



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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Summer 2012

Let's keep British Columbia Super Natural



Leigh Hilbert

Recently announced changes to the federal environmental assessment process have aggravated controversy around what type of development is "good" for British Columbia. The changes, which deal almost exclusively with delivering a purely technical assessment in a shortened time frame, are based on the assumption that any development is acceptable as long as project design and operation are technically sound.

British Columbians are beginning to realize that even a "good" technical project can have a negative impact if it is in the wrong place; and equally important intangible factors such as lifestyle, cultural and spiritual significance and community values have to be given much more weight in the assessment process, especially where environmental and wilderness quality are extremely high.

Whether it is for a pipeline, salmon farm or independent power project, more

and more British Columbians do not want all of the remaining pristine areas accessed, no matter the economic benefits or technical assurances. Governments seem unable to comprehend that as more of the province is developed, the ecological, societal and economic values of undeveloped areas increase dramatically.

How could a good technical project have a negative impact?

Development always means increased access, and not just for the developer. It will usually attract more expansion on the site or ancillary development and access on adjacent lands. Even when a development has outlived its useful life, the area may be opened up for subdivision, resort development, etc. It becomes easily accessible for recreationalists and even such legitimate uses, if excessive, can pose problems. Cumulative impacts

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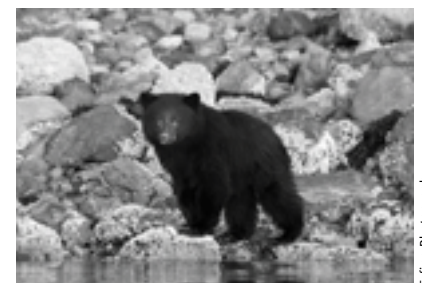
TIICH

The powerful network of forests

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Tofino Photography



FOCS ISA v sampling crew in the field.

Tofino Photography

A virus runs through it

We're camping at Cisaagis, the historic site of the 1984 blockade that resulted in the declaration of Meares Island as a Tribal Park. A dawn mist hangs above the bay as a penny-whistle echoes off the cliff on the far side, breaking the deep silence where we sleep beneath ancient cedars. An early riser has offered to play a wake-up call. We're kayaking around Meares Island and must get an early start to take advantage of the tide.

Today the group will paddle past another site that is newly in the spotlight. Norwegian-owned Mainstream Canada has applied for a 55-hectare open net-cage salmon feedlot along the shore of Meares Island near Plover Point—only seven kilometres from Cisaagis. Plover Point, rich with marine life, is frequented by sea lions, porpoises, sea birds, and orcas, with wild salmon streams and clam beds nearby.

A July 2011 internal memo to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) stated that decisions on new salmon farm applications should be postponed until the recommendations of the Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Fraser River Sockeye Salmon have been made. However, the memo goes on to specifically recommend an exception for the Plover Point application, which is currently under review. If approved, the total number of salmon feedlot sites in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve would be 21.

Another DFO document which came to light at the Cohen Commission revealed that here in Clayoquot, Creative Salmon has been struggling with an undiagnosed disease in their farmed Chinook salmon for the past seven years. Dr. Kristi Miller was funded by DFO to help diagnose the severely jaundiced fish.

In December 2011, Justice Cohen

reconvened the Cohen Commission to hear evidence about Infectious Salmon Anemia virus (ISAv) after several wild salmon from BC waters tested positive for the virus.

Evidence surfaced during this hearing that Dr. Miller found ISAv present in Creative Salmon's Chinook salmon farms. In addition, a newly emerging deadly virus, Piscine reovirus (PRV), or salmon heart virus was also found in Creative's farms. She also detected PRV in Fraser River Sockeye.

To date there has been no response from DFO or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to the presence of these viruses in Clayoquot Sound. Industry practice worldwide is to cull farm salmon when these dangerous viruses are found. Creative Salmon has not culled its farms. CFIA testified to the Cohen Commission that if ISA virus is in BC, trade for farm salmon could cease. Perhaps this explains the lack of action?

Despite the abundance of pristine salmon habitat, Clayoquot's salmon runs are in dramatic decline, with some runs now being counted in the tens, rather than in the tens of thousands.

The Cohen Commission is scheduled to release its final report on September 30. With the known presence of these lethal viruses here in Clayoquot Sound, coupled with a lack of response on the part of government and industry—other than a weak attempt to deny the problem—this is not the time to approve yet another salmon feedlot in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Bonny Glambeck

Campaigns Director for
Friends of Clayoquot Sound

Take Action!

With the presence of a variety of viruses on Clayoquot Sound's salmon feedlots, now is not the time to approve a new feedlot at Plover Point. Please write the Minister of Fisheries and ask him to remove all salmon feedlots from the pristine waters of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and to reject the application for a new salmon feedlot at Plover Point.

Write to:

The Honourable Keith Ashfield
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
Parliamentary Office
House of Commons, Room 107
Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Phone: (613) 992-1067
Fax: (613) 996-9955
Min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Salmon Flu – what to do?

Since December I have been conducting tests to find out how wide-spread the European strain of salmon flu (Infectious Salmon Anemia, or ISA virus) is in BC. Salmon farmers have refused independent testing of farm salmon, so I have resorted to buying farmed Atlantic salmon in supermarkets and sending samples to some of the best salmon virus labs in the world.

In March, we found ISA virus in Atlantic salmon sold in Loblaw's T&T markets. One tested positive for the mutation that caused the 2008 epidemic in Chile; another was positive for the Norwegian mutation. This means BC ISA has mutated in ways identical to Norway and Chile—mutations which have proven lethal to salmon.

There are four levels of virus detection: visible symptoms in the fish, DNA testing, gene sequencing, and the fourth and final stage, culturing the virus. Canada has recklessly decided to only recognize ISA virus that has been cultured. Some strains of ISA virus are notoriously hard to culture, so Canada would allow these strains to spread and mutate without taking action.

The labs have also found the newly discovered salmon heart virus in nearly every farm salmon sample I've sent them!

The piscine reovirus (PRV) causes deterioration of the fish's heart muscle and is described as spreading like "wildfire". Infected farm salmon swim abnormally, needing to rest against the pen to recover; meanwhile they are provided with feed. Yet wild salmon have no infirmary to rest safely from predators and must seek out every meal.

Industry and government did not have time to develop a media response, and came out of the gate on this virus in all directions.

The BC Salmon Farmers Association told the Times Colonist it has never seen the effects of this virus.

Dr. Gary Marty, who examines salmon farms for the Province, told Global TV that PRV was in 75% of farmed salmon he tested in 2010. Yet this shocking revelation was not disclosed to the Cohen Commission, a federal inquiry into the 2009 collapse of Fraser River sockeye. Up to 90% of Fraser sockeye are dying as they try to swim against the Fraser River—imagine trying to swim against Hell's Gate with a "soft and flabby heart"?

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans told the Times Colonist they have not confirmed the presence

of PRV, despite extensive monitoring and testing. However Dr. Miller, a department scientist, testified at the Cohen Inquiry that she found the virus in Clayoquot Sound fish farms and in Fraser sockeye.

Viruses are spilling into BC. Government is letting it continue, denying even their own scientists. This is how Canada lost the East Coast cod.

Acknowledging the presence of these viruses would be bad for the salmon farming market. But everyone buying fresh farm salmon is bringing viruses home and washing them down the drain into their watersheds. It is time for the Department of Fisheries to halt the spread of viruses in salmon farms in BC waters.

Alexandra Morton

For more information check out:
www.alexandramorton.typepad.com



Jaqueline Windh

Wilderness Team —good news!

We met our 2011 goal of adding one hundred new members to our Wilderness Team (supporters who donate monthly). Huzzah! Thanks again to everyone who contributed. This is the second year in a row we've set and met that goal.

Join us - So with your help we are going to do it again for 2012! We are looking for 100 new Wilderness Team members. Even \$15/month helps a lot. The cost of a couple of lattes and a muffin a month is cheap insurance against an open-pit copper mine in the heart of Clayoquot Sound!

Please take a moment now to fill out the coupon on the back of this newsletter.



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Finding unity in shared space

The issue of mining in Clayoquot Sound is contentious to say the least.

The pristine beauty of the surrounding environment invites a range of romantics, naturalists, and visitors hoping for that one perfect photograph capturing that one perfect moment. For those of us that call this place home, Clayoquot Sound offers a place of belonging that weaves together many awe-inspiring moments drawing out a rich tapestry of history, multiculturalism and beautiful visions for tomorrow's world.

For an immeasurable distance of time the Nuu-chah-nulth people have enjoyed a plentiful and abundant lifestyle upon these lands. Fast forward a few millennia and this way of life was suddenly and abruptly faced with the most challenging societal shift: colonialism. The arrival of a new way of life, coupled with disease and an avaricious and assimilative political agenda, ushered in what many believed to be the beginning of the end of the indigenous way of life. This fortunately was not successful on all accounts.

Today, the cultural landscape of Clayoquot Sound honours a diverse array of ethnicities and backgrounds each with unique and significant teachings and insights waiting to be shared. It has been more than two hundred years since these lands have become co-inhabited and it appears that we, as a people, are now prepared to take courageous steps to move forward together, to build cultural bridges and forge a new path that honours and recognizes a truer history, a deeper understanding of where we are and where we would like things to be for future generations.

The 'Public Forum: Mining Clayoquot's Future?' organised by Friends

of Clayoquot Sound was one of these momentous steps. Local leadership (including hereditary chiefs and delegates), members from all surrounding communities, business owners, and concerned citizens alike gathered together in February to discuss the future of mining in Clayoquot Sound.

The intention of the event was to provide a forum for diverse dialogue to flow around the issue of mining in this particular area. Hereditary Chiefs and delegates from Ahousaht opened the evening with a declaration of their inherent authority over the territories in question and reminded those in attendance that there has not yet been any formal approval to mine on any mountains in this area and that such a decision would be directed to their general members through a referendum vote. The Ahousaht Chiefs

extended a willingness to work together with others that now share this territory but emphasized the need to appropriately address hardships that have occurred in our recent past (especially those pertaining to economics and resource extraction).

Arthur Manuel of the Indigenous Network on Economics and Trade discussed BC Premier Christy Clark's announcement that she intends to open eight new mines by 2015. Indigenous management of North America left the continent abundant. Now we've run out of cod—it was governed for profit, not the circle model of first peoples.

Amy Crook of the Environmental Mining Education Foundation spoke about how the health effects of mining will impact future generations for hundreds if not thousands of years. Due to global market pressures, somebody will



want to come for Clayoquot's ore bodies, unless we come together as local communities to create a shared vision for the region that does not include mining.

Tla-o-qui-aht Councillor Terry Dorward declared that his Nation is adamantly opposed to mining within their territory and indicated that if any mining corporation intends to move forward with these activities that their members are prepared to initiate a direct action campaign to immediately address and cease the violation of their rights.

The evening was completed with a performance from 12 year old Kallilah Rampanen (from the Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht Nations) with a song titled, "Chitapii: More than Copper to Me" illustrating the power and strength that stems from the younger generation. Members from TIICH (see sidebar) finished off the evening with a statement stressing the importance of revitalizing language and cultural values and practices and a message of unity and hope for a shared future.

Overall, the public forum was a step into an unknown direction that recognized the need to gather and discuss our differences, to honour and celebrate our uniquenesses and to build upon our commonalities for the sake of our environment and the health of our people and land.

naas-a-thluk

- "takes care of the day"

John Rampanen

jrampanen@yahoo.ca



Art: Marika Swan



Marme Recker

TIICH

We are an informal group of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations members that have been gathering to take action on issues that are important to us. We understand the interconnected nature of all life and wish to re-integrate cultural practices that reflect these teachings.

We have been challenging each other to learn more about our local food sources, sharing recipes and harvesting responsibly. We have been actively learning our language and enjoying the philosophies and teachings encoded within it. We have been paddling in the capuc (cedar dugout canoe) and gaining a deeper respect for the journey. And we have been educating ourselves about the industries and personal choices that further threaten the balance of living beings in our home.

On December 21, we celebrated winter solstice by hosting a traditional foods feast in the village of Opitsaht. We went out and gathered a wide variety of delicious local treats, from mussels, clams, crabs and chitons to

rosehip tea. We went door to door through the Tla-o-qui-aht communities, inviting people to come share a meal and join an open discussion on the importance of the vitality of our local foods. While we feasted together we learned the Tla-o-qui-aht names for what was nourishing us. Stories were shared and information was distributed about the concerns we have about the negative effects of fish farming. After feasting we hosted a talking circle where people were given the opportunity to speak or just listen to the richness of others.

Many of these issues are complicated, but by coming together we found we can encourage and inspire each other to align our daily lives with what we understand to be a healthy relationship with our territory. We are open to all like-minded Tla-o-qui-aht people, and one need only express interest to be invited to one of our friendly potluck-sharing circles.

Marika Swan

Tla-o-qui-aht artist

Check out www.marikaswan.com

**Thanks for supporting
our Mining Forum!**

**glasswaters
foundation**



*The more clearly we can focus
our attention on the wonders
and realities of the universe
about us, the less taste we
shall have for destruction.*

- Rachel Carson
(c) 1954

Scientists' Declaration on Clayoquot

Scientists from across North America have signed a declaration calling for permanent protection of Clayoquot Sound's ancient rainforest valleys. The 133 scientists spoke out because temperate rainforests are rare globally and increasingly threatened by logging. The same is true on Vancouver Island, where Clayoquot Sound is the largest area of intact rainforest left. A Sierra Club BC map, released concurrently, shows that of 282 rainforest valleys on Vancouver Island larger than 3,000 hectares, only 22 remain unlogged. Of these 22 valleys, eight are unprotected and open to logging, including six intact valleys in Clayoquot Sound.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

You can view the Scientists' Declaration and Sierra Club map at www.sierraclub.bc.ca/our-work/hotspots/spotlights/new-risk-of-logging-in-clayoquot-sound

...those who have experienced being exposed to wilderness, who have taken people into the wild areas and lived with them there, have witnessed a change within them. Somehow they emerge from the wilderness transformed as if they were coming from a highly sacred atmosphere. Indeed, wilderness is the original cathedral...

– Sir Laurens van der Post



Mark Hobson

The powerful network of forests

A red squirrel creeps from the abandoned woodpecker-cavity of an old Douglas-fir and scrambles up the furrowed bark to the majestic crown where it cuts green cones. Under logs or at the base of old trees, the squirrel peels the scales to get to the seeds. It eats most seeds on the spot, but leaves many behind to be spread through the forest by deer mice and germinate the following spring.

The squirrels and mice also forage in the forest floor for *Rhizopogon* truffles, the subterranean mushrooms of mycorrhizal fungi associated with Douglas-fir. A myco-rhiza, literally “fungus root”, is an ancient mutualism where the fungus supplies the tree with nutrients from the soil; in turn the tree supplies the fungus with sugar. The fungal spores are dispersed by rodents in their feces, and these spores germinate in spring when they receive chemical signals from the newly germinating Douglas-fir to colonize their roots. The new fungal mycelia join forces with established mycorrhizal networks of nearby Douglas-fir in colonizing new seedlings. Mycorrhizal networks not only link the roots of young Douglas-fir with older Douglas-fir, but also with other neighbouring species that are host to generalist fungal species.

You can easily imagine, then, the massive circuitry that links almost all trees in a single forest stand! Such

mycorrhizal networks are ubiquitous in forests around the world, where the root systems of the largest, oldest trees serve as network hubs within which the new germinants establish. Linking into the mycorrhizal network of older trees provides seedlings with a larger pool of nutrients than they could access on their own. In the shaded forest understory, conifer seedlings depend on carbon and nutrients from the old giants through these networks – the more shaded the seedling, the more resources it receives from neighbouring trees. The fungus, too, depends on interplant mycorrhizal networks to secure a plant carbon source in new generations. As the young trees mature, they themselves become hubs for nurturing subsequent generations of seedlings. In time, the mature trees grow old, become softened by decay fungi, and are prized by cavity excavating woodpeckers for roosting and raising their young before passing the cavity onto secondary nesters such as squirrels. Loss of these hubs to high-grade logging thus ultimately affects recruitment of old-growth trees that provide habitat for “nest-webs” of cavity nesting birds and mammals, and thus dispersed seed and spores for future generations of trees.

Suzanne Simard and Kathy Martin

Suzanne Simard is a professor of forest ecology and Kathy is a professor of alpine and forest bird ecology at the University of British Columbia

Cover story continued.

may add up to a level of disturbance such that an area no longer functions as viable habitat for wildlife.

We need resource development, but not at the expense of ecosystems on which we all depend for fresh water, clean healthy soils and important cultural and lifestyle values. If we continue with the “open season” on development that the assessment processes assume, we have to stop the pretense that this province will always be “Supernatural BC”.

We are at an ecological crossroads. If you are satisfied with black bears, deer, raccoons, Canada geese and other extremely adaptable species, don't worry. But if your image of British Columbia includes rivers with salmon and healthy populations of grizzly bears, cougars, wolves, caribou and other wilderness species, be concerned.

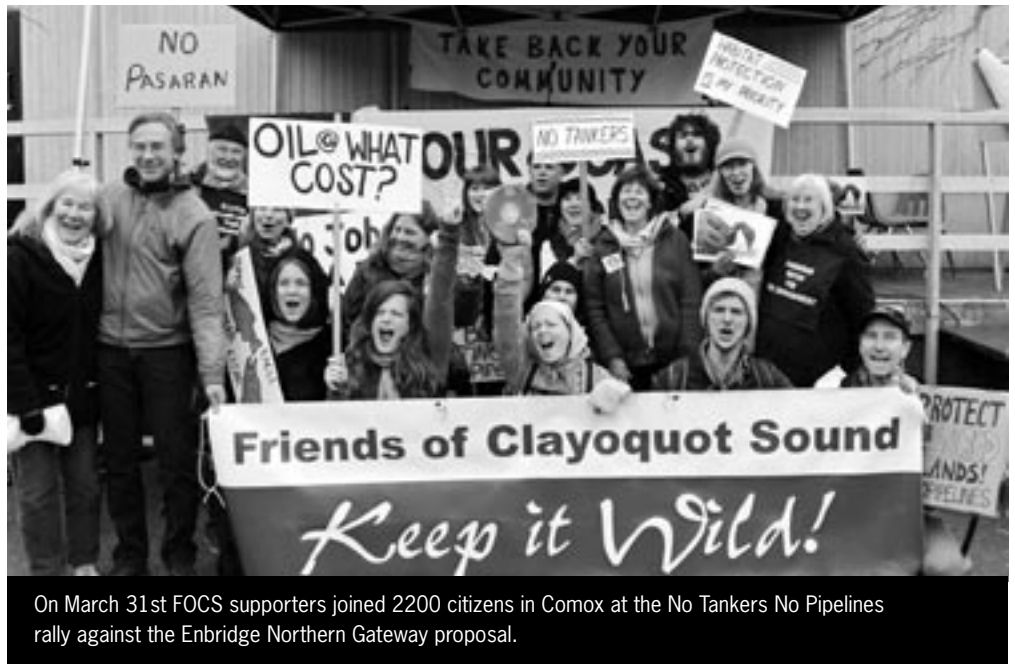
Improvements are not possible with a decision process that solely considers technicalities and leaves wilderness values, community aspirations and cultural concerns by the wayside. Why wait until 1500 species are at risk? By then, only heroic and costly measures will suffice. It is poor ecology, poor economics and poor stewardship.

British Columbia needs a province-wide vision for what wilderness and wildlife should look like in 50 years. We have to move intentionally and purposefully to implement it, rather than leave our future to the whims of developers and an environmental assessment process designed solely for their convenience.

Jim Walker

Jim was Assistant Deputy Minister and before that Director of Wildlife for the BC Ministry of Environment

Tofino Photography



On March 31st FOCS supporters joined 2200 citizens in Comox at the No Tankers No Pipelines rally against the Enbridge Northern Gateway proposal.

Flores Island update

Flores Island has been the focus of much attention since Lisaak Forest Resources received permits to build a road on Flores Island and to drop logs in the ocean. This winter they applied for a permit to begin cutting the ancient rainforests of Flores Island. As of this writing, they have not received this permit. Friends of Clayoquot Sound are keeping a close eye on the situation.

Mining update

Imperial Metals of Vancouver BC has permits for exploratory drilling for copper on Catface Mountain, and for gold in the Tranquil Valley. As of this writing, they have not indicated any plans to proceed with these activities in Clayoquot Sound this summer. Friends of Clayoquot will be monitoring Imperial Metals' activities through our Sound Watch program.



If you're in Tofino this summer on a Tuesday evening, join Dan Lewis and Bonny Glambeck for an unforgettable journey through the natural beauty of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Learn about the ecology of the region's globally rare ancient rainforests, and threats to that ecology. The show includes images from some of BC's leading outdoor photographers.

Clayoquot Sound Community Theatre, Tuesday evenings at **8:00**, throughout July, August, and September. Admission by donation. Door and light refreshments at 7:30 pm.

Support the Wild!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforests 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 inspire people. 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. www.focs.ca

Send your donation to:

Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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Canada V0R 2Z0

Ph: 250-725-4218

Office: 331 Neill St, Tofino

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Marnie Recker

"As the world grows more and more connected, as the larger command and control structures fail to provide the means of a dignified life to so many people or to address the enormous challenges of climate change, environmental destruction, war and violence, more and more the hope of the world comes to rest on the efforts of voluntary groups fired with vision and passion."

– Starhawk
The Empowerment Manual