



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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FLORES ISLAND - on the Wild Side



Cow Bay and Mt. Flores, on outer coast of Flores Island.

The weather is wild on this May day and the eagles are soaring. On a beach on Flores Island, I watch eight of them overhead. The eagles are playing in updrafts of wind, catching a few minutes of fun before the next downpour. A frisky raven flies by and executes an aerial somersault while uttering a peculiar call. Inland a few metres, in the dense rainforest, I come across a huge cedar tree. A deep rectangular hole is incised into its trunk, evidence of First Nations use.

"Test holes" like this were cut to check whether a tree was suitable for building a dug-out canoe. Despite the miserable weather, I feel lucky to be on Flores Island. At 15,400 hectares (154 sq. km. or 60 sq. mi.), Flores is the largest island in Clayoquot Sound. It, and Meares Island, also in Clayoquot, are the only two large islands off the coast of Vancouver Island that remain virtually intact.

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Sea Lions Drown in Clayoquot Sound Fish Farms

At least 12 sea lions drowned in predator nets at Creative Salmon's fish farms near Meares Island in Clayoquot Sound. In May, Creative Salmon confirmed its divers

cut the carcasses of at least 12 sea lions from its nets. Predator nets are designed to keep natural predators of salmon from accessing farmed fish.

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Sea Lions, continued from Cover.

Net-cage fish farms in the water are equivalent to ringing a dinner bell in the ocean for animals whose main occupation is finding fish to eat. The presence of sea lions in the area is natural. It's the fish farms that need to change. Wildlife mortalities due to fish farms in Clayoquot Sound, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, are unacceptable. More than 5,000 sea lions and seals have been killed by fish farms in BC since 1990, according to the government Marine Mammal Predator Control statistics.

If you've ever been to Clayoquot Sound and want to help preserve its rich marine ecosystems, pristine coastal views and abundant wildlife, here's an opportunity to make your feelings about these deaths and the impacts of salmon farming in Clayoquot Sound known.

Please contact local provincial MLA Scott Fraser (NDP member for Alberni-Qualicum) at 1-866-870-4190 or by email scott.fraser.mla@leg.bc.ca. The more calls he gets from concerned visitors, residents and his constituents, the more effective he can be in protecting the Sound. Please make your views known. Politicians pay close attention to what's covered in the media but even more closely to how the voting public and people from other countries respond.

Celina Tuttle

For further information about the sea lion deaths, visit our website, www.focs.ca

Photo: Adrian Dorst



Sea lions in Clayoquot Sound

Flores Island - on the Wild Side, continued from Cover.

96% of Flores Island has been untouched by roads, logging, or other development. The developed 4% of Flores consists of logging roads and clearcuts at the northwest corner of the island, done by MacMillan Bloedel in the 1980s, and the village of Ahousaht at the southeast corner. The village, a 45-minute boat ride north of Tofino, is the home of the Ahousaht First Nation, whose traditional territory includes all of Flores Island.

Ancient temperate rainforest covers the rest of the island, from mountaintops to ocean beaches. On the outer coast of Flores Island, Cow Bay features a sweep of white sandy beach backed by 880-metre Mount Flores, cloaked in emerald forest. Also on the rugged, surf-swept outer coast of Flores, facing the open Pacific, is Rafael Point, a prime feeding spot for grey and humpback whales. Further north, in Hootla Kootla Cove, herring come to spawn in March, turning the cove's water white with herring milt. Along the calmer inner coast of Flores lie forests of majestic cedar, hemlock and Sitka spruce, comprising some of the most productive forest in Clayoquot Sound and in the world. About 60 streams radiate from the mountainous interior of Flores Island and flow into the ocean – their clear waters support fish such as coho, chum and chinook salmon and cutthroat trout. Over 20 small lakes dot the island. Wolves, cougars and bears roam the island's forested expanse.

How safe is the wilderness of Flores Island from development? The west and south sides (28% of the island) are permanently protected in two provincial parks. Another 30% of the island is tenuously protected from logging by "watershed reserves" created by the Clayoquot Sound Scientific Panel planning process. (These



"Culturally modified" cedar on Flores Island.

Photo: Maryjka Mychajlowycz

reserves are discontinuous, can be roaded or mined, are not legislated, and hence are vulnerable to being changed or dropped.) The remaining 42% of Flores is officially open for logging.

Iisaak Forest Resources, a logging company owned by the five First Nations tribes of Clayoquot Sound, holds the cutting rights on Flores Island. In 1999, Iisaak signed a Memorandum of Understanding with environment groups, stating that it would not log pristine (intact) areas within its tenure in Clayoquot Sound. Flores Island, except for the already logged northwest corner and the area around Ahousaht village, falls under this MOU, which refers to the intact areas as "eehmiis" or "very, very precious" in the Nuu-chah-nulth language. However, Iisaak's 20-year harvest plan contains 86 projected cutblocks, connected by roads, on Flores Island. 13 of these are in the already logged NW corner of the island, but 73 are planned throughout the intact "eehmiis" portion of Flores.

Iisaak is behind schedule and is undergoing management changes, so it's unclear what will happen with its logging projection for Flores Island. Friends of Clayoquot Sound are working to ensure that the globally significant, intact ancient forest of Flores remains unlogged.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

Increased Levels of Mercury in Wild Fish near Salmon Farms



A study published on-line in Environmental Science and Technology found elevated levels of mercury in rockfish living near salmon farms. The Ahousaht, Kitasoo/Xaixais and the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk First Nations of BC collaborated with university researchers to investigate the impact of salmon farms on the local food web and traditional food sources. Rockfish in Ahousaht territory, in Clayoquot Sound, were found to have the highest mercury levels of fish sampled. Friends of Clayoquot Sound welcome the study and the proactive efforts of First Nations communities to investigate issues that can negatively impact the health of people and marine ecosystems. The study was undertaken in response to concerns of some coastal First Nations communities about safety of traditional foods harvested from the oceans and to assess the potential for salmon farming to affect food safety.

The study concludes that prey eaten by rockfish obtained mercury through fish feces and uneaten feed pellets from the seabed beneath fish farms. Copper rockfish (*Sebastes caurinus*) and quillback rockfish (*S. maliger*) were sampled from traditional harvesting territories in sites near fish farms and in reference sites, isolated from farm waste in terms of current and tide patterns. Samples were taken over several visits to each territory in July to December 2004 and October 2005.

Mercury occurs naturally in the environment and is found in small amounts in soil and rocks, and also exists in lakes, streams and oceans. In aquatic

environments, microorganisms transform it into methylmercury (MeHg), its organic and most toxic form. MeHg moves up the food chain when invertebrates and microorganisms, attracted by nutrient-rich waste beneath fish farms, are eaten by smaller marine animals and fish that are in turn eaten by larger predatory fish and animals. If animals higher up the food chain continue to live in an environment where mercury is present, the contaminant will accumulate over their lifetimes.

Clams and rockfish are a major component in the diet of many First Nations communities along British Columbia's coastline. There is no method of cooking or cleaning fish that will remove mercury. MeHg is stored in the muscle part of fish; trimming the fat does not reduce mercury concentration.

Methylmercury affects the central nervous system and in some cases irreversibly damages areas of the brain. In milder cases of mercury poisoning, adult humans complain of reductions in motor skills and dulled senses of touch, taste and sight. Although levels of methylmercury in the fish sampled did not exceed Health Canada guidelines, the joint First Nations-academic study cautions that it is unknown how mercury levels will respond to future increases in the number and size of fish farms.

The study concludes that concentration of methylmercury in rockfish should not be considered a temporary industry side effect and calls for aquaculture management plans "to address potential effects on contaminant levels in wild [flora and fauna]".

Friends of Clayoquot Sound call for adoption of the Precautionary Principle with respect to management of the salmon farming industry. In summary, the Principle states that where there is some evidence of serious harm, final definitive proof should not be necessary before protective action is taken. The industry and federal and provincial governments need to pay much more attention to contaminant issues related to fish farms, and ongoing monitoring will be

an important part of that effort. Friends of Clayoquot Sound, a member of the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform, supports use of closed containment technologies for farming salmon. Closed systems greatly reduce the risk of disease and parasite transfer to wild fish, provide adequate treatment of all waste water and eliminate fish escapes.

Celina Tuttle



**Wild
Salmon &
Aquaculture
Campaigner**
– Celina Tuttle

Friends of Clayoquot Sound have a new advocate working to keep the Sound both wild and clean. Celina Tuttle, our new Wild Salmon and Aquaculture campaigner, brings with her 15 years of communications and outreach experience, in environmental and social issues. She is best known for spearheading the Canadian campaign to ban antipersonnel landmines.

Great Bear Rainforest Model: Could it work in Clayoquot Sound?

Photo: Ian McAllister



Intact valley in Great Bear Rainforest.

Sometimes it takes ten years to get to the beginning. The story in the Great Bear Rainforest of the north and central BC coast goes like this. For ten years numerous organizations laboured, negotiated, protested, organized and lobbied for conservation of this 6.4 million hectare region, which contains over 100 intact, completely undisturbed valleys.

In February 2006, the province, First Nations, the logging companies and several environmental organizations signed an Agreement. Protection from logging would be expanded to one-third of the area and logging companies would have to follow Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) legislation on the rest of the land base by 2009.

In addition, a coalition of environmental groups raised \$60 million dollars to put

towards Conservation Financing for First Nations, to create options to industrial development. The province agreed to put in another \$30 million towards building community capacity and economic development. However, the federal government has so far not come through with its \$30 million matching funds.

What was negotiated for the Great Bear Rainforest has interesting implications for Clayoquot Sound. Many of the gains achieved there could be applied here.

New Conservancy Designation Legislated into the Parks Act The new Conservancy designation negotiated into the Parks Act means that formal protection can happen without excluding First Nations from their traditional lands.

Industrial activities are not allowed in parks under the new designation (except non-export, run-of-the-river hydro for

local communities), but traditional uses can continue. Some commercial activities can be allowed such as lodges or guided tours, if they are in accordance with the purpose of the park and licensed to operate there. This removes a major barrier to First Nations advancing protection of lands and forests within their territories that they would like to see off limits to industrial logging.

Conservation Financing
Communities with high unemployment in regions that are resource rich are often faced with choices of exploitation for employment in the short term, or conservation without employment. In the Great Bear Rainforest, numerous foundations and high asset individuals partnered with environmentalists in recognition that if they provided financing for a First Nations trust – aimed at providing training and conservation-based economic development – they could remove a significant barrier to forest protection. Environment groups raised \$60 million and asked the province and feds to match it.

The primary difference between the Great Bear and Clayoquot is that First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest region were developing their own land use plans to feed into negotiations with the province, which was in the middle of a land use planning process. In Clayoquot Sound, the province decided land use in 1993 without First Nations involvement. First Nations in Clayoquot Sound would have to somehow open the province's land use designation if they want to protect more of their land and access conservation financing for it. This would not be insurmountable if there were an appetite for it amongst the chiefs and the province responded in good faith.

Legislation of Ecosystem Based Management Clayoquot Sound logging is guided by the recommendations of the Clayoquot Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forest Practices. The Great Bear Rainforest has Ecosystem Based Management (EBM). EBM is set to be legislated to legalize a set of regulations set out by a panel of scientists (the EBM Handbook). The Clayoquot Science Panel rules are not legally binding or as thorough. EBM also incorporates protection, whereas the Science Panel recommendations were limited to logging only. We could probably use something similar to EBM here in Clayoquot, where the most recent science shows that most of the area shouldn't be logged.

Valerie Langer



Photo: Ian McAllister

Grizzly bear eating salmon.

Rainforest Concert in Tofino

Dana Lyons

Sept. 23, 2006

Dana Lyons, singer, songwriter of such hits as "Cows With Guns", "RV" and "Ride the Lawn", will perform a benefit concert for Friends of Clayoquot Sound and the World Temperate Rainforest Network (www.wtrc.org).

WTRN is a network of activists, First Nations and scientists from the coastal temperate rainforest regions of Alaska, BC, Washington, Oregon, northern California, Chile, New Zealand and Australia.

Concerts in Tofino (Sat. Sept. 23), Victoria (Sept. 21) and Vancouver will launch Dana's concert tour to coastal temperate rainforest communities around the world.

For more about Dana Lyons and to listen to his songs go to www.danalyons.com

by Pat Rasmussen
World Temperate
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patr@rcwnet.com
www.wtrc.org

Cautionary Note:

Protected Areas in Great Bear Rainforest Fall Short

Despite providing a potential model for Clayoquot Sound, the protected areas announcement for the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) falls short of fully safeguarding biodiversity on the central and north coast of BC.

According to Chris Genoali, Executive Director of Raincoast Conservation Society, "Raincoast supports the legislating of the proposed protected areas, but the province should do so with the full knowledge and recognition that lasting protection of the Great Bear Rainforest will require additional steps and commitment from all parties."

While the GBR announcement represents progress, at 30% or less protection it falls well short of the ecological criteria set out by scientific advisors to the region's land use negotiations.

Scientists identified 44% protection as the minimum requirement for maintaining biodiversity in the GBR. Even higher levels of protection (as much as 70%) would be necessary to ensure that biodiversity values remain at low risk.

For more info see www.raincoast.org

Photo: Peter Schmederjürgem



Friends of Clayoquot Sound representative Dan Lewis (at left) and Joe Martin, master canoe carver of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation (at right), join activists at a community gathering in Ahlen, Germany. Dan and Joe toured Germany for 3 weeks in early 2006, meeting with community groups, government officials, business interests and students.

GERMANY TOUR

DONOR PROFILE

Alex Nikolic

Drawn by the area's natural beauty and open ocean, Alex Nikolic realized the opportunity to become self-employed, learn to surf and enjoy small town life that Tofino offered. He recently moved from Whistler, where he briefly served as a director of AWARE (Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment).

Alex believes that the environment is the backbone of a sustainable community. He says, "if there is no healthy environment, then social and economic factors are irrelevant."

Alex is happy to be one of our valued monthly donors. Receiving regular donations is important to us, and "you don't notice it" he says. He also does great volunteer work for the Friends: donating photographs, helping with newsletter mailouts and working at our information booth, to name but a few.

His support for the Friends is motivated by his belief in local grassroots environmental groups – "think global, act local". He says it's good to be engaged and see results, and he likes the sense of personal involvement that you don't get with bigger groups.

Thank you Alex!

With the regular support of monthly donors like Alex, we can plan our campaigns more effectively and make the best use of your donations. Today is the day you can make a difference – become a monthly donor. Simply fill in the form on the back page.

Enough Already! Stop Old Growth Logging on Vancouver Island

This spring, the Western Canada Wilderness Committee launched a campaign to "protect ancient forests and jobs on Vancouver Island". The campaign is prompted by Sierra Club of BC mapping, based on 2004 satellite photos, which confirms that three-quarters of Vancouver Island's productive ancient (old growth) forest has been clearcut logged already. At the current rate of logging, all of the productive ancient forest on the Island, except for the 6% protected in parks, will be gone by 2020.

The recent mapping also reveals these alarming facts about Vancouver Island forests:

- 87% of the productive old growth forest on southern Vancouver Island has been logged
- 89% of the productive old growth forest at low elevations (below 300 metres) and in flat valley-bottoms has been logged
- less than 1% of the original old growth in the Coastal Douglas Fir zone on the east side of the island remains.

The Vancouver Island campaign makes common sense demands, such as:

- immediate cessation of logging in the most endangered old growth forests
- phasing out all old growth logging by 2015 and transitioning into sustainable logging of second growth
- expanding protected areas, including in Clayoquot Sound, which contains the largest area of ancient forest left on the Island
- ban on raw log exports
- guaranteeing a log supply to local mills and the value-added manufacturing sector.

Let's not allow Vancouver Island to meet a fate similar to that in the Dr. Seuss story of "The Lorax", where the greedy Once-ler chopped down the last Truffula Tree. Enough already! It's up to us citizens to pressure the BC government to protect what's left of Vancouver Island's original, ancient forests. Otherwise, all of the Island's remaining productive old growth, except for the 6% in parks, will be logged and converted into second-growth tree farms. We can't let that happen!

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

Quotes from The Lorax

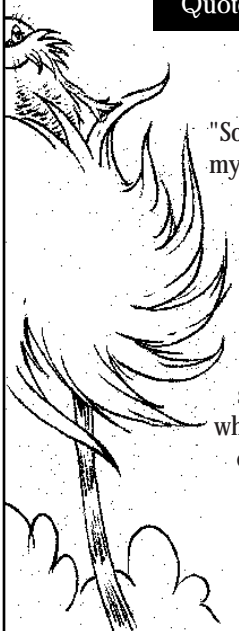
by Dr. Seuss

Once-ler:

"So I quickly invented my Super-Axe-Hacker which whacked off four Truffula Trees at one smacker."

Lorax:

"I'm the Lorax who speaks for the trees which you seem to be chopping as fast as you please."



What you can do:

Write to BC's premier – ask for a halt to the logging of Vancouver Island's remaining ancient forests, including those of Clayoquot Sound. Cite some of the facts and demands given above, in your own words.

BC Premier Gordon Campbell,
Box 9041, Station Prov. Govt.,
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1
premier@gov.bc.ca
Fax: 250-387-0087

Fighting Salmon Aquaculture Expansion

- a citizen's guide

The salmon farming industry in BC is shrouded in controversy, whether it's government failure to enforce the Fisheries Act, conflicts between federal and provincial legislation, or disagreements and conflict among scientists, economists and other stakeholders. As a result, many Canadians have been immobilized – unsure of what they and others can do to challenge the current system which has allowed the fish farming industry to exert its influence and power to promote its own self-interest at the expense of wild Pacific salmon stocks and our ocean environment.

A new publication by Sierra Legal Defence Fund can help us to take action in our own communities to protect the things that we value from the impacts of open net cage salmon farming. BC Salmon Aquaculture Expansion: A Citizen's Guide to Participating in Decision-making was created to advise individuals and community groups on what they can do about the expansion of salmon farms in BC. Its purpose is to explain who makes decisions about salmon aquaculture in BC and to offer strategies for citizens to affect the decision-making process. In addition to taking us step-by-step through the process of approving salmon farms, there's a section on First Nations issues, an overview

To order a copy of the guide, call Sierra Legal Defence Fund at 1-800-926-7744, or email Celina at info@focs.ca for a pdf version

of decision makers and jurisdictions, and a listing of helpful references.

BC's current salmon farming practices create several risks, including but not limited to:

- pollution of the marine environment, from antibiotics, pesticides, waste feed and fish feces;
- transfer of disease and parasites from farmed fish to wild Pacific salmon;
- social impacts caused by declines of wild salmon and other fish stocks, affecting fisheries in coastal communities
- killing of seals and sea lions and harassment of other wildlife in the vicinity of fish farms.

Eighty per cent of British Columbians polled last year want the BC government to stop investing in open net cage salmon farming and start investing in closed containment, and seventy two per cent said the BC government must stop the expansion of industrial salmon farming.

We all need to work in our communities to send a strong message to the federal and provincial governments to stop acting as agents for the salmon farming industry and to start putting public interests ahead of corporate interests.

Celina Tuttle

Interfor Drops Challenge to Science Panel Standards

Last year, Interfor submitted a new management plan for its Tree Farm License in Clayoquot Sound. A controversial component of the plan was Interfor's unilateral proposal to downgrade several of the Scientific Panel standards that have guided logging in Clayoquot since 1995.

However, this spring, Interfor notified the BC government that it was withdrawing its proposed Science Panel changes from the plan. The company cited concerns raised by the Clayoquot Sound Central Region Board and the Science Panel Technical Planning Committee as the reasons for its withdrawal.

Other reasons, not mentioned by Interfor, are the meetings the Friends held last fall in Japan with Interfor's customers – such as Mitsubishi, Itochu and Oji Paper – where we notified the Japanese companies of Interfor's regressive plan. These companies then contacted Interfor, wanting an explanation. That's markets pressure at work! In addition, Interfor knew that several BC environment groups stood united against its attempt to turn back the clock on improved logging in Clayoquot.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

Spring Clean Up

Friends of Clayoquot Sound staff and volunteers pick up garbage along Tofino's multi-use path.



Photo: Jen Dant, courtesy of "Westerly News"



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

Office: 331 Neill St., Tofino Check out our website: www.focs.ca



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