



# Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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## Exploratory Drilling for Copper on Catface Mountain



Catface Mountain viewed from Tofino waterfront.

**V**ANCOUVER-BASED SELKIRK METALS CORPORATION HAS APPLIED TO BEGIN EXPLORATORY DRILLING FOR COPPER ON CATFACE MOUNTAIN, AFTER SIGNING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE AHOUSAHT BAND COUNCIL IN MID-MARCH. CATFACE MOUNTAIN LIES IN THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF AHOUSAHT FIRST NATION, 3 KM FROM THE VILLAGE OF AHOUSAHT.

Drilling and other tests would determine whether it's economically feasible to develop the low-grade copper-molybdenum deposit on Catface into a huge open-pit mine. The mine would be one of the biggest industrial projects on Vancouver Island and, ironically, would be located in the heart of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

... continued on next page.



Photo: Adrian Dorst

## The Fight for Clayoquot Sound's Intact Valleys

Clayoquot River Valley. See centre spread, page 4.

Photo: Kevin Bruce

## Ancient Forest Friendly™ Paper is a Winner

For three years running, Markets Initiative executive director, Nicole Rycroft, has been named by Canada's publishing industry magazine, *Quill & Quire*, as one of the 30 most influential people in the Canadian publishing industry.

According to the magazine, Nicole, a former director of Friends of Clayoquot Sound, "lobbies publishers to print their titles on Ancient Forest Friendly paper – and she's helped transform Canada into a world leader in that regard".

Paper designated by Markets Initiative as Ancient Forest Friendly™ means that no ancient or endangered forests were cut to produce it. In Canada, this logo generally signifies that paper is 100% post-consumer recycled and chlorine free. Markets Initiative, which started in a small office at Friends of Clayoquot Sound in Tofino, now has offices in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto and works with book, magazine, and newspaper publishers.

*Quill & Quire* states that Nicole "may not be directly influencing what we read, but no one person has had more of an impact on what we read it on". Congratulations to Nicole and the Markets Initiative team!

Kevin Bruce

*Exploratory Drilling on Catface Mountain, continued from cover.*

A consultant's report prepared for the company reveals the immense scale of operations that would be required – removing the top third or more of Catface Mountain, including its old growth forest; burying valleys and lowlands below the mountain with waste rock rubble and a toxic tailings pond; and building an ore-processing plant and deepwater port. Erosion and runoff from an open pit mine, possible sulphuric acid drainage, heavy metal leaching into surrounding salmon streams, overflow of the tailings dam due to 3-plus metres of annual rainfall, and shipping through the pristine waters of Clayoquot Sound are other aspects of the environmental degradation that would occur.

The consultant's report lists local opposition as the number one threat to the venture, and they're right about that! There will be massive opposition from environmental groups, from local to international, and from the town of Tofino, known worldwide for its scenery and wilderness tourism opportunities. Tofino is located 13 km south of Catface and looks out onto the mountain.

Ahousahts themselves are deeply divided on the issue. Some are opposed, worried about environmental degradation and disturbance to their culturally important mountain. Others are in favour, encouraged by the prospect of jobs and economic benefits to their remote, poverty-stricken community that has 65% unemployment. The previous mining company tried unsuccessfully for six years to negotiate an exploration protocol with Ahousaht. In fall 2006, hereditary chiefs and band members said "no". However, in January 2008 band members voted in favour of the memorandum, although hereditary chiefs remain opposed.

A band councillor explained the council felt compelled to sign the exploration

memorandum because it will provide jobs and economic opportunities for Ahousaht, as well as a signing bonus and annual payments. If exploration shows a profitable mine can be developed, a band referendum and a new agreement would be required for actual mining to proceed.

Some years of exploratory drilling would be required before Selkirk would be ready to apply for a mine. We believe that concerted opposition, combined with development of alternative economic opportunities for Ahousaht, will succeed in averting a disastrous mine on Catface Mountain.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

### STOP EXPLORATORY DRILLING ON CATFACE MOUNTAIN!

Tell the BC government you do not want exploratory drilling, or a copper mine, on Catface Mountain. Tell the government to DENY Selkirk Metals' application for exploratory drilling on Catface.

Write to:

**Premier Gordon Campbell**  
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt,  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1  
premier@gov.bc.ca

Tel: 250-387-1715 Fax: 250-387-0087

Copy your letter to:

**Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources**  
PO Box 9060, Stn Prov Govt,  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E3  
empr.minister@gov.bc.ca

Tel: 250-387-5896 Fax: 250-356-2965

**Barry Penner, Minister of Environment**  
PO Box 9047, Stn Prov Govt,  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2  
env.minister@gov.bc.ca

Tel: 250-387-1187 Fax: 250-387-1356

## Salmon Farm Moratorium for BC North Coast

**O**n March 27th, the BC government announced a moratorium on open net-cage salmon farming along the north coast of BC (north of Klemtu).



The good news that the north coast will remain fish-farm-free was offset by the approval of two net-cage salmon farms in southern BC, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The new sites are Creative Salmon's Warne Island in Clayoquot Sound, and Grieg's North Muchalat in Nootka Sound.

The Warne Island site in Clayoquot Sound replaces another of Creative Salmon's sites that's not usable because it has insufficient current to "flush out" the wastes released into the ocean by a net-cage fish farm.

The moratorium will be in place while the government, in collaboration with First Nations, examines "new management options for aquaculture practices that protect the health of wild salmon".

So far, the government has refused to commit to switching open net-cage salmon farms into closed containment tanks, a move that would eliminate or reduce most of the environmental problems associated with salmon farming. Transition to closed containment was a key recommendation made a year ago by the BC Legislature's Special Committee on Sustainable Aquaculture.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound, in conjunction with other member groups of the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR), urge the government to stop procrastinating and make closed containment part of the new aquaculture management strategy.

*Maryjka Mychajlowycz*



Sea kayaking in Clayoquot Sound.

## What is Ecotourism?

**A**uthentic ecotourism is the choice of knowledgeable travelers who wish to assure that their presence will not contribute harm to wild places, especially those already degraded. Authentic ecotourism providers are those whose practices attempt to ensure that negative impacts do not occur. Ecotourism then, reflects a dual purpose: sustainable, conservation-based business practices and responsible travel.

Ecotourism is frequently confused with any type of tourism activity that occurs outdoors. While experts and knowledgeable people know the difference, most tourists and operators don't. Operators who do know the difference, and package themselves as ecotourist providers without following ecotourism guidelines, are indulging in opportunistic "greenwash".

What ecotourism is cannot be explained in a one or two-line definition. There are, however, a set of agreed upon principles. This is what the International Ecotourism Society says:

Ecotourism is a segment of sustainable tourism that specifically offers experiences that enable visitors to discover natural areas while preserving their integrity, and enables visitors to understand, through interpretation and

education, the natural and cultural sense of place, thereby fostering respect toward the environment. Those who implement and participate in ecotourism activities should follow the following principles:

- minimize impact upon the environment
- provide positive experiences for both the visitors and hosts
- build environmental and cultural awareness and respect through education
- provide direct financial benefits for conservation
- do not exceed the carrying capacity of the area or ecosystem
- provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people
- raise sensitivity to host countries' political, environmental and social climate
- support international human rights and labour agreements.

Responsible ecotourism, therefore, includes programs that minimize the adverse effects of traditional tourism and emphasize education and conservation. Some say that true ecotourism guarantees that the client will learn about the ecosystem being visited.

*Shirley Langer*

## Save Paper

### Save Forests

Globally, paper production is responsible for 44% of the trees cut down, and 71% of those trees come from ecologically valuable, biologically diverse forests rather than from "tree farms".

Recycling paper is key to saving forests, but not all recycled paper is created equal. There is "recycled" and "post-consumer recycled" paper – the difference is huge.

Post-consumer paper is used material that went to a recycling depot instead of a landfill and then was processed back into another paper product. The other kind of recycled, also called "pre-consumer", is actually virgin paper that never left the mill. It's composed of cuttings and leftovers that were collected from paper production and reprocessed. In reality it is still virgin paper and can deceive people who think they are buying real "recycled" paper.

When purchasing paper, look for post-consumer recycled content, with 100% post-consumer being the best choice.

#### Other ways to save paper:

- reduce, reuse, recycle
- "print preview" your documents before printing and print on both sides of a page
- when you shop, let businesses know that you want less packaging.

#### Learn more at:

[www.marketsinitiative.org](http://www.marketsinitiative.org)  
[www.shrinkpaper.org](http://www.shrinkpaper.org)  
[www.forestethics.org](http://www.forestethics.org)

*Kevin Bruce*

# Pristine Watersheds in Clayoquot Sound | Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations Central Region Territory

Photo: Adrian Dorst



## The Fight for Clayoquot Sound's Intact Valleys

When one flies over Vancouver Island, Clayoquot Sound stands out as an oasis of green in a sea of clearcuts. That's because Clayoquot contains the largest area of ancient temperate rainforest on Vancouver Island, an island which is three quarters logged.

The unfragmented core of Clayoquot Sound's old growth forest is composed of "intact" or "pristine" wilderness valleys, untouched by logging, roads or other development. These remote valleys are blueprints of nature, where life has evolved undisturbed for at least 10,000 years, since the retreat of glaciers. They are magnificent, biologically rich places with towering ancient trees, where wolves, cougars, bears, elk and other wildlife roam as they have for millennia.

Intact temperate rainforest watersheds are globally rare and earned Clayoquot Sound its UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation (which, ironically, is purely symbolic and offers no protection). Regionally, Clayoquot contains the only cluster of intact valleys left on Vancouver Island, where 90% of valley bottoms have been logged. For these reasons, scientists and environmental groups consider Clayoquot's pristine watersheds as conservation priorities.

Only three of the Sound's intact valleys are completely protected – Megin, Watta and Moyeha in Strathcona Provincial Park. About a third of Clayoquot River is also protected in provincial parks. Incredibly, the remaining intact valleys are in timber tenures and are open for logging (shown in dark grey on map).

Although cutting of old growth forest continues in areas of Clayoquot Sound already fragmented by logging, the good news is that the intact valleys remain untouched. Credit for this rests largely with Friends of Clayoquot Sound and allied environmental groups, because we have collectively drawn our "line in the sand" at these valleys. Since 1996, we have successfully negotiated and pressured logging companies and the province to stay out of pristine watersheds. Since 2004 alone, we have secured logging deferrals for five intact valleys and stopped road building at the edge of another valley.

Currently, we are facing down Ma-Mook/Coulson over intact Hesquiatic Point Creek (#3 on map), where three logging blocks with roads are scheduled for this

year. Road building heading toward the valley began in early April.

The fight over Clayoquot's timber-rich and ecologically precious intact valleys is coming to an inevitable head. Both logging companies here, Iisaak and Ma-Mook/Coulson, have stated that after 2009 they will run out of wood to cut in the fragmented areas and will have to log in the intact areas in order to maintain their provincially mandated levels of cut.

Clearly, provincial involvement will be required to avoid conflict and to reach a conservation solution that is acceptable to local First Nations, who own both logging companies here, as well as to environmental organizations and the BC public. We call on the BC government to legislate protection for Clayoquot Sound's intact

WATERSHEDS OVER 1000 HECTARES	
1. Uccasnek	5,958
2. Esauwaho Creek	5,920
3. Hesquiatic Point Creek	5,770
4. Satchie Creek	2,980
5. Unnamed	2,510
6. Sydney River	2,500
7. Parks Lake Creek	2,300
8. Eastern Lake	1,720
9. Moki River	1,650
10. Watta Creek	1,400
11. Unnamed	1,400
12. Alou River	1,380
13. Wye River	1,300
14. Lower Kennedy River	1,240
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Photo: Diego Garcia



**PHOTOS:**  
 Top left: Sydney Valley (#6 on map). Top right: Old growth forest at Sulphur Pass (#11). At left: Waterfalls in Satchie Valley (#4). Below: Ancient cedars at Hesquiatic Lake Creek (#5).

Photo: Maryjka Mychajlowycz

areas and to provide funding and resources to develop non-destructive economic alternatives for First Nations. Creating 'green' economic opportunities will also provide Ahousaht First Nation with better options than to mine Catface Mountain for copper (see front page article).

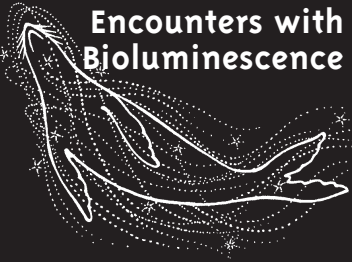
Maryjka Mychajlowycz

**Thanks! to ForestEthics, Greenpeace, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club BC, and the Wilderness Committee for standing strong with us to protect Clayoquot Sound's intact valleys.**

Photo: Diego Garcia



## Encounters with Bioluminescence



Bioluminescence is, quite literally, living light. Dinoflagellates, single-celled plant-like organisms living in the ocean, produce white-green flashes and fluorescent submarine sparks through a chemical reaction when agitated.

These light effects are pure magic, whether streaming from my paddle with every stroke, or causing swimming fish to glow. The waves at Long Beach can be radiantly otherworldly on a summer evening. On a dark night, I have looked down from the loft window of my floathome in Clayoquot Sound and watched a river otter torpedo around the bay, lit up like a ghost.

A friend visited one night, to kayak around the floathouse under the stars. The air was still, trillions of stars dominating the world. From my hand-made hot tub on the deck, soaking away the day's weariness, I became aware that she was speaking, but not to me.

"Hello sweetie, how are you? What an amazing lightshow you're giving us!" "What's going on?" I called. "It's a little seal, look! Surrounded by bioluminescence! It's a darting white cloud that keeps circling the kayak!" I had never heard her so excited. "Come in closer," I said.

She paddled gently up to the float. A frisky aura, or seal in photographic negative, scooted around her boat. My mind seemed to make a quick decision all by itself. I clambered out of the tub and lowered myself into the cold sea.

I did not have to wait long for the seal to come to me. Its streamlined form circled and swished directly beneath me, just out of reach of my stretching toes. After a few moments, I felt contact. A quick, careful flipper grazed my heel.

There are many memorable encounters with "biolum" to be had, and it is but one of the natural wonders of Clayoquot Sound.

*Chris Lowther*

# Sea Lice from Salmon Farms Endanger Wild Salmon

In recent years there have been dramatic declines in Clayoquot Sound's wild salmon. Over-fishing, destruction of habitat and global warming have been implicated as possible causes.

Photo: Alexandra Morton



Wild pink salmon fry with two lice.

Sea lice from open net-cage salmon farms can also negatively impact wild salmon. Recent peer-reviewed research from the Broughton Archipelago (off the northeast coast of Vancouver Island) suggests that sea lice from open net-pen salmon farms can cause fatal outbreaks on wild juvenile salmon during their spring out-migration. Under natural conditions, wild salmon fry swimming out to sea from their birth streams do not encounter sea lice until they are large enough to have some resistance to these marine parasites. However, if wild fry have to migrate past fish farm nets teeming with farmed salmon infected with sea lice, the vulnerable fry can contract sea lice and die.

This past February, prompted by a report of sea lice infestation on farmed salmon at Mainstream's Dixon Bay farm, Friends of Clayoquot Sound and two other groups conducted plankton tows at 9 salmon farm and 3 non-farm sites in Clayoquot Sound.

We found elevated levels of sea lice larvae in the water column (0.28 larvae per cubic metre of water) near the Dixon Bay farm, compared to the control sites. The maximum number of lice larvae per volume of all controls was 0.014 larvae per cubic metre of water. Although our sample size was too small to draw any definite conclusions, the high number of sea lice larvae found in the ocean near the Dixon Bay farm is reason for concern in Clayoquot Sound, a region previously claimed as "sea lice free".

Megin River salmon stocks are already dangerously low. We are concerned they could be pushed to a point of no recovery by sea lice around the Dixon Bay farm infecting Megin salmon fry shortly after they enter the sea. Experiments have shown that Pink and Chum salmon fry can die when infected with a single mature sea louse. Data suggest that up to 95% of migrating juvenile salmon can be infected and that continued sea lice outbreaks, year after year, can also contribute to the decline of salmon runs in areas with high densities of salmon farms.

Sea lice outbreaks on salmon farms during the spring out-migration of wild salmon are typically dealt with by giving the farmed fish feed coated with the pesticide Slice®. This chemical ultimately ends up in the ocean and its effects on a number of other marine organisms are unknown. Adding chemicals to the environment to "band-aid" a problem is not the answer!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound advocate that open net-pen salmon farms be switched to closed containment tanks which would place a physical barrier between farmed and wild salmon. If developed correctly, this technology would potentially eliminate the sea lice problem and many other negative ecological impacts associated with open net-cage fish farming in BC.

*Mark Spoljaric*

# Haa'uukmin (Kennedy) Tribal Park in Clayoquot Sound

Photo: Adrian Darst



## Stubbs Island Protected

93 acres of the 133-acre Stubb's Island (also known as Clayoquot Island) in Clayoquot Sound are now protected after the island's owner registered a covenant with The Land Conservancy under the federal Ecological Gifts Program.

The island, which lies in Tofino harbour, was the first location of European settlement here. It had long been used by First Nations, and was also the site of a Japanese village prior to World War II. There are few signs of those days left on the island. It has become a wildlife refuge for occasional bears, cougars, and wolves and its location near the entrance of Clayoquot Sound makes it an important stopover for migrating birds.

The conservation covenant ensures the old growth forest, historic Japanese village site, and valuable shoreline for bird habitat on Stubb's Island will remain undisturbed.

Kevin Bruce

**T**la-o-qui-aht First Nation, under the direction of their hereditary chiefs and with start-up funding from several sources, are working on an exciting initiative – to make the Kennedy watershed in their traditional territory a tribal park.

At 550 square km, the Kennedy watershed is the largest in Clayoquot Sound and includes the Kennedy and Clayoquot Rivers, both flowing into Kennedy Lake. Driving to Tofino, where Highway 4 rises into mountains at Sutton Pass, 50 km west of Port Alberni is where you enter Clayoquot Sound and the Upper Kennedy Valley. The highway then follows the Kennedy River and the shore of Kennedy Lake.

Tla-o-qui-aht have a stewardship vision for Haa'uukmin Tribal Park, which today contains a mixture of pristine wilderness – the intact forested valleys of Upper Kennedy and Clayoquot Rivers – and extensive logged areas – 60% of the ancient forest around Kennedy Lake has been clearcut and replaced by second growth plantations.

“Haa'uukmin” means “feast bowl”, referring to the plentiful resources that the Kennedy watershed traditionally provided, such as salmon, game, edible plants, clean water and monumental cedar trees. The tribal park is meant to restore and conserve the damaged watershed and to establish sustainable resource use into the future, melding modern knowledge and traditional teachings. Tla-o-qui-aht describe the tribal park as a way of sharing their traditional homeland with others, while recognizing the inherent right of Tla-o-qui-aht to manage and monitor their

territories for sustainable livelihoods.

A tribal park watershed management plan is being developed which will establish zones and policies for what activities can occur in each zone. For example, intact old-growth forest and culturally significant areas will be protected from industrial activity, while single-tree and “corridor” logging, leaving a continuous forest canopy, will be permitted in other areas. Salmon streams degraded by logging will be prioritized for restoration.

Ecotourism projects, education programs, restorative justice opportunities, and “run-of-river” hydro power projects are some of the activities that Tla-o-qui-aht plan to undertake on their own, or in partnership with others.

It is still unclear how the tribal park, which contains various existing land uses and jurisdictions (Tree Farm Licences, provincial parks, highway, etc), will achieve legal authority to manage and monitor resource uses and users. Tla-o-qui-aht believe this challenge can be met by working together, and hence they invite all stakeholders to participate in planning.

By late 2009, Tla-o-qui-aht plan to have the tribal park operating, with administration and policies in place, as well as a business plan to become financially self-sufficient within five years.

We congratulate Tla-o-qui-aht on their visionary planning and look forward to Haa'uukmin Tribal Park becoming a reality.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz



# Support the Wild!

FRIENDS OF CLAYOQUOT SOUND is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforests and marine ecosystems of Clayoquot Sound. We are part of an international movement calling for a shift of consciousness in the way humans relate to the Earth. We need your support to continue to educate, and to inspire people to action. Please send in your donation today to help protect one of the most spectacular places on earth. Visit our website to find more ways to help.

## Send your donation to:

**Friends of Clayoquot Sound**  
Box 489, Tofino, B.C., Canada V0R 2Z0

Ph: 250-725-4218 Fax: 250-725-2527 Email: [info@focs.ca](mailto:info@focs.ca)

Office: 331 Neill St., Tofino Check out our website: [www.focs.ca](http://www.focs.ca)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Total Donation: \$25  \$40  \$100  Other  \_\_\_\_\_

Become a member of our Protector's Circle with your gift of \$500 or more.

*All members receive the informative Friends of Clayoquot newsletter hot off the press!*

Visa or  Mastercard

\_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER / EXPIRY

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SIGNATURE DATE

Please charge my donation to my credit card noted above.

## Join our Wilderness Team!

*Your monthly donation will allow us to plan ahead more effectively and reduce administration costs.*

**To make monthly donations please fill in this section.**

I hereby authorize Friends of Clayoquot Sound to draw on my credit card as noted above, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ every month beginning\_\_\_\_\_.

I (we) hereby authorize Friends of Clayoquot Sound to draw on my (our) chequing account a debit in electronic form in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ every month beginning\_\_\_\_\_.

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Please include a sample cheque marked VOID for banking information purposes.

## JUST A FEW WORDS IN YOUR WILL. . .

*Create a living legacy to help ensure the forests and waters of Clayoquot Sound remain forever wild and protected.*

For information about making a gift in your will to Friends of Clayoquot Sound, please contact:

Kevin Bruce  
Friends of Clayoquot Sound  
Box 489, Tofino, BC, V0R 2Z0  
250-725-4218  
[kevin@focs.ca](mailto:kevin@focs.ca)



FOCS banner at Earth Weekend in Tofino.



Photo: Lyne Des Rosiers

