



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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Fall 2015 - Winter 2016

Ahousaht salmon farm eviction sets global precedent

Friends of Clayoquot Sound support the 'Warriors of Yaakswiis' during the action to evict Cermaq's fish farm from Ahousaht territory.

The newest salmon farm in Clayoquot Sound had a life span of only two weeks and was removed by its owner, Cermaq, before it started operating. This marks a first in BC and the world.

At the end of July, 2015, the federal and provincial governments approved Cermaq's new open net-pen Atlantic salmon farm, Yaakswiis, located in Millar Channel off the east shore of Flores Island, in the territory of the Ahousaht Nation.

Ahousaht hereditary chiefs announced Yaakswiis would be a replacement for Cermaq's Dixon Bay farm that Ahousaht have long wanted removed. They also announced



Isisla Martin

plans to begin a feasibility study for a land-based salmon farm on their private property on Meares Island. Closed containment on land is considered an improvement over ocean-based net-pens because it does not pollute the ocean, or transfer diseases and

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Clayoquot Salmon Festival: Wild salmon appreciation week



Wild Beauty
by Joe David

Salmon play an integral role in coastal livelihoods, cultures, and ecosystems in Clayoquot Sound. Celebrating these magnificent species is what inspired Friends of Clayoquot Sound to organize the Clayoquot Salmon Festival. The vision for the festival was to offer residents and visitors an opportunity to reflect

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Marion Syme

Ahousaht salmon farm eviction sets global precedent

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parasites to wild salmon and other wild species.

But grassroots leaders of Ahousaht Nation launched an educational website, SalmonFarmsKill.com, and an on-line petition to stop the Yaakswiis farm from being constructed. Yaakswiis is on a wild salmon migration route and near clam beds that Ahousaht harvest. It would have been the third salmon farm in a short stretch of Millar Channel.

On September 9th, when Cermaq moved in to anchor the fish farm, a group of Ahousahts known as the Warriors of Yaakswiis came out in boats to block installation of the pens. Cermaq employees withdrew and the Warriors occupied the farm's pen framework on the ocean. In the days that followed, the Warriors met with Ahousaht hereditary chiefs and band council to explain their concerns. The chiefs and council responded by agreeing to protect Yaakswiis and telling Cermaq to permanently remove the farm! Within a week, Cermaq towed away the pen framework.

Also a non-starter was Cermaq's application for a new farm in Herbert Inlet, which was denied by government at the same time as Yaakswiis was approved. This site does not have enough tidal flow to "flush away" the sewage – feces and uneaten food pellets – that would have been released by hundreds of thousands of farmed fish.

The net result is that Clayoquot stays at 20 salmon farm sites: 6 owned by Creative Salmon in Tla-o-qui-aht territory, and 14 by Cermaq in Ahousaht territory (including Dixon Bay, which will expire in 2017). Meanwhile, the movement for wild salmon continues to grow with the aim of stopping toxic fish farms worldwide.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz



Clayoquot Salmon Festival: Wild salmon appreciation week

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upon, and build an active appreciation for, the irreplaceable value of salmon.

The wild salmon appreciation week was timed to coincide with the return of salmon to spawn in Clayoquot's rivers and creeks. From September 23 – September 30, a variety of events was hosted in Tofino, with something for everyone, from elders to youth. Anyone who has witnessed salmon hurling themselves upriver and over obstacles during spawning knows their tenacious drive to give life to the next generation. In this spirit, the festival kicked off with educational games and activities for kids and families. Tofino Nature Kids facilitated face painting, salmon art, and necklace making, while a couple in bear costumes made their way through the Tofino Public Market outreaching to those in attendance.

Salmon are keystone species supporting wildlife such as orcas, bears and wolves, and giving life to old growth forests. They are also under significant stress in the environment from water pollutants and climate change. To generate discussion about the issues facing salmon, the festival presented a documentary screening of *The Breach*, as well as a speakers forum. The Clayoquot Sound Community Theatre was full for *The Breach*, which follows fishing guide and filmmaker Mark Titus on a journey to discover why wild salmon populations have plummeted in the Pacific Northwest and what might bring them back. Along the way, Titus unravels a trail of hubris, historical amnesia and potential

tragedy looming because of mining, fish farms and dams.

Presenters at the *Voices For Salmon: Speakers Forum* built upon this thinking. Dr. Brian Riddell from the Pacific Salmon Foundation delivered a presentation regarding the most current science on the state of salmon. Tla-o-qui-aht master carver and guide, Joe Martin, shared traditional teachings and accounts of how fish populations have changed in Clayoquot Sound over the generations. Lennie John gave an inspiring talk about his experience leading the Warriors of Yaakswiis in evicting a new Cermaq salmon farm from territory of the Ahousaht Nation, north of Tofino. Filmmaker Nitanis Desjarlais emphasized the implications of declining salmon populations for food sovereignty, ecosystem health, and future generations. Her 14 year-old daughter, singer songwriter Kalilah Rampanen, then closed the presentations with bluesy acoustic protest songs about the impacts of fish farms and mining. The presentations inspired community discussion about how we can work together to support strong wild salmon populations on the coast.

An art exhibit called *Ocean Seasons* ran throughout the festival, featuring the works of coastal artists including Marika Swan, Carl Martin Sr and Jr, Claire Watson and Allison Tremain. Events came to a close at Darwin's Cafe with Something's Fishy Performance Activism Expo celebrating community actions to protect salmon with storytelling, slam poetry, and music.

Jeh Custerra
FOCS campaigner

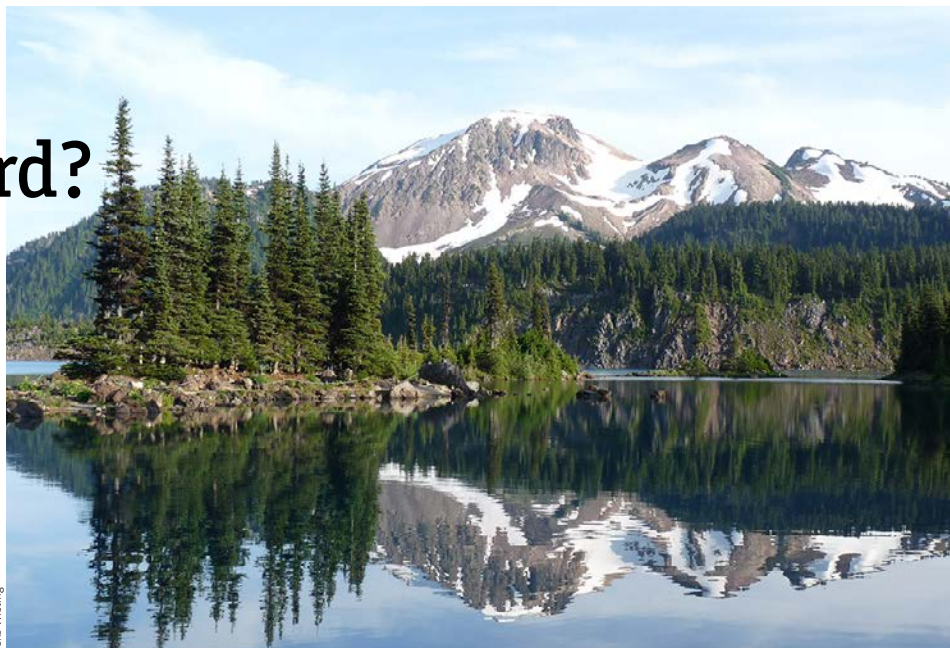
Is BC a climate leader or laggard?

If you live in BC you might think that our province is a climate champion because you hear it repeatedly from our government. In advance of the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at year's end, BC is preparing its Climate Action Plan 2.0 and is "challenging other jurisdictions to match or exceed the world-leading standard BC has set for climate action."

So what progress has our province made so far? In its 2008 Climate Action Plan, the province set a relatively ambitious target: to reduce BC's emissions by 33 percent from 2007 levels by 2020. Unfortunately, according to Environment Canada data, we are way off track, with a reduction of only 2 percent and only 5 years to go to our deadline.

The European Union reduced emissions by 19 percent in 2013 compared to 1990 levels, whereas BC's 2013 emissions were 13 percent **higher**. Premier Christy Clark's claim that BC is still a "world leader in the fight against climate change" is highly misleading.

The 2013 emissions increase is a wake-up call and the province must take immediate action to reverse this trend. Among the many measures needed is phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and re-establishing the



Jens Wieting

Glacier-fed Garibaldi Lake near Whistler, BC, in 2012. Due to global warming, Garibaldi's glaciers continue to recede.

annual increases in the carbon tax rate.

But perhaps the most important step to make it possible for BC to get back on track is for the province to introduce a "climate test" for all energy infrastructure projects — a mandatory assessment of the full carbon footprint must be part of the environmental assessment for all new coal, oil and gas infrastructure projects.

The BC government has not yet given up its goal to build at least three liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals by 2020, which would lead to a massive ramp up of fracking — hydraulic fracturing for gas and oil — in the province. This

would increase provincial emissions by more than 50 percent, entirely incompatible with the idea of saving a liveable climate. We must cease making these large, long-term capital investments in new fossil fuel infrastructure because they lock in additional emissions for decades. This is crucial for getting out of the hole: stop digging.

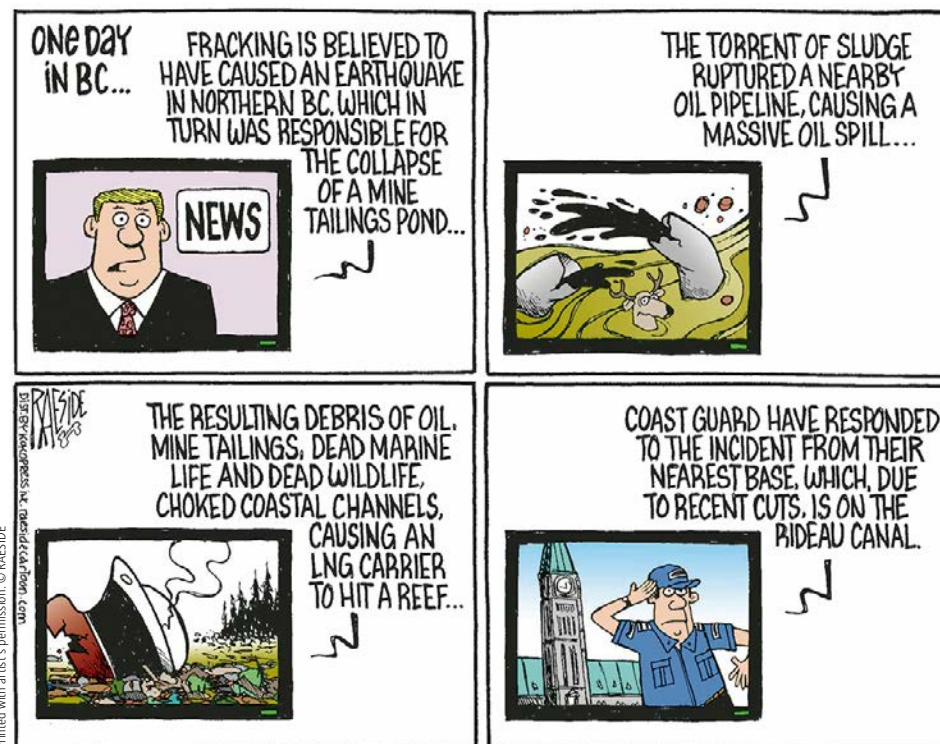
BC has a diverse economy with many opportunities to strengthen low-carbon sectors with a bright future like clean technologies, renewable energy, tourism, creative industries, forestry and agriculture. We must restore our forests' function as carbon banks by increasing forest conservation and improving forest management. Our province can become a real climate leader through a full shift away from gas, oil and coal, to climate solutions that create more and better jobs. This would allow us to actually meet our reduction targets and aim for new ones.

BC should follow the world-leading standard for climate action and adopt the same target that California and the European Union have set their eyes on: a 40 percent reduction from 1990 emissions levels by 2030.

In light of the failure of Harper's federal government to take the threat of global warming seriously, it is time for the new Liberal government, in concert with BC and the provinces, to step up to the plate.

Jens Wieting

Forest and Climate Campaigner,
Sierra Club BC



Reconnecting to Nuu-chah-nulth land



Emery Hartley

Rampanen kids at home in their Ahousaht family's traditional territory in Herbert Inlet, Clayoquot Sound.

Hilthmahsaqin is a recently developed Nuu-chah-nulth language and culture organization primarily composed of Ahousaht First Nation members but includes members from all other Nuu-chah-nulth nations on Vancouver Island.

Our mission is focused upon a long-term vision to develop a Nuu-chah-nulth survival school located on remote Nuu-chah-nulth territories in Clayoquot Sound. Our efforts concentrate on providing language immersion, traditional knowledge and skills development and indigenous foods systems. We are working in partnership with traditional Nuu-chah-nulth governance leaders, the Nuu-chah-nulth Language Authority, the Quuquutsa Language Society and the University of Victoria. We are also in the process of formalizing our organization as a society and charitable organization.

Muulthmuums nananiqsu is one of our projects that is currently in development – it aims to research, document and revitalize connections with traditional Nuu-chah-nulth territories. Through a series of conversations with Nuu-chah-nulth elders and traditional knowledge-keepers, participants in this program will identify traditional territories with a special emphasis upon key village sites and historical attractions. They will also revive Nuu-chah-nulth place names and directly connect with the lands, waters and food systems that enrich these territories. Guided trips to the territories will be visually documented and digital stories and short videos will be produced to share the teachings, insights and richness associated with this initiative.

The *muulthmuums nananiqsu* project will provide multiple community capacity building, health improvement and language/cultural revitalization opportunities. Each participant in the project will enhance their understanding and awareness of traditional Nuu-chah-nulth knowledge and practices pertaining to territorial stewardship. This learning experience will be completely documented from start to finish and the end product will be packaged through a series of digital stories and/or short videos that will be shared with local communities, schools, organizations and families in an effort to promote the benefits of reconnecting with our traditional territories as well as building upon the Nuu-chah-nulth vocabulary and cultural knowledge sharing.

Hilthmahsaqin is a collective that is organized and operated on a volunteer basis. A considerable number of our participants reside in the Port Alberni Valley, but we are now receiving much interest and involvement from community members on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Our organization is grateful for any contributions that can be made to help us with our work.

John Rampanen

naas-a-thluk - "takes care of the day"

How you can help

Hilthmahsaqin is fundraising for equipment and materials to document and research cultural/spiritual connections to land and water. Any contributions to assist these efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Contact: John Rampanen

250-731-7582

jrampanen@yahoo.ca



View from the Rampanen home.

John Rampanen

Hesquiaht say **NO!** to logging

Stephen Charleson



Members of Hesquiaht First Nation block Isaak Forest Resources from building more logging roads.

For some time now, Hesquiaht First Nation, including Chief and Band Council, have made it known they don't want any more logging on their territory in northern Clayoquot Sound. Their land is already scarred by clearcuts, roads and landslides from decades of logging by companies such as BC Forest Products and Interfor.

So it was a surprise when loggers from Isaak Forest Resources showed up in their village of Hot Springs on August 4th looking for lodging. Operating since 2000, Isaak is a company owned by Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Ucluelet and Toquaht First Nations. Isaak was about to start building logging roads and cutting old growth forest east of Hesquiat Harbour, near the internationally renowned Hooksum Outdoor Education School run by members of the Hesquiaht Nation, and next to a salmon stream that Hesquiaht Fisheries had just restored from previous logging damage.

Hesquiaht First Nation and Friends of Clayoquot Sound issued a news release the next day, *Blindsided by Logging Plans, Hesquiaht First Nation Move to Prevent Extraction*. In response, Isaak's General



Looking north from Hesquiat Harbour towards Hesquiat Lake.

Hooksum Outdoor School

Manager said he was equally "blind-sided" by Hesquiaht's opposition, and attributed the impasse to "poor communication."

Subsequently, Isaak's board of directors stated it would put logging in Hesquiaht traditional territory on hold until new direction is received from the nation.

As for Interfor, Hesquiaht and Mowachat First Nations have been holding up

the company's plan to build roads west of Hesquiat Harbour/Boat Basin. Last year, Hesquiaht also stopped Interfor's logging just north of Clayoquot Sound and issued the corporation an "eviction" notice.

Thank you, Hesquiaht, for safeguarding your territory!

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

FOCS campaigners: *Bye Emery, hi Jeh*

Emerly Hartley joined Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS) after completing an Environmental Sciences degree at McGill in the spring of 2013 and returned to McGill this fall to further his studies in Ecological Economics. In his two years with us, Emery made a big impact on FOCS and Tofino.

In addition to his role as FOCS campaigner, Emery was involved in many aspects of Tofino life. He volunteered as a member of the Tofino business development committee, was involved in helping local businessman Gord Johns gain the nomination as the federal NDP candidate in our riding and played fiddle in a band he formed.

Emery's final (self-appointed) task was to host a goodbye party, at which he offered to shave his head if \$1,000 was raised for FOCS that night. After partygoers shaved off his facial hair, donors outbid each other in opposing efforts to either clearcut his hair or save his old growth. We are happy to report that, in true Friends' fashion, the old growth was saved and \$2,000 was fundraised in the process. We cannot thank Emery enough for being willing to put his hair on the line.

Emery's unassuming self-assurance, passion, intelligence, insight and humour won him the respect of people of all ages and from all walks of life. He was a delight to work with, or hike or party with and is missed by many of us in Tofino.

Fortunately for FOCS, a few months before Emery left Tofino, a passionate young environmentalist, Jeh Custer, started attending our weekly meetings and helped organize a local FOCS-led

action against Imperial Metals. We were impressed by Jeh's enthusiasm, dedication and experience and it was a natural transition for him to take over the position of campaigner.

Jeh has extensive work experience including stints as National Energy Campaigner for the Sierra Club of Canada, and as ecofarm manager and youth educator, as well as providing media content for numerous environmental and social change movements. His most recent volunteer experience includes an ongoing contribution to the "Nourish the Nation" garden project run by 84 year-old Secwepemc Nation elder, Wolverine. Wolverine's eight-acre vegetable garden near Chase, BC helps feed communities on the front lines of major environmental fights. Jeh visited the garden and brought back a large haul of vegetables to help support September's successful occupation and eviction of the Yaakswiis salmon farm by the Ahousaht First Nation in Clayoquot Sound.

From international to local, Jeh has coordinated campaigns, projects and actions of all sizes and scopes. As an environmental justice activist, he has worked with grassroots groups including the Unist'ot'en Camp, Imperial No More, the Yes Men and Rising Tide. With Jeh's extensive activism experience, we feel that FOCS is in a good position to deal with expected increases in fish farm activism, imminent logging threats and any potential increase in mining threats. We are very happy to have Jeh working with us.

Nancy Powis
FOCS Advisory Board



Gill Nancy Photography



Emery Hartley

Emery Hartley (top) and Jeh Custer (bottom).

Lessons from Mount Polley mine disaster?

In June 2015, Minister of Energy and Mines Bill Bennett appointed a Mining Code Review Committee. Its task is to implement the seven recommendations of the Independent Expert Engineering Panel's investigation into the failure of the tailings pond dam at Imperial Metals' Mount Polley mine. In August 2014, when the earth/rock

dam burst, 25 million cubic metres of tailings (mine waste) effluent emptied into nearby creeks and lakes, including Quesnel Lake in the Cariboo region of central BC.

The Panel's recommendations regarding tailings dam safety will affect the approximately 100 existing mines in BC that store their toxic mine waste

under water in huge tailings ponds. Notably, the Panel stated that wet storage of tailings is outdated, and that future new mines should adopt de-watered tailings storage such as dry-stacking "where appropriate."

Meanwhile, the BC government allowed the Mount Polley mine to reopen at half capacity a year after the accident. The tailings

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and water are dumped into a mined-out pit instead of into the tailings pond.

Imperial Metals' new copper-gold Red Chris mine in northwestern BC started operating in early 2015, with a tailings pond twice as big as Mount Polley's and a dam that has terrain stability and geo-hazard concerns.

At this time there is no mandate to look at other aspects of BC's outdated mining laws, such as free entry ("mining trumps other uses," dating to the 1850s!) and absence of comprehensive land use planning that identifies "no go" zones in ecologically and culturally sensitive areas.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound believe that the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere

Reserve is a "no go" place where all mining activities should be banned, and where current mining interests – such as Imperial Metals' Catface copper and Pandora gold properties – should be required to relinquish their claims without public compensation.

Eileen Floody

FOCS board member



Mary Martin from Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation teaches cedar bark weaving at Tofino Re-Skilling Festival.

Dan Harrison



Transition Town movement in Tofino-Ucluelet

The Transition Town movement is a response to climate change and its underlying cause, our oil dependency. It's a movement that believes if we wait for governments to act on these threats, it will be too little, too late. If we act as individuals, it'll be too little. A community, however, coming together to address these issues, may be the best way forward.

Tofino and Ucluelet are diverse communities whose populations have the knowledge and skills to lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and increase local resilience. In Transition Towns, community members form into groups – gardening/food security, alternative energy, housing, economic (local currency), etc. – in an effort to re-localize the economy.

A local Transition Town movement can build on initiatives that already exist in our

area. The Tofino Community Food Initiative has a community garden and is making locally grown foods widely available in Tofino. The Raincoast Education Society holds Re-Skilling Festivals periodically in Tofino and Ucluelet. These re-skilling events allow community members to share knowledge and skills, learn about food gardening, water catchment systems, building small homes, strategic fishing, knitting – all examples taken from last year's Festival. The aim is to find ways of decreasing our dependence on globalized, oil-powered markets and re-localizing the economy, satisfying most of our needs from local resources.

Our present-day world economy is based on scarcity and the long, fragile chains of supply and demand upon which our globalized markets depend. Locally, on the other hand, we have the example of First Nations whose acquired wealth from the sea and forests gave

rise to an economy of plenty, an abundance shared out in potlatch gift-giving among the people. Transitioners seek to emulate that economy, a gift-sharing of abundant human and natural resources allowing us to transition from oil dependency to local resilience.

Born in 2006 in England, the Transition Town movement has itself gone global. Vancouver Island has five Transition Towns: Sooke, Cowichan, Comox, Salt Spring Island and (since 2007) Port Alberni. The BC mainland has 14 towns undertaking Transition.

The Transition Town movement believes the climate and economic shocks we're vulnerable to can best be absorbed by a community that has come together to create its own future, working in concert with local government, and cultivating local resources in the environment and a positive vision of that future in the community. This is the way forward offered by the Transition Town movement.

Transition Town Tofino-Ucluelet is a newly forming experiment. Everyone has something to offer.

Please join us!

Robert Zurowski

Transition Town local contact
zuro@telus.net

Resources

The Transition Handbook:
From oil dependency to local resilience
by Rob Hopkins,
founder of the movement

YouTube: **In Transition 2.0**
(1 hr. 6 min.)

transitionnetwork.org

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:

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Help us break the sound barrier

We received great support for our first Clayoquot Wild Salmon Festival! Grants came from the District of Tofino and BC Hydro, and a farewell party for departing campaigner Emery Hartley raised more funds. More than 50 businesses and individuals donated to the silent auction. The proceeds are shared with Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks, and all funds will go to support wild salmon.

Our campaigner, Jeh Custer, and volunteers Eileen Floody and Nancy Powis put in many hours towards the event, as did temporary employee Ana Schlectleitner.

This event showed that locals and visitors alike are deeply concerned about the threats wild salmon face. It also showed that we need one more person in the office to support our campaigns and keep in touch with allies.

Can you help us to hire another staff person so we can better protect the Sound? Please become a monthly donor, increase your monthly donation, or make a special gift earmarked "staff."

Contact us at info@focs.ca, or visit www.focs.ca and click on the Donate button.

Join our Wilderness Team by becoming a monthly donor!

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Name: _____

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

☐ Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter by email.

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