



Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance
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End Fish Farm Tenures in the Broughton Archipelago in June 2018

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Fraser river sockeye are in crisis. Their populations have declined so drastically that they have been recommended for listing as an endangered species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. First Nations on Vancouver Island, and all along the Fraser river, including the Kwantlen and Katzie First Nations in your riding, are suffering devastating impacts to their cultural and physical health and wellbeing due to lack of access to the salmon they depend on.

Enterococcus/Piscine Reovirus (PRV)-Laden Blood Water

Last November 2017 George Heyman told the press that the NDP government is working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and First Nations in the area to ensure everything possible is being done to protect wild salmon. We, and other British Columbians, want to know why the enterococcus/PRV-contaminated blood water from fish processing plant pipes were not shut off as a precautionary measure before proceeding with the investigation into the blood water pouring into migration routes of wild salmon. This situation puts endangered wild salmon at further risk of irreversible harm as scientific evidence shows it causes HSMI and its contagious. In addition, the blood water was found to have an enterococcus bacteria that may be harmful to humans. We need to know whether the Vancouver Island Health authorities are looking into what species of enterococcus are in the blood water, what levels have been found at nearby beaches, are they antibiotic resistant, and are the open net pen fish farmers feeding it to their fish? Given the urgency of this situation, we would expect that this be given the level of priority that would immediately free up resources to spring into action for the safety of both wild fish and humans. Since November, we are still in the dark about the investigation into this.

Honoring Commitments to UNDRIP – End Fish Farm Tenures in Broughton Archipelago

There is growing concern that the NDP government is unnecessarily delaying a decision on whether to end fish farm tenures in the unceded territories of the Namgis, Mamalilikulla and Musgamagw people who have never given their consent for fish farms to be in their territory. In the meantime, we see this rogue industry pursue re-stocking fish farms in their territories. As a gesture of good faith, we urge the NDP government to announce that those fish farm tenures will not be renewed in June 2018 as your government pursues its process of discussing fish farms based on free, prior and informed consent with Namgis, Musgamagw and Mamalilikulla Nations. This is the path towards manifesting the NDP's commitment to honour the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. This would also be a meaningful step on the road to reconciliation with the Indigenous Nations. Please know you will have the support of voters across the province if your government makes the necessary decision to end fish farm tenures in defense of wild salmon.

Please let us know whether you support ending the fish farm tenures in the Broughton Archipelago area. By cooperating with Namgis, Musgamagw and Mamalilikulla Nations, the BC NDP would unite with Alaska, Oregon, California and Washington who want a Pacific coast free of open net pen Atlantic salmon farms. There is a better way forward for the environment and the BC economy- move fish farms onto land in containment, creating an essential barrier between fish aquaculture and wild salmon habitats. We look forward to your response soon as June is fast approaching at which time fish farm tenures are up for renewal.

Sincerely yours,

Eddie Gardner
President of Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance

CC Chief Don Svanvik, Namgis First Nation
Chief Willie Moon
Chief Bob Chamberlin
Andrew Weaver
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of the Environment
Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture
Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture
Rick Bailey, Katzie First Nation
Les Antone, Kwantlen First Nation