



12 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

Printed on 10% recycled fibre | ON THE COVER: **SEA OTTER** || Jérémy 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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FREE! TAKE ONE & SHARE IT

Clayoquot Action

CONSERVATION NEWS
SUMMER 2025



PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE



KEEP IT WILD!

FOR A DEEPER DIVE:



<https://clayoquotaction.org/articles/>

Wild salmon are a keystone species in west coast ecosystems. They feed the bears, eagles and orcas, and have sustained Indigenous cultures for millennia. They also provide the nitrogen missing in coastal soils, which is why ancestral cedars grow to such monumental size on Vancouver Island!

Salmon farming began in Norway in the 1970s. The industry grew rapidly, and the environmental impacts soon became apparent. As the Norwegian government legislated protections for wild salmon, the companies began to invest their profits, expanding the Atlantic salmon farming industry in places with weaker regulations, as far away as Chile and Canada. At first, salmon farming was welcomed on the west coast as a generator of rural jobs. But the jobs flat-lined as industry mechanized. And the environmental impacts began to decimate BC wild salmon populations, which are now at all-time historic lows. In 2024, only one Chinook salmon returned to spawn in the Upper Kennedy River on the highway to Tofino. This is a pathway to extinction...

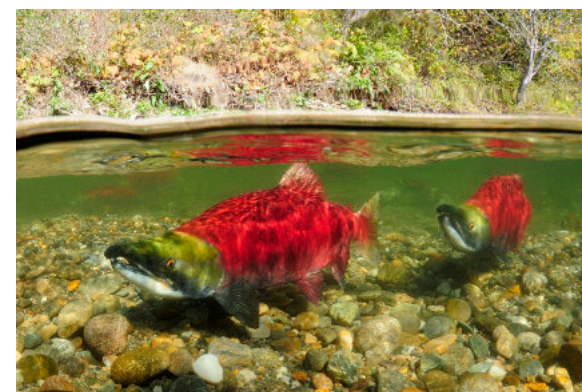
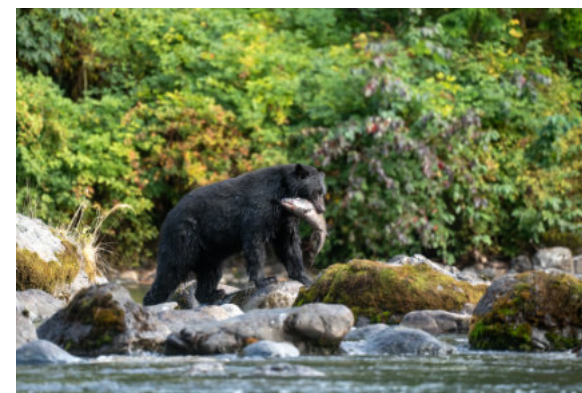
Open-net pen salmon farms allow for the free flow of pathogens, parasites, poop and uneaten feed into the marine environment. The pathogens are contained in the liquid waste.

Because fish breathe by passing water over their gills, it is dead-easy for wild fish to pick up viral particles as they swim by. It's hard to monitor the effects, because a sick fish will quickly get eaten by predators. But we see the result—less and less wild fish returning to spawn each fall in their natal streams. First Nations were the first to oppose the industry. Then, in 2017 Kwakwaka'wakw

(Chief Ernest Alfred, traditional leader of the 'Namgis First Nation) occupied the Swanson Island fish farm near his home in Alert Bay. The BC government met with leadership and the companies, and a phase-out began which saw 17 fish farms removed from the Broughton Archipelago. Other Nations joined in, and to date 40% of BC salmon farms have been removed from the BC coast. And those Nations are being richly rewarded with abundant returns of Pink and Chum salmon!

In 2024 the federal government announced a ban on open-net pen salmon farms, to take effect in 2029. To this end they have established a Transition Task Force. At this writing, it looks like the Task Force is considering experimental in-water fish farms, so-called Closed Containment Systems (CCS). Norwegian giant Cermaq towed their CCS into the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region back in 2020. Clayoquot Action sent a dive team down to see what was coming out the bottom. What they saw shocked them—a river of feces and feed pellets flowing out the bottom. This dive resulted in the creation of our documentary film, *Salmon Secrets*, which is winning awards around the world!

Although Norway has been incentivizing these technologies for over a decade, no-one has come up with a technology that can protect wild salmon. The only way for this industry to move forward is to abandon their obsolete technology from the 1970s, and move onto land. This is happening around the world. If Canada doesn't embrace these new technologies, we will not only lose our wild salmon forever, we risk losing out on economic opportunities.



SALMON SECRETS

Salmon Secrets is an award-winning documentary film made by Clayoquot Action, right here in Tofino. Full of stunning whale and wildlife footage, it describes the important ecological and cultural roles played by wild salmon, the decline of wild salmon, and the fight to protect wild salmon by removing all salmon farms from the ocean. Featuring interviews with Tla-o-qui-aht master carver Joe Martin, Ahousaht tourism operator Skookum John, and Clayoquot Action co-founder Dan Lewis. Also featuring marine biologist and best-selling author Alexandra Morton, and traditional 'Namgis Chief Ernest Alfred, who document the successful resurgence of salmon after the removal of fish farms from the Broughton Area.

"I watched Salmon Secrets the other day, and just wanted to say it's fantastic. Gorgeous, thoughtful shots, good pacing and narrative arc, generous interviews. I teared up a little once or twice, which is rare for me. It's an excellent film."

—Tom, Ontario

Free Screenings Weekly in July & August
Wednesdays at 8pm
Clayoquot Community Theatre