



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

ON THE COVER: ORCA || J  r  my Mathieu Photography

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 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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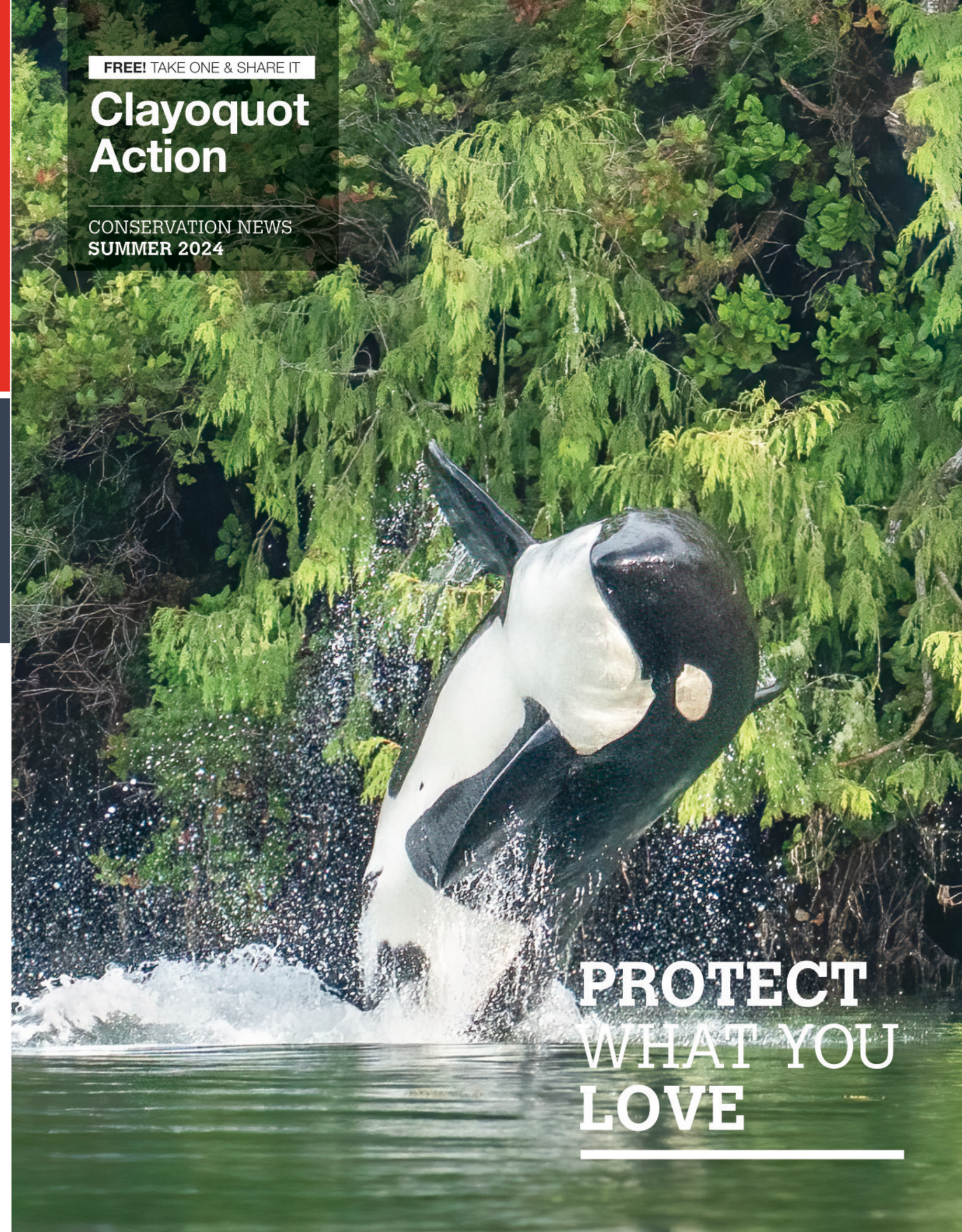
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Clayoquot Action

CONSERVATION NEWS
SUMMER 2024



**PROTECT
WHAT YOU
LOVE**

PREDATORY DELAY

FISH FARMS KILL PACIFIC SALMON

LIBERALS KEEP YOUR PROMISE REMOVE FISH FARMS BY 2025

Tavish Campbell photo

Way back in 2019, the federal Liberals pledged to “transition from open net-pen salmon farming in coastal British Columbia waters by 2025”.

In 2022, former Minister Joyce Murray renewed licences for only 2 (rather than 6) years, because anything longer would have kept the feedlots in the water past the transition deadline. She apparently had her draft transition plan ready a year ago, but it never saw the light of day. Instead a new Minister (Diane LeBouthillier) was appointed, and the transition has been in limbo ever since.

The mandate began to morph a few years back, with weasel words creeping in such as “progressively minimize or eliminate interactions between salmon open-net pens and wild salmon”. Nobody is worried about these creatures kissing each other through the nets! The issue is the spread of pathogens, parasites and pollutants from fish farms into the marine environment. The solution is to remove fish farms from the ocean.

There is talk of “technological innovation” to protect wild salmon. Of course, DFO isn’t willing to admit that such technology does not exist—anywhere in the world. Norway, home of salmon farming, has been tinkering with a variety of ocean systems for 10 years now, and have failed to create anything that completely contains pollutants.

In exchange for experimenting with technology, the industry has many demands. Such as: 6 year licence durations, subsidies for new technology, and subsidies for technological failures resulting in the death of farmed salmon.

Predatory delay is a tactic we’ve seen in other industries. Everybody knows that environmental change is needed, but industry wants to delay the implementation of necessary changes so it can continue to profit from those very environmental harms.

The Department of Fisheries is legally obliged to implement the Precautionary Principle in order to protect and restore wild salmon. There are many stressors Canada can’t control. But any stress on those salmon that we do have control over needs to be managed.

As we’ve seen on the east coast of Vancouver Island, when fish farms are removed, wild salmon bounce back in astonishing abundance. What are we waiting for?

120 First Nations want fish farms out of BC waters, as do 75% of British Columbians. BC is now the only jurisdiction on the west coast of North America allowing fish farms in the ocean. The fact that the feds promised to remove salmon farms is a good first step. But now it’s up to us as citizens to create the pressure needed to force our governments to stand up to this polluting industry.



The global salmon farming industry claims to be feeding the world. Is that really true? Well, no. Salmon farming is about creating protein by stealing it from others.

First of all, salmon are carnivores, unlike other farmed animals. So salmon have to be fed protein—twice the protein they produce!

Where does this protein come from? Much of it is small fish which used to be eaten by artisanal fishers off the west coasts of Africa and South America. Thus, salmon farming creates food insecurity.

Meanwhile, here in BC, First Nations up and down the coast, including all along the Fraser River, have watched their wild salmon runs collapse. The storehouses are empty, and elders miss the healthy natural food which has sustained their cultures for millennia.

As ‘N̓amgis Chief Kwakwabalas (Ernest Alfred) said, “It is vital to our culture ... and that’s a big part of the fish. Lots of people working together ... that’s part of the culture around the salmon. We need healthy salmon if we’re going to have a healthy community.”

So no, salmon farming does not feed the world. Nutrient-rich fish are diverted from feeding people, to create a luxury product for wealthy markets. What can you do about this? Always ask if the salmon you’re about to consume is wild or farmed, and refuse to purchase farmed salmon!



‘N̓amgis Chief Kwakwabalas (Ernest Alfred). Jérémy Mathieu photo

FIRST NATIONS LEADING THE WAY

Although the federal government promised to remove salmon farms from BC waters, it is First Nations who are leading the way.

The Broughton Area Nations successfully removed 17 feedlots from their territories. The shishalh nation asked Greig Seafoods to remove all 8 farms from their waters. And the First Nations of the Discovery Islands asked former Minister Bernadette Jordan to remove 15 facilities from their waters, which she did in 2020.

These Nations are not alone. 120 other First Nations also want these polluting feedlots removed from BC waters, in order to protect wild salmon.

This is about aboriginal fishing rights. Governments do not have the power to interfere unilaterally with existing aboriginal rights—including activities such as fishing. Which they would be doing if they do not remove salmon farms from BC waters by 2025 as promised, because salmon farms are pushing wild salmon toward extinction.

But what about Indigenous rights and title? ‘N̓amgis Chief Homiskanis (Don Svanvik) said it best at Tin Wis last fall: “You don’t have the right to extinct something ... I’ll die on the hill with you defending your rights and title ... but you don’t have the right to kill our fish ... because there’s no way you can stop the fish from going into other territories ... and there’s no way you’re going to stop the disease and lice from coming out of there ... so we all have to lock arms and keep the fight going with everybody to get the fish farms out”.