



# Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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Where the Ocean Meets the Trees

Photo: Jacqueline Windh

## THE SALMON FOREST OF CLAYOQUOT SOUND

Imagine a place where wild oceans meet ancient forests – giant cedar trees, luscious with layers of sodden moss, grow low-hanging boughs that dip into the sea at high tide; ocean-sprayed salal and huckleberry grow fierce and tangled in the understorey; seaweeds and mussels cling to rocks that receive a steady rain of leaf litter from branches overhead. Here, where tides rule, two normally separate systems merge and become one. The mutual dependence

between forest and ocean is easily understood at the interface where they meet, but this interdependence doesn't end here – it penetrates deep into the forest from the height of land where streams are born right to the ocean's edge. These streams and the rivers they feed are the stage for an intricate cycle that deepens the relationship between forest and sea: the yearly return of salmon to the waterways of Clayoquot Sound's salmon forest.

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## A Clayoquot Love Story

When Jill Thompson and Matt Price joined the Friends of Clayoquot Sound team in 1996, it seemed like they were destined to meet.

"We were hired on the same day and sort of bonded from the beginning because we were the only FOCS staffers at that time who liked to drink beer," recalls Jill. "Matt

claims I was ready to marry whoever got the job, but really I'm a little more picky than that -- they needed to love Clayoquot and beer equally."

Eight years later, this past Christmas, Matt and Jill decided to celebrate their bond to one another and to Clayoquot Sound by making FOCS the beneficiary of their

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## Do you have May 17th election marked on your calendar?

On May 17th, British Columbians will have the opportunity to select our local legislative representatives and the government of our province. Get to know your local candidates and parties and ask them where they stand on issues such as open net cage salmon farms and forest conservation. Check out the current Liberal government's record on environmental policies at [www.bcfacts.org](http://www.bcfacts.org)  
**Remember the environment when you cast your vote on May 17th. Vote wild!**

### The Salmon Forest continued from cover.

Pacific salmon hatch in freshwater streams and rivers of temperate rainforests like Clayoquot Sound, and later head to the ocean. While at sea, salmon are the prey of a wide variety of animals - sea lions, seals, orcas and other cetaceans, as well as humans. After a few years the salmon mature, and once ready to reproduce are compelled to return to the very waters where they hatched. The trip home to spawn costs salmon their lives. As they spawn, however, the dying bodies of the adults become nourishment for the larvae of insects that will one day be food for young salmon. Even though they die, in their own way, salmon stick around to provide for the next generation.

Upon return, the salmon also provide an essential source of food for many inhabitants of the forest - a crucial time of gorging before the arrival of lean winter months. Scientists have demonstrated that wild Pacific salmon support over 137 animals on the west coast. Amongst these are 41 species of mammals including whales, bears, and wolves; 89 species of birds, including bald eagles and marbled murrelets; five species of reptiles and two amphibians. Ocean-derived nitrogen from wild salmon has even been found in a variety of

insect species; insects that in turn become food for birds.

Animals like bears, wolves and eagles, are notorious for dragging their salmon catch from streams into the forest, where nitrogen-rich scraps of fish from messy feasting are left to decompose and fertilize the flora. The nitrogen added to the forest from a discarded salmon is believed to affect the growth of trees. For example, studies indicate that trees downstream from a waterfall that is impassable to returning fish grow bigger than trees above the waterfall. When salmon are unable to jump the falls, trees upstream miss out on nature's ocean fertilizer. This nitrogen-derived signature of salmon has been found as far inland as the Rocky Mountains!

The ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest simply would not be the same were it not for the salmon. The health of the remaining wild salmon is key to the health of the entire ecosystem. We say it takes a village to raise a child, and true to this sentiment, it takes a forest to raise salmon. But it also takes salmon to raise a salmon forest.

*Brenda Harriman*

### A Clayoquot Love Story continued from cover.



wedding celebration. In lieu of gifts, guests were invited to make a donation to FOCS, a contribution that will help preserve this special place for the future.

"When we thought about what we wanted, protecting Clayoquot Sound rose to the top of the list pretty quickly. We knew the money we could bring in this way would just be a drop in the bucket, but at least it's a drop in the right bucket, and if other people are inspired to do the same, then maybe it will be enough to put out the fire."

"We have lots of great memories of Clayoquot, but I think the really special thing about it for us is that "fire in the belly" feeling that so many people get when they go to Clayoquot. Time after time, Clayoquot has inspired regular people to act with extraordinary courage, creativity, dedication and generosity. It's like

a 21st century Mecca," says Jill.

She notes that family and friends appreciated the tribute as well. "Our friends and family really surprised us with their generosity, and we're so grateful to them for playing along. I think a lot of them really liked the idea too - they felt good about it, and they didn't have to go shopping!"

All of us here at FOCS extend warm thanks and congratulations to Jill and Matt and their family and friends.

**It's easy! If you would like to make a tribute to Clayoquot Sound part of your wedding celebration, please call our office at 250-725-4218. We will be pleased to provide postcards and information to your guests. If your wedding is held locally, we can also provide a Clayoquot-themed donation box for gift collection.**

*Theresa Negreiff Bullock*

# CERMAQ "Clean Up or Clear Out"

Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS) are calling on Norwegian multinational Cermaq, owner of 16 salmon and 11 sablefish licences in Clayoquot Sound, to "Clean Up or Clear Out". Cermaq began its operations in Clayoquot in 2000 when it purchased 3 of the locally operating seafarm companies. That same year, Clayoquot Sound was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. In only five years of operations, Cermaq has left a trail of ecological damage in its wake.

**A** report published in December 2004 by the Raincoast Conservation Society called "Diminishing Returns - An Investigation into the Five Multinational Corporations that Control British Columbia's Salmon Farming Industry" (<http://www.raincoast.org/aquaculture/index.htm>) focused on Nutreco (Marine Harvest), Stolt, Pan Fish (Omega), Weston (Heritage) and Cermaq (Mainstream). Cermaq came out worst of the worst.

The "Diminishing Returns" report details a litany of offences, violations, disease outbreaks and mass escapes in Cermaq's operations, including:

- infectious disease outbreaks during 2002 and 2003 that forced Cermaq to slaughter 9,000 tonnes of farmed Atlantic salmon and close its processing factory in Tofino
- being charged and fined with 19 counts of provincial regulatory violations in 2002 and 11 violations in 2003
- receiving more BC court fines in 2003 than any other BC salmon farming company.

In December 2004, FOCS sent a letter to Cermaq's CEO, Geir Isaken in Norway, requesting an immediate end to Cermaq's destructive practices and a commitment to move toward closed containment. In January 2005, FOCS launched a petition asking Børge Brende, Minister of Trade and Industry, to reconsider the Norwegian government's support for Cermaq's polluting practices. Norway's biggest selling newspaper, *Dagbladet*, featured the FOCS "Clean Up or Clear Out" Cermaq campaign in February 2005 under the headline "Clean Up, Brende".

Børge Brende claims the Norwegian Government is taking the FOCS campaign against Cermaq very seriously. The Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry told *Dagbladet* that he was disappointed to hear about Cermaq's regulatory violations in Canada. He said the Norwegian Government (which is reducing its shares in Cermaq from 79% to 34%) expects Cermaq to run its business according to Canada's environmental regulations. Brende says he has asked Cermaq to report on its operations in Canada and expects to be kept informed about efforts being made to run the business conforming to Canadian law.

*Don Staniford*

**Help FOCS keep the salmon wild by getting Cermaq out of Clayoquot Sound.**

**Sign our "Clean Up or Clear Out" petition to Mr Brende:**  
<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/308166091?tl=1110450836>

## BEST FISHES FROM DON

Don Staniford joined the Friends last fall as our Aquaculture Campaigner. Before that, Don was a Director of the Salmon Farm Protest Group in Scotland. He brings a wealth of knowledge about fish farming worldwide and is co-author of a recently published book, *A Stain Upon the Sea: West Coast Salmon Farming*.

# Give to Clayoquot Sound and Receive Tax Benefits

Friends of Clayoquot Sound, in partnership with Tides Canada, are pleased to announce the Tides Canada Clayoquot Conservation Fund.

This Fund is set up as a means to support FOCS' research, education and outreach work, and offers charitable tax receipts to supporters who contribute gifts of \$250 or more.

If you would like to make a meaningful gift toward conservation of the unique forest and ocean of Clayoquot Sound and receive tax benefits for your gift, please contact:

**Lesley Anderson**  
Director of Philanthropic Services  
**Tides Canada Foundation**  
#680 - 220 Cambie St.  
Vancouver BC V6B 2M9  
T 604-647-6611 local 245  
F 604-647-6612  
1-866-843-3722 toll free  
[www.tidescanada.org](http://www.tidescanada.org)



With all the chemicals in Safeway's farmed salmon, you might as well eat the packaging.



CAAR's Safeway ad.

Farmed salmon just isn't natural.\* Tell Safeway to stop selling it.

To find out more, please visit  
[www.FarmedAndDangerous.org](http://www.FarmedAndDangerous.org)

According to the Environmental Protection Agency and studies published in the journals of Science and Environmental Science & Technology. To view the studies, visit [www.salmonstudy.org](http://www.salmonstudy.org) and [www.albany.edu/ihe/salmonstudy/](http://www.albany.edu/ihe/salmonstudy/). Paid for by the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform.

**F**riends of Clayoquot Sound and Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR) pursued our markets campaign this winter in the hometown of Safeway's headquarters, Pleasanton, California, and neighbouring San Francisco. CAAR purchased over 60 advertisements urging Safeway, a large North American grocery chain, to stop buying farmed salmon until the industry reforms. The advertisements, which ran on over 50 buses and the Pleasanton subway terminal, marked

the launch of CAAR's "Smarten Up Safeway" campaign.  
[www.farmedanddangerous.org/safeway](http://www.farmedanddangerous.org/safeway)

Consumer response to the message was extremely positive. More importantly, the advertisement prompted questions about threats posed by salmon farming to human health and the environment. Many consumers noticed the ads and phoned our San Francisco contact for more information.

To date, over 20,000 consumer faxes and thousands of our "Smarten Up" postcards

have been sent to Safeway, and numerous storefront actions have taken place. Let Safeway know that you want it to stop buying farmed salmon until the industry reforms and takes measures to protect wild ecosystems and human health.

*Dom Repta*

Visit  
[www.farmedanddangerous.org](http://www.farmedanddangerous.org)  
to take action.

# BC Farmed Salmon Not Organic

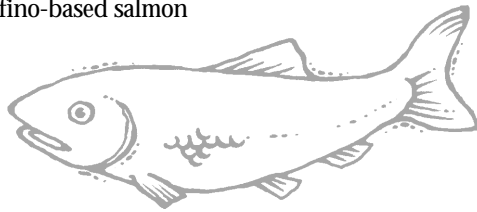
The Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) have passed a unanimous motion, which in effect halts a three-year review of organic standards for farmed salmon grown in open net cages.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound are extremely relieved by this decision, which shows that COABC is committed to protecting the environment and upholding confidence in the organic label. The decision is very pertinent to Clayoquot Sound because one of the major players pushing for organic aquaculture is Creative Salmon, a Tofino-based salmon farming company.



COABC gave a list of conditions that BC salmon farmers would have to meet before their application could be reconsidered. The conditions are sufficiently rigorous that they realistically squash any further effort to seek organic certification in BC. It is likely that BC companies will now seek weaker European standards.

*Dom Repta*



## Student Revolt over Farmed Salmon

Students at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver recently discovered that they are being served farmed salmon while professors dine on wild salmon.

A recently formed club, UBC Students for Clayoquot Sound, wants the university to stop serving farmed salmon, saying the way it is grown is harmful to the environment and to human health. The group is gathering signatures for a petition to deliver to university officials and is lodging a motion to force UBC to remove farmed salmon from student menus.

Last year, Middlebury College in Vermont, USA, switched from farmed salmon to wild salmon. Friends of Clayoquot Sound are now calling on other universities and colleges across North America to force farmed salmon off campus menus.

*Don Staniford*

## Wild Oats Natural Marketplace

Colorado based Wild Oats Natural Marketplace, a retail grocer with over 100 stores throughout the US, has decided to discontinue selling farmed salmon from BC because of risks to the environment and concerns expressed by some First Nations.

In 2004, a team of Wild Oats executives traveled with members of the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform to the Broughton Archipelago, a cluster of islands on the Central Coast of BC that is burdened with over 25 fish farms. Local researchers and residents demonstrated how open net cage salmon farming had caused lethal sea lice outbreaks on wild salmon and

## Drops BC Farmed Salmon

contaminated traditional food sources of the local First Nations.

Wild Oats said it strives to source products that have the lowest possible impact on the environment and that contribute positively to local communities, and it was apparent that BC salmon farming companies did not live up to these standards.

Currently, disease, parasites, waste, escaped fish, unsustainable feed and chemical use plague the industry. Wild Oats' decision should help prompt BC salmon farmers to move into their own niche market by changing to closed containment technology.

*Dom Repta*

## A Tribute for Wilderness

Many of us support our favourite causes and charities with financial gifts during our lifetime. Did you know that you can also make a gift beyond your lifetime through a bequest or gift of life insurance? This is a profound way to pay tribute to the values, people and places that are closest to your heart. By making a gift to the Friends of Clayoquot Sound through your will, you will honour your love of wilderness in the most meaningful way possible – by helping to protect and sustain the magical and rare ecology of Clayoquot Sound. Through our recently established Clayoquot Conservation Fund at the Tides Canada Foundation, you are now able to make a tax-deductible gift through your estate that will go directly toward promoting conservation of Clayoquot Sound.

If you would like more information about remembering Clayoquot Sound in your will or through other planned gifts, please contact:

**Lesley Anderson**  
Director of Philanthropic Services  
**Tides Canada Foundation**  
#680 - 220 Cambie St.  
Vancouver BC V6B 2M9  
T 604-647-6611 local 245  
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1-866-843-3722 toll free  
[www.tidescanada.org](http://www.tidescanada.org)

# Clayoquot Sound: Reserved For Logging

In 1995, the Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forest Practices in Clayoquot Sound came up with recommendations on how to log the region. The scientists said to establish watershed reserves, meaning: figure out in each watershed (valley) where not to log (reserves), then log the area outside the reserves.

Eight years later, the BC government's watershed reserve plans for the first 3 areas of Clayoquot Sound were finalized (see our Fall 2003 newsletter). Picking up the pace, the next 4 plans were put forward in February 2005.

In the latest plans, between 38% and 68% of each watershed planning area has been placed in no-logging reserves. These figures may seem generous, until one looks more closely. The percentages include existing parks. For example, half of the reserve in the Bedwell-Ursus-Bulson unit consists of Strathcona Provincial Park. Outside of parks, reserves are small and discontinuous. They consist mostly of narrow waterside fringes, and steep unstable terrain or sensitive soils (bedrock, poor growing sites, etc) where logging would not have happened anyway. The various types of reserves (old growth, wildlife, recreation, etc) are generally "stacked" into the waterside fringes and steep terrain.

The really bad news is that, with these watershed plans, the BC government is inviting logging companies into the remaining intact (pristine) valleys of Clayoquot Sound. This is how much of each intact valley in the plans is open for logging:

Hesquiat Lake Creek – about 60% open for logging; Satchie Creek – about 85%; Sydney River – about 75%; Pretty Girl valleys – about 75%; Ursus River – about 50%; Upper Bulson River – about 45%. These are my estimates, based on looking at the maps, since the plans do not specify this information.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound do not accept the watershed plans as the final word on the future of Clayoquot's intact valleys. We're working to protect all of Clayoquot Sound's pristine valleys in their entirety.

*Maryjka Mychajlowycz*



Adapted from map produced by Clayoquot Sound Technical Planning Committee

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*Maryjka Mychajlowycz*



Adapted from map produced by Clayoquot Sound Technical Planning Committee



# Hesquiat Lake Creek: The Road Stops Here!

**There is a Shangri-la valley on the very northwest border of Clayoquot Sound. Its slopes are mantled with unbroken ancient forest, and two small lakes lie in the valley bottom, close to where the creek empties into much larger Hesquiat Lake.**

This valley is remote and intact Hesquiat Lake Creek, its 1,500 hectares of pristine wilderness untouched by industry. It is tucked between two larger valleys. On the east lies the magnificent Sydney River, also intact. On the west, the Escalante River, ravaged by 28 years of clearcutting, flows into Nootka Sound.

In February, Interfor extended a logging road from the Escalante, over the ridge-top, and onto the upper slopes of Hesquiat Lake Creek (see arrow in photo). This marked the first time in 14 years that an intact valley in Clayoquot Sound had been impacted by logging.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound alerted Interfor's corporate customers, the media and the public. Interfor received hundreds of outraged emails and phone calls (thanks! everyone). A few days later, the company suspended road building. We are pushing Interfor to make the reprieve for Hesquiat Lake Creek permanent, and to stay out of all intact valleys in its Clayoquot tenure.

Close-up of Interfor's road in Hesquiat Lake Creek, as far as it got.

Intact temperate rainforest is globally rare and ecologically precious. Clayoquot Sound contains the only cluster of intact valleys left on Vancouver Island, an island three-quarters logged. Intact valleys are the reason Clayoquot is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. These valleys are a global heritage and we must safeguard them. Keep Clayoquot wild!

*Maryjka Mychajlowycz*

Intact valley of Hesquiat Lake Creek, with Interfor's snow-covered road visible as a white thread on upper slope of valley (see arrow).



## Business Definition of "Forest"

**A method of storing timber cheaply on the stump!**

A recent study by Hancock Timber Resource Group had this to say about forests: "Forests require far less capital spending than other infrastructure sectors and timber can be stored cheaply, on the stump."



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNT HOLDER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

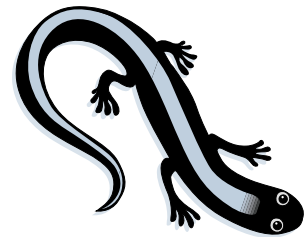
SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNT HOLDER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Sign Up for E-mail Bulletins

We're now emailing our supporters monthly news bulletins, and occasional action alerts. If you want to be updated on what's happening in Clayoquot Sound, please send your name and email address to [info@focs.ca](mailto:info@focs.ca) and ask to be put on our email list.

Thanks!



## Fall 2004 Newsletter

Yes, we did put out a fall 2004 newsletter, but online only. You can read it on our website at [www.focs.ca](http://www.focs.ca)

