



Defamation Case Against Friends of Clayoquot Employee Adjourned Did they or did they not use antibiotics on their fish? This is one of the questions?

Press release

For Immediate Release

June 6, 2006

Tofino, BC-The Friends of Clayoquot Sound are supporting former employee Don Staniford as he weathers a defamation suit for statements he made in a June 2005 press release regarding Creative Salmon's use of antibiotics. The case began this week but has been adjourned until later this fall at Creative's request.

Creative sought the adjournment after the Trial Judge agreed to Staniford's lawyer's request to allow an amendment to the pleadings. Among the amendments the Judge accepted is that Don Staniford can argue that Creative Salmon was partly responsible if there were problems in the press release since Creative had deliberately refused to return requests for clarification by FOCS for several months. Creative took offence to language used in the FOCS release that strongly implied they were not telling the truth when they advertised themselves as being antibiotic free.

In June 2005, FOCS received government documentation from the Ministry of the Environment showing that Creative Salmon Farms had used 240kg of antibiotics on their fish. FOCS issued a press release on this matter challenging Creative Salmon Farms claims to be organic and antibiotic free. "Based on the information we had and claims that Creative Salmon Farms had been making, we believed our comments to be fair and accurate," says Dom Repta, Markets Campaigner for Friends of Clayoquot Sound.

The Friends of Clayoquot Sound are opposed to open net cage salmon farms in Clayoquot Sound but do want to see closed containment technology adopted. "Open net cage salmon farms continue to pose a risk to the marine environment because of indiscriminate waste disposal, the risks of escaped farmed salmon and the spread of disease and parasites to wild salmon," says Dom Repta. "Claiming to be "organic" does not address environmental impacts caused by open net cage salmon farms, and this should be even more apparent by the 12 sea lions that were killed in Creative Salmon Farm predator nets just a month ago," says Dom Repta.

The Friends of Clayoquot Sound are determined not to let this case silence them on the environmental impacts of the salmon farming companies operating in Clayoquot Sound. "We searched out evidence of antibiotic use that Creative Salmon would not volunteer and we shone a light on it. We stand behind that information and it is our duty and mandate to let the public know of practices that threaten Clayoquot's environment," says Valerie Langer, Director, Friends of Clayoquot Sound.



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FOCS, its employees and supporters envision a future full of wild fish and old growth forests. We need your help to make sure a corporation doesn't paralyze the ability of environmentalists to work for conservation. We're feeling it and we need your help.

Please donate towards our Legal Defence Fund - because you love the wild ocean and you know it needs defenders. You can send donations marked as FOCS Legal Defence Fund to Box 489, 331 Neill St, Tofino BC, V0R 2Z0 or donate online at www.focs.ca If you donate online, please put FOCS Legal Defence Fund in the "in tribute" section.