



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

www.focs.ca

PHONE: 250-725-4218

FAX: 250-725-2527

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FROM TOFINO TO TOKYO

First Nations Activists Target Interfor



Photo: Dan Lewis

November 2003: Dan Lewis, Joe Martin and I put on suits and ties as representatives of the Friends of Clayoquot Sound in the dazzling city of Tokyo, where we attended meetings with various Japanese customers of International Forest Products (Interfor).

Joe and I are members of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, and chose to participate in this campaign because of our belief in our cultural teachings. We are from the Wolf Clan, whose responsibility it is to uphold the laws of our land. The first law we learn as human beings

is Respect - for all life. Interfor has been violating this law. They continue to log in the ancient temperate rainforest in a way that's ecologically unsustainable and socially unethical.

Interfor's forest development plan for 2002-2012 in Clayoquot Sound is very aggressive. They want to increase the rate of cut and log in areas of cultural significance. In July of 2003, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations issued Interfor an eviction notice, ordering them to cease all operations in our territory immediately.

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FARMED SALMON: TO BE IS TO PCB Study Finds Significantly Higher Contaminant Levels in Farmed Salmon than Wild Salmon

Is it farmed or wild?" When ordering salmon, this simple question is an easy line of defense if trying to avoid a contaminated meal. New research published in *Science*, a leading international scientific journal, found significantly higher contaminant levels in farmed salmon than wild salmon.

... continued on page 3

Continued from cover story.



In our meetings with executives of Japanese companies, we aimed to educate these consumers about the effects they are having on the environment through their buying of Interfor products. We asked them to avoid purchasing from Interfor, and to consider switching to ecologically sensitive wood products. Many of the businessmen and women we met with agreed to communicate our concerns to others and to keep an open dialogue with us regarding Interfor.

It was often very hard to tell what the Japanese executives were thinking during our meetings with them. They seemed to have the most impenetrable poker faces, sometimes even seeming hostile to our message. You could never tell. After one such meeting, which felt most discouraging, we were escorted by our hosts to the elevators as usual. Suddenly, one of the most serious of the poker faces we had encountered thus far looked at me pointedly and blurted, "Gambate Kudasai!", meaning, "Keep up the struggle, please!"

We bowed back and forth very formally until the elevator doors were shut, then broke out into tearful smiles. I realized how important it is for us to continue visiting Japan with this message, to keep it in the forefront of their minds. Life in Tokyo is incredibly different from life here in Tofino, but as a Nuu-chah-nulth saying goes: Hee-shook-eesh-Tsawalk, or, "Everything is one"....

Chuu!

Gisele Martin
owns Tlaook Cultural Adventures
www.tlaook.com

Join the International Movement to Save Ancient Forests!

The fourth sojourn of the Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS) in Japan was a huge success thanks to the impassioned efforts of Gisele Martin, Joseph Martin, Dan Lewis and others (below). Market-based campaigning has proven to be one of the most effective tools in the fight against corporate greed and irresponsibility. The reason for its effectiveness is simple: campaigners, like Gisele, Joe and Dan, are purveyors of truth - and the truth can be damaging to businesses that have something to hide.

What does International Forest Products (Interfor) have to hide? Let's see...

Interfor's social/environmental portfolio in BC includes:

- 1) Having been issued eviction notices by both Tla-o-qui-aht and Nuxalk First Nations for logging sacred sites and failing to respect traditional rights.
- 2) Logging within a stone's throw of the second-most threatened park in Canada, Pacific Rim National Park in Clayoquot Sound.
- 3) Destroying critical habitat of the only population of rare white Kermode (or Spirit) bears on Princess Royal Island.
- 4) Short-changing the public out of \$100 million in 2 years by "grade-setting" - a process of manipulating stumpage taxes paid to the government.
- 5) Closing 3 BC mills and then opening 2 in the US, eliminating 700 Canadian jobs.
- 6) Pushing for heavy pesticide use on vast tracts of rainforest wilderness along the central coast.
- 7) Ensuring that at least 95% of their total annual harvest is from ancient temperate rainforest and endangered species habitat in one of the rarest forest types on earth.
- 8) Destroying an area of rainforest equivalent to about 750 football fields in 2002, in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve.

Japanese corporate customers of Interfor, it turns out, would prefer to keep their association with Interfor as discrete as possible. For these reasons, they are willing to work with organizations like FOCS to pressure Interfor to shape up. But more encouragement from the public is badly needed.

TAKE ACTION!

Tell Itochu Corporation, a major Japanese corporate Interfor customer, that truth is power! Encourage them to stop purchasing Interfor products derived from ancient forests by writing to:

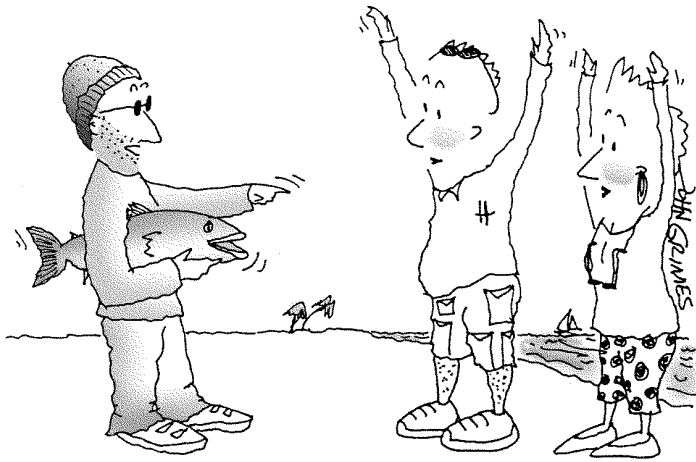
S. Suzuki,
Department of Global Environment,
Itochu Corporation,
5-1, Kita-Aoyama 2-chome,
Minato-ku, Tokyo, 107-8077, Japan
Or email him at: suzuki-sho@itochu.co.jp

Special thanks to Patagonia Japan for hosting, and Patagonia USA for funding the trip, and to our friends in Japan: Lima Kimura (FOCS Japan Coordinator), Kenichi Nakazawa (Friends of the Earth Japan), and Takahiro Kohama (JATAN).

Diego Garcia

FARMED SALMON: TO BE IS TO PCB

Study Finds Significantly Higher Contaminant Levels in Farmed Salmon than Wild Salmon



"GIMME YOUR MONEY OR I FILL YOU FULL OF FARMED SALMON."

Continued from cover.

This is the most comprehensive study to date on this issue, involving the analysis of approximately 2 metric tons of fish (about 700 samples) for organochlorine contaminants, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxins. It included whole farmed salmon from eight major producing regions around the world, and farmed salmon fillets from 16 large cities in North America and Europe, as well as 135 whole wild fish (including all five species of Pacific salmon). Salmon feed from Europe, North America, and South America was also analyzed.

A key recommendation made by the study is that farmed salmon should be consumed in limited amounts to avoid exceeding acceptable contaminant levels. The study advised that even one or two meals of farmed salmon per month could exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. The EPA guidelines were used to make this recommendation, as they are based on health risks only, as opposed to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines that incorporate other factors. In addition, the EPA guidelines have been updated within the last few years, whereas the FDA and Health Canada's standards were developed over 25 years ago.

The report indicates that such high contaminant levels in farmed salmon are likely a result of diet. PCBs are fat-soluble and collect in fat tissues of exposed organisms. Most farmed salmon are fed almost exclusively fishmeal and oil, therefore consuming and concentrating greater quantities of contaminants in their tissues. In contrast, wild salmon consume a wider variety of organisms, including krill, zooplankton, and small fish. Thus, they consume and retain fewer contaminants.

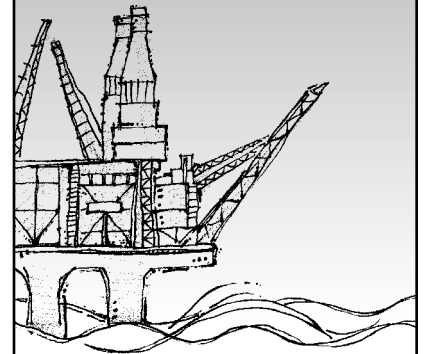
Since the publication of this research, industry has made the assertion that most of our food supply is contaminated, and that by removing the skin of farmed salmon one can avoid the majority of the PCBs. Not such a helpful suggestion, since such action also removes the highly coveted essential fatty-acids (Omega 3s) that give salmon their celebrity status as a healthy menu option. The fact also remains that a simple solution exists, since wild salmon are low in contaminants while maintaining all the positive health benefits. So, when asking whether the salmon is farmed or wild, you should also ask yourself "To PCB, or not to PCB?"

Leah Walberg

To learn more, check out the *Science* study posted on the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform website: www.farmedanddangerous.org



Offshore Oil & Gas



The BC Liberals are pushing to lift the 32-year moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling. The "Tofino Basin", off the west coast of Vancouver Island, is estimated to contain 9.4 trillion cubic feet of gas. If the moratorium is lifted, the Tofino, Queen Charlotte, Winona and Georgia Basins could all be affected. Even before oil extraction begins, seismic testing, part of the exploration of these basins, will have immense impact on marine animals and habitat in these areas.

To learn how to take action to keep our coasts oil free, please visit: www.oilfreecoast.org

A Ten Step Program to Environmental Degradation

Part One

The current BC Liberal government has made drastic reductions in environmental legislation, even though it promised it would "adopt a scientifically-based, principled approach to environmental management that ensures sustainability, accountability and responsibility" (BC Liberal platform, 2001). Based on the theme of BCFacts.org, we've decided to highlight offenses that relate to Clayoquot Sound. Part 1 covers forest offenses. Stay tuned for Part 2 on fish farming.

1 *Weakening of Public and Private Forest Protection*

The BC Liberals have re-written the Forest Practices Code, moving the legislation to a "results-based" system in which environmental standards, or "results", only need to be met if they do not decrease the timber supply. Logging companies can opt out of the "results" by proposing their own rules for soil and water quality, fish, wildlife, biodiversity and the size of cut blocks. Though fines have increased, they are rarely issued - a trend likely to continue considering the job cuts to government "watchdogs".

Meanwhile, Bill 21 was passed in 2002, stripping the ability of the Forest Land Reserve to protect BC's private forests from urban development. Then, in October 2003, tax incentives for landowners were introduced allowing them to opt into a private forest management system with minimal forest practices standards. Who gets to police these weak standards? The landowners.

2 *Working Forest Enabling Legislation*

In October 2003, despite public opposition, Bill 46 was passed, giving Premier Campbell's Cabinet the power to enact the Working Forest Legislation. The bill allows the Cabinet to establish 45 million hectares of public land as "working forests", and to grant licenses and leases to private interests on Crown land at any time without legislative debate or public review. Tofino's Chamber of Commerce and town council both asked that Clayoquot Sound be exempt from the Working Forest designation, but so far, there has been no movement towards an exemption. "No net loss" provisions are likely in the legislation, meaning if Cabinet approves withdrawal of land for new protected areas, equal amounts of land can be withdrawn from existing parks and protected areas for industrial forestry and other commercial use.

3 *Record Raw Log Exports*

In 2002, over 3.7 million cubic meters of wood - 100,000 truckloads of logs - were shipped out of BC unprocessed. The BC Liberals are allowing exports to the United States tariff-free, although finished wood

products face high duty fees, making value-added processing very difficult. BC already has one of the lowest jobs-to-logs ratios in the world and it's estimated that the exported logs could have resulted in 3,700 jobs if processed in BC. A further loss of jobs in the industry is inevitable with the BC government allowing forests to be over-cut each year by 20% or more.

4 *Logging in Parks*

In September 2003, the BC Liberals moved to allow logging in provincial parks, claiming it was necessary in the "War Against Pine Beetles". No evidence indicates that logging will effectively deal with large pine beetle outbreaks. The beetles are part of BC's forest ecosystems, and scientists attribute the increase in numbers to mismanagement of forests, which has weakened the defenses of overcrowded trees against the beetle infestations. Logging may actually worsen the situation by leaving large tracts of same-aged trees with low species diversity that are more vulnerable to infestation. The only thing that can really control the outbreak is successive cold winters, which will kill the larvae as they overwinter.

5 *BC Liberals Ignore Communities*

In June 2003, the government ignored a decision made by the Clayoquot Sound Central Region Board (CRB) to reject a 10-year forest development plan proposed by Interfor that includes 59 cutblocks and 110 kilometres of new logging roads. The CRB was established by an interim measures agreement between the Hereditary Chiefs of the Nuu-chah-nulth Central Region and the Province of British Columbia, with a mandate to conserve resources in Clayoquot Sound and to promote sustainability, economic diversification and ecological integrity. The CRB rejected the plan when Interfor refused to make changes the CRB proposed. The government dismissed the CRB's requests and approved the plan anyway.

Brenda Harriman

Herring Spring

Photo: Adrian Dorst



The eagles are the first sign. We start to pass them daily when we are going into, and out of, our village at Hot Springs Cove [in northern Clayoquot Sound]. They perch, proudly erect, near to the treetops on prominent branches.

We go north, not far, into Hesquiut Harbour and the eagles there sit upon the gravel shoreline itself. Anton's Spit is dotted with pure white, seemingly motionless heads.

The ducks - divers, scoters, saw-bills - have arrived in great numbers too. For the same reason as the eagles. To feed on the schools of herring that are moving into the inlets and the bays around Hot Springs and into Hesquiut Harbour.

Sea lions take up their posts, their massive bulks covering the rocks. They bark at us, like so many protesting dogs, when we get too close to them. When we continue our invasion into their territory, they dive to the sea and are suddenly transformed. From thick, slovenly creatures on a rock, they become graceful and quick, sleek marine gliders.

Seagulls, swarms of them, fly in huge oblong orbits. We can startle them, and for a few minutes the air will become white and grey with the pounding of gull wings. Then they will rest on the water, away from us, but near enough to the herrings, and they will wait.

Finally, the herrings spawn. All week long, they spawn. Life is everywhere around us. Spring and rebirth are one. All of nature appears to take part in the celebration. I cannot stop smiling.

We all begin to feed - people and animals alike. We have awakened, with the black bear who combs the harbour beaches, from a lengthy winter slumber.

Sea lions travel fast through the herring. Ducks dive and gulls scoop. The water where the herring

spawn is thickest is covered by small, white feathers - a blanket of lost plumage from the feeders.

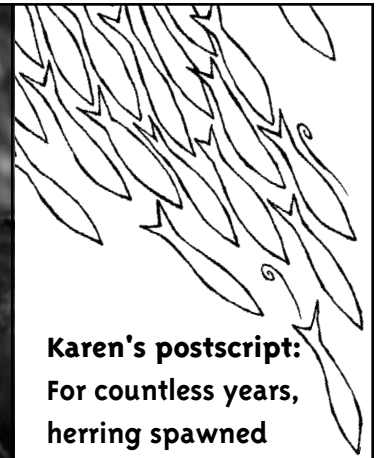
We peel our herring roe from the kelp and from the hemlock branches that we have set out, and we eat. And eat. It is although we have been starving for a long time, for just this food. We fill our freezer bags and our buckets of coarse salt, and we feel rich. The spawn in the bays, and along the beaches, looks as if it has not even been touched.

And in Hesquiut Harbour, the giants arrive. The grey whales. Each year, at this time, in this cradle of the seasons, they come to feed. To indulge themselves and to feast upon billions of herring eggs. We watch them - blowing, finning, digging in the ocean bottom, playing in the shadows; and we are awed.

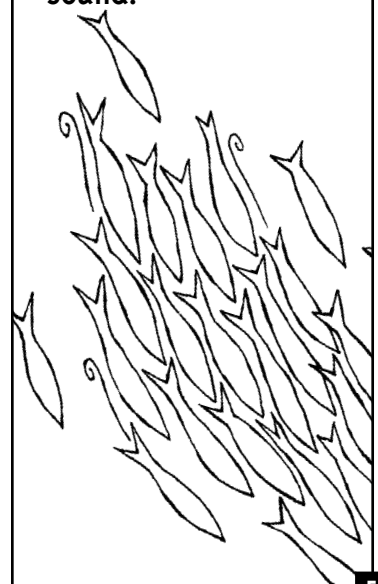
Most of the eagles do not stay here after the herrings have finished spawning. Some of the other birds leave as well. The sea lions remain for a more prolonged visit. The grey whales, when they have eaten for two or three weeks, continue their migration north.

We people, we stay. We live out the fresh season, the spring, and we are strengthened by the sustenance that we have been blessed with. We are privileged.

*Karen Charleson
is a member of the Hesquiaht
First Nation and co-runs
Hooksum Outdoor School in
Hesquiaht Harbour. A longer
version of her article first
appeared in the Vancouver
Sun April 10, 1993.*



Karen's postscript:
For countless years,
herring spawned
abundantly
throughout Clayoquot
Sound. Shorelines,
bays and inlets were
alive each early spring
with gulls, ducks and
sea mammals, as the
waters frothed white
with herring spawn.
Such largesse, after
three decades of
commercial
extraction, has all but
vanished. Today, a
mere fragment of
what once was - a few
thousand tons of
herring, mostly in a
few northern areas -
spawn in Clayoquot
Sound.



Making Waves on the West Coast and Beyond: The "Farmed and Dangerous" Markets Campaign

The "Farmed and Dangerous" markets campaign is a project of the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR), of which Friends of Clayoquot Sound are an active member. The basic goals of the campaign are to educate consumers and the market place about the environmental and human health risks associated with farmed salmon, and to generate support from restaurants and retailers to call for reform of the salmon farming industry.

The campaign has evolved over the past two years and is continually gaining momentum. To date, there are over one hundred restaurants and retailers signed onto the campaign pledging not to sell farmed salmon until the industry meets a series of reforms. International recognition has increased dramatically, so that retailers and restaurants are now contacting CAAR asking to be part of the solution. This support is a telling sign that the CAAR groups and supporters are making waves of change.

A great way to stay informed and keep up to date on CAAR activities is the website:

www.farmedanddangerous.org

A popular stop on the site is the activist centre where you can send a fax to retailers letting them know why you won't buy farmed salmon until the industry reforms. The faxes are directed to Safeway, Whole Foods, Loblaw's Company Limited and George Weston Limited. The website also features a growing list of restaurants and retailers supporting the Farmed



Bon appétit.

THINK TWICE ABOUT EATING FARMED SALMON

A portion of the *New York Times* ad.

and Dangerous campaign in various cities throughout North America.

Diversity is the spice of life and an essential part of an effective campaign. It was decided to utilize a paid advertisement in a major US newspaper in order to reach a wide variety of people. The paper of choice was the *L.A. Times*, since approximately 80% of BC farmed salmon is exported to California. Just days before printing, the *L.A. Times* decided that the ad did not fit in with their mandate.

Committed to this action, the markets team decided to go national. The *New York Times* guaranteed that they would run the CAAR ad in their national edition.

On October 28, 2003, the *New York Times* printed the half page ad informing consumers about the risks associated with farmed salmon, and listing five retailers that are still supporting the industry. The news did not stop there. The story about the *L.A. Times* and the ad itself sparked interest from the *Globe and Mail*. The western edition of the *Globe and Mail* printed the ad as part of a half page story on CAAR and farmed salmon. This started a media frenzy and eventually the story was covered by numerous national and local media outlets.

To view the *New York Times* ad please visit www.farmedanddangerous.org

Dom Repta

Steps you can take to keep consumer pressure on the salmon farming industry:

- Remember to ask if the salmon you're buying is farmed or wild.
- Support retailers and restaurants that don't carry netcage farmed salmon.

Many of these can be located on the CAAR website:
www.farmedanddangerous.org

- Educate retailers and restaurants that carry farmed salmon on the impacts of netcage salmon farming and why you don't buy it!

INTERNATIONAL *Day of Action*

Photo: Liam McNeil



With the buzz of the *New York Times* ad still ringing, the Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS) joined other concerned groups and citizens in an International Day of Action in early November. Cities that hosted actions were Victoria, Campbell River, Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. One of the larger actions took place in Vancouver at a Safeway store, where about 40 people gathered in front of the store with placards, banners and pamphlets. They urged consumers and Safeway to stop buying farmed salmon, as it is a threat to our health, our communities and our oceans. A banner was dropped from the roof of Safeway, informing consumers that farmed salmon contains antibiotics, colorants and PCBs. Joining FOCS was a good crowd of Western Canada Wilderness Committee volunteers and independent supporters. Everyone contributed to the positive mood and the action was well received.

In San Francisco, where our campaign is gathering momentum, CAAR members along with the Ruckus Society, Care 2, The Ocean Conservancy, Oceana, The Institute for Fisheries Resources, The Moore Foundation and some independent supporters gathered around Whole Foods Market - a "greener" market with over one hundred stores in North America. With placards, songs and high spirits, the San Francisco action was successful in educating consumers and local media.

As a result of the *New York Times* ad and the International Day of Action, 2003 ended on a very positive note, with increasing consumer awareness and growing retailer support. 2004 is looking to be even more successful. With our mandate to protect human health, coastal communities and the environment, there is no lack of motivation in the staff at FOCS and CAAR.

Dom Repta

Organic Farmed Salmon: A New Trend in Aquaculture

With European farmers marketing farmed salmon as "organic" under numerous certification standards, the BC market is looking to join the trend. Recent studies show that farmed salmon contain high levels of toxic PCBs; thus, industry and consumers are looking for alternatives. However, there is no evidence that organic farmed salmon is any safer than non-organic farmed salmon with regard to contaminant levels.

Currently, there are over 15 organic certification standards for aquaculture around the world, all with varying standards on what organic production should look like. The Aquaculture Development Branch, a segment of the provincial Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, has assigned the Certified Organic Association of British Columbia the task of devising an organic aquaculture standard.

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Lost Contracts *Spell New Opportunities for Alternatives*

The *New York Times* ad caused a jolt of consumer awareness about farmed salmon issues - so it is no surprise that the market place responded. In the wake of the ad, Whole Foods (a major natural foods chain in the United States) cancelled a contract for 200 metric tons of product from Creative Salmon, a Tofino-based salmon farming company.

This action is testament to the power of consumers as a force of change. Whole Foods likely cancelled their contract with Creative Salmon due to environmental pressure from their customers. Whole Foods, along with other major retailers, are actively seeking more environmentally friendly sources of salmon - so the challenge for BC salmon farmers is to invest in alternative technology and supply a product that is sustainable! Consumer demand for alternatives to conventional netcage salmon is on the rise, and perhaps this contract cancellation could be a wake-up call to the industry.

It would be advantageous for Creative Salmon, and other companies, to get on board and recognize this shift. In the past, Creative Salmon has taken initiative to improve its practices and reduce its impact on the environment. Unfortunately, no matter how diligent the farmer, inherent risks exist with open netcage farming. Closed containment systems with waste collection may significantly reduce these risks. We hope Creative goes for the challenge and takes the next big step forward.

Leah Walberg

One-third Full, or Two-thirds Empty?

From the Great Bear Rainforest to Clayoquot Sound



A recent and controversial agreement has recommended that one-third of British Columbia's Central Coast rainforests be protected. This agreement was reached among representatives of environmental organizations, labour groups, forest companies, tourism and communities. These diverse interests negotiated uses for the central portion of the vast region known as the Great Bear Rainforest, during a process called Central Coast Land and Resource Management Planning (CCLRMP). In late 2003, the CCLRMP table members submitted their recommendations to First Nations and the provincial government, urging protection from logging of 1.2 million hectares of rainforest, and emphasizing the need for a transition to ecosystem-based management on the remaining unprotected areas.

The consensus agreement has opened up the old environmental debate surrounding the question: "How much is enough?" Greenpeace, Forest Ethics, and the Sierra Club of Canada - BC Chapter, have come under the scrutiny of environmentalists around the province for participating in the CCLRMP. Undoubtedly, negotiating the protection of one-third of a critically important temperate rainforest is a tremendous accomplishment, even if it is just a recommendation. But a number of questions remain: Is one-third enough to preserve viable populations of wide-ranging species like grizzly bears, elk, and wolves; enough to maintain ecosystem services; to conserve biodiversity across the landscape; and to protect the integrity of a vanishing ecosystem?

There have been two relevant studies of the Great Bear Rainforest completed very recently. The first was by a large group of scientists called the Coast Information Team (CIT), funded by the B.C. government, industry, and environmental groups. The ambitious CIT study looked at key species, critical habitats, and a seemingly endless list of indicators and ecosystem values. Their recommendation? Without meaningful protection of 40-70 percent of the landscape, ecosystem integrity will be lost. The second major study focused upon the region's most charismatic vertebrate - *Ursus arctos*, the grizzly bear.

Spearheaded by 5 of the world's leading bear biologists, such as Dr. Barrie Gilbert, the team recommended protection of at least 64 percent of the landscape in order to halt the decline of this key predator. Based upon the results of these studies, protecting only one-third of the Central Coast may cost us dearly.

In Clayoquot Sound, one-third of the landscape received protection in the Clayoquot Sound Land Use decision of 1993. This government decision was not received very warmly by environmentalists and the public alike. The result was massive protest in Clayoquot Sound, as thousands flooded the area from across the country. This latest consensus in the Great Bear Rainforest offers the same level of protection as the Clayoquot decision. Have environmentalists been losing ground?

For many of the environmental groups involved in the CCLRMP, hope lies in the application of ecologically sound principles on the unprotected portion of the landscape.

"Adopting an ecosystem-based approach to managing the land is a significant breakthrough for communities as well as for sustaining biodiversity outside of the protection areas," said Lisa Matthaus of the Sierra Club.

"However, there is a lot to do to ensure these innovations actually hit the ground. That will be the real measure of success in ecosystem-based management."

Taking Clayoquot Sound as an example, both industry and government have found ways to co-opt attempts at "sustainability" through the loosely followed Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forest Practices. Clear-cutting continues in Clayoquot Sound, and pristine valleys are still threatened by logging. It remains to be seen if the ecosystem-based approach proposed for the Central Coast will fare any better.

"This citizens' consensus is a remarkable step forward for all parties," said Catherine Stewart, forest campaigner for Greenpeace, "but it is only another step on the road to change, and a huge amount of work remains to be done." In all likelihood, it will take more than just hard work to give their recommendations any real teeth in terms of conservation - it will take money.

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The Dawn of the Conservation Economy?

The recommendations for establishing new protected areas are not geared towards the creation of new national or provincial parks, given that the B.C. government has stated that no new parks will be created in the province. Instead, First Nations interested in pursuing the recommendations on their territories can voluntarily explore "conservation financing" options.

Conservation financing is a new kind of investment model being developed on the coast, whereby communities apply for funding from conservation-oriented investors. To qualify for funding, areas targeted for protection are to be off-limits to industrial exploitation (such as logging and mining) but open to traditional and ecologically sensitive uses of the land, including non-timber forest products. Permanent endowments, or trust funds, are to be created for the management of the protected areas - funds that could provide First Nations communities with a steady source of financial support and employment. Further investment may be attracted for "socially responsible" ventures, such as eco-tourism and cultural projects.

The environmental groups are hopeful that between \$120 - 200 million can be raised for investment in the communities of the Great Bear Rainforest. In other words, conservation of critical wilderness may now have what it takes to compete with industry in terms of direct financial support for communities.

Though controversial, the work taking place to save the Great Bear Rainforest may bear fruit for areas outside of the region as well. Clayoquot Sound is not a part of the conservation financing projects coming to fruition on the coast, but the models are applicable. The intact and unlogged pristine valleys in Clayoquot Sound, like the Sydney, Ursus, Upper Bulson, and Pretty Girl, are of extremely high conservation value and could therefore attract significant investment dollars. If companies like Interfor and Lisaak Forest Resources initiate logging in these valleys, the opportunity for investment will be lost. With First Nations' leadership and community support, protecting Clayoquot's rainforest could provide this region with the foundations of a truly progressive conservation economy.

Diego Garcia

A member writes...

Why I love Clayoquot Sound and believe it should be protected

My relationship with Clayoquot Sound began thirty years ago when I visited with my husband to be. Tofino was still a small fishing village with few tourists, and Long Beach was deserted, magnificent in its lonely splendour. I fell in love with Clayoquot Sound on that fateful trip and it has been a life-long love affair. Although I have travelled to many of the world's most beautiful places, never have I found a place that so touched me. There is a primordial beauty in the Sound that is powerful, spiritual. When I visit, mysteriously, I always feel I have come home. In 1989, we brought our children for their first visit. It was then that I joined FOCS which had already been fighting for 14 years to preserve this unique place. In 1993, I returned to stand on the blockades to protect the temperate rainforest after Mike Harcourt's government opened the door for logging. The Peace Camp and the blockades were an outpouring of love and caring for this place

by the community, as well as by people from all over Canada and the world. Never before had I experienced such a sense of community, such respect for one another, friend and foe, and for the earth. FOCS was at the heart of these expressions and remains perhaps the most authentic environmental group I know precisely because it is a grassroots organisation. As part of the local community, the Friends know and love Clayoquot Sound and understand its issues intimately.

However, the protection of the Sound cannot be left only to the local community. As some of the last intact temperate rainforest on earth, with the largest cluster of pristine valleys remaining on Vancouver Island, Clayoquot Sound is a rare treasure which we have a responsibility to preserve not only for our country, but for the world, for ourselves and for our children.

*Virginia Thompson
Toronto, Ontario*

Organic Farmed Salmon: A New Trend in Aquaculture

Government, industry and environmental groups, including FOCS, have been working through various standards drafts over the past few months. The public can view the latest draft and give comments by visiting www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Certifying farmed salmon in BC is an extremely challenging process. One of the greatest challenges will be the type of technology that the standards will call for. The Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform is calling for a transition into closed containment, while industry sees this as economically unfeasible and unnecessary because of the lower densities utilized in organic production. Tensions have often mounted during discussions; nevertheless, there have been some positive outcomes. The few industry members who have been at the table did admit that salmon farms have an impact on the environment. Both sides also agreed that the industry has to become more sustainable. The challenge is agreeing on what sustainable and organic mean.

Dom Repta



Enviros Launch China Boycott of B.C. Lumber

Forest Action Network (FAN), with support from the Friends of Clayoquot Sound and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, has launched a campaign in China targeting purchasers of BC forest products. China is the fastest growing market for lumber from BC's ancient forests. The BC government and logging industry are doing everything they can to try to sell their ancient forest destruction to China, including a \$12 million public relations campaign. North American, European, and Japanese markets for BC lumber are drying up, partly due to the ethically questionable nature of products derived from ancient rainforests.

It is not surprising then, that the provincial government would target China as a burgeoning new buyer. But even China recognizes the critical value of its unlogged forests. In the 1980s and 90s massive floods hit various regions of China. The Chinese government responded in 1998 by implementing a "Natural Forest Protection Programme" to protect its remaining forests (including old growth). What will it take to make Canadian governments introduce similar protection here?

Diego Garcia

Photo: Marion Syme



Top left to right: Leah Walberg (Fish Farm Watch), Brenda Harriman (Office Coordinator). Bottom left to right: Diego Garcia (Forest Campaigner) and Carmensita Garcia (staff in training), Maryjka Mychajlowycz (Forest Watch). Inset: Dom Repta (Fish Farm Markets Campaigner).



Photo: Tom Forthington

Photo: Paul Kennedy

New Friends of Clayoquot Sound

We have added three new faces to our roster recently. Last July, Brenda Harriman came to Tofino to assist with the coordination of the 10th anniversary festival. She had decided in high school to live in Clayoquot Sound some day, and indeed, she liked it so much that she decided to stay on as our Office Coordinator. Then, in August, we hired Diego A. Garcia as our Forest Campaigner. An avid scuba diver, Diego is

eager to start exploring the underwater elements of Clayoquot Sound. In September, we added Dom Repta, who is now heading up our Fish Farm Markets Campaign when he's not off running one of his treacherously long marathons. These three hardy newcomers appear to be thriving in the nutrient-rich coastal rainforest niche of Clayoquot Sound.

FOCS

Meares Island Anniversary

In 1984, FOCS and First Nations mounted the first logging blockade in Canadian history, when they prevented MacMillan Bloedel from cutting Meares Island. First Nations declared Meares a tribal park and obtained a court injunction that has suspended logging on the island until this day.

FOREST WATCH

INTERFOR

Stand Off with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

Last July, the Tla-o-qui-aht issued an eviction notice to Interfor, ordering the company to cease all forestry operations on Tla-o-qui-aht territory and declaring that they want to negotiate with the BC government to transfer control of Interfor's Tree Farm License. The hereditary chiefs are fed up with Interfor's failure to consult with them in good faith and to accommodate First Nations interests, as well as its disrespect for Tla-o-qui-aht's culturally important areas.

The impasse continues. In the fall, Ministry of Forests issued Interfor a cut permit to log in Tla-o-qui-aht territory, near Pacific Rim National Park, but, to date, this logging has not proceeded.

Logging in Hesquiat

Interfor had to shut down its operations in the Hesquiat Harbour area of northern Clayoquot Sound for about half a year in 2003, while it waited for its 10-year logging plan to be approved. In the fall, once Ministry of Forests approved the plan and issued a cut permit, logging and road building resumed. This permit should keep Interfor busy for about a year in Hesquiat, cutting approximately 75,000 cubic metres (2,200 logging truck loads) of old growth wood.

IISAAK FOREST RESOURCES

Pristine Valleys Open for Logging?

A key difference between Iisaak and Interfor, the two logging companies in Clayoquot Sound, is Iisaak's commitment to not cut in the large pristine (unlogged/intact) areas in its tenure in Clayoquot. This commitment was made in 1999 in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Iisaak and several environmental groups, but may be in question.

Last year, Iisaak decided that its target is to log 86,000 cubic metres per year (what it figures is the "long run sustained yield"), instead of the 35,000 or so that it cut in each of 2002 and 2003. The sustained yield was calculated without excluding the pristine areas from the timber harvesting land base.

Iisaak has also stated that the ultimate arbiter of what will happen in the pristine valleys is the Scientific Panel planning process. This process will designate some no-logging reserves in the pristine areas, but will open the remainder to logging.

So it appears that intact areas such as Flores Island, and the Clayoquot, Ursus and Upper Bulson Valleys, may not be safe from chainsaws after all. It's time to clarify the pristine valleys issue with Iisaak!

Maryjka Mychajlowycz



Photo: Valerie Langer

BC Forests Overcut

Province-wide, the Ministry of Forests admits that B.C.'s forests are being logged at about 20% above the government's own definition of a sustainable rate.



Photo: Valerie Langer

Gisele and Joe Martin at home in Clayoquot Sound.
COVER STORY



Support the Wild!



Friends of Clayoquot Sound is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforests and marine ecosystems of Clayoquot Sound, and all of Vancouver Island. 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 keep writing those letters to politicians, sending donations, and joining us to take a stand for the environment.

Please contribute generously to: Friends of Clayoquot Sound
Box 489, Tofino, BC
Canada V0R 2Z0

Check out our website

www.focs.ca

To contact us

PHONE:

250-725-4218

FAX:

250-725-2527

E-MAIL:

info@focs.ca

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Memberships: \$25 Individual \$40 Family \$200 Sustaining

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

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