermaq recently submitted another 10 expansion applications. If approved, this would bring the total equivalent production to over 2 new farms.

The day the last fish farm is removed from Clayoquot Sound, we will witness the kind of rebound taking place elsewhere! Until then, it's time to keep the pressure on (new) Fisheries Minister Diane LeBouthillier. Please add your voice today.

**ADD YOUR VOICE!**



<https://www.clayoquotaction.org/take-action-home/add-your-voice/>