



PHOTO: Dale Sanders

2006

ANNUAL REPORT



Healthy Oceans. Healthy Communities.

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Living Oceans Society is a non-profit research and public education organization committed to conserving healthy oceans and healthy communities. Currently the largest marine conservation organization in Canada, Living Oceans Society was founded by Executive Director Jennifer Lash in 1998 and is based in the fishing community of Sointula on the Central Coast of B.C.

To realize the goal of a healthy ocean, Living Oceans Society works to establish a network of marine protected areas, develop sustainable fisheries, transition to closed containment salmon farms, and ensure the B.C. coast remains free of oil tankers and offshore oil and gas. In addition, Living Oceans Society supports the development of a conservation based economy for the Pacific Coast of Canada through marine planning. This work is carried out by an incredible team of 17 devoted people working in our Sointula and Vancouver offices.



Living Oceans Society is conducting cutting edge analysis and advocacy work to transform the way we manage our oceans. Today this work is more important than ever and all Canadians should value the work of this effective organization.

Tzporah Berman
Strategic Director
ForestEthics

Living Oceans Society finds innovative ways of conserving the ocean while respecting the people who work and live on the coast.

Michael De Pencier
Environmental Entrepreneur

Living Oceans Society is a gift to the coast of British Columbia. Based in the small fishing village of Sointula, this organization takes on the most difficult issues facing the eastern Pacific. If our oceans do remain alive, it will be in no small part due to Living Oceans Society.

Alexandra Morton
Research Scientist
Raincoast Research

In nine short years, Living Oceans Society has grown from a dream to the largest marine conservation organization in Canada. This is a testament to their passion and hard work.

Joel Solomon
Executive Director
Endswell Foundation



PHOTO: Dale Sanders

Letter from the Executive Director

Canadians should care about the ocean. I am not referring solely to the people that live on Canada's three coasts and whose daily lives are touched by the ocean. I am referring to the people who live on the prairies, the people in central Canada, the people who may go months or years without seeing the ocean, let alone thinking about what it does for them. All Canadians need to care for the ocean because the ocean cares for us.

The ocean provides the air we breathe. Tiny microscopic ocean plants called phytoplankton breathe in carbon dioxide and release oxygen during photosynthesis, supplying 30 to 50 percent of the world's oxygen. So, although the ocean may seem far away if you live in Saskatchewan, it is, in a sense, in every breath you take.

The ocean provides the food we eat. Canadians consume about ten kilos of seafood per person each year, about six kilos of which is caught in Canada's waters. Unquestionably, coastal residents consume the highest levels of seafood, but even Alberta ranchers occasionally forgo steak for wild salmon at a barbecue.

The ocean contributes to Canada's economy. In 2004 our fisheries generated \$4.5 billion. Canada is the fifth largest seafood exporter in the world. In British Columbia alone, over 10,000 people are employed in the commercial fishing industry.

Living Oceans Society is working hard to change the way our oceans are managed so that they are vibrant, viable and able to support all Canadians. With help from our supporters, we are able to use our technical skills, knowledge and strategic expertise to develop and implement edgy, agile and effective campaigns that make a difference.

This annual report provides a snapshot of some of the cutting edge work we are doing. We have seen many successes in the past year, from stopping the spread of fish farms and the continuation of the moratorium on offshore oil and gas, to developing innovative, collaborative science projects that discover new solutions to old problems.

But our work is not done. Our federal and provincial governments continue to promote unsustainable practices that fly in the face of sound science and practicality. With support from foundations and individuals we will continue to hold our leaders accountable, provide practical solutions, and increase public awareness of the spectacular oceans that wash upon our shores.

A healthy Canada includes healthy oceans. We hope that you will continue to support us in our effort to protect the oceans for all Canadians.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Lash
Executive Director
Living Oceans Society





PHOTO: Dale Sanders

Letter from the Chairperson

The Living Oceans Society story begins for me more than 10 years ago. In June of '97, after a short but steep hike, Jennifer Lash and I arrived on a mountain top overlooking Georgia Strait. The sky was clear, the air was crisp, and the ocean spread sparkling blue-green before us. Jen, with her customary zeal and enthusiasm, was hauling delicious smoked salmon treats out of her backpack and describing her life long love affair with the ocean—in the process, quite viscerally reminding me of mine. She started with stories of amazing sea creatures seen on reef dives, great wall dives, and rushing through tidal narrows, and moved on to tales of fishermen, whale researchers, First Nations, and lodge owners. Her stories spoke of the vibrant interrelated human and non-human web that makes up our coast. For Jen, people have always been part of the ocean ecosystem, and her desire to protect both the animals of the sea and the people around it was, and still is, a passion she wears on her sleeve every day.

A year later, when Jen formed Living Oceans Society, I was thrilled to be one of the founding Board members. Over the past nine years I have had the privilege of helping Living Oceans Society grow from an idea on a mountain top to the largest marine conservation organization in Canada with a cadre of high caliber staff dedicated to protecting the ocean. Thanks in large part to this incredible group of people, Living Oceans Society is in the news, in the board rooms of multinational companies, in the halls of our legislatures, and out talking directly to local communities, fishermen and First Nations. Everywhere they go they are inspiring change and getting results.

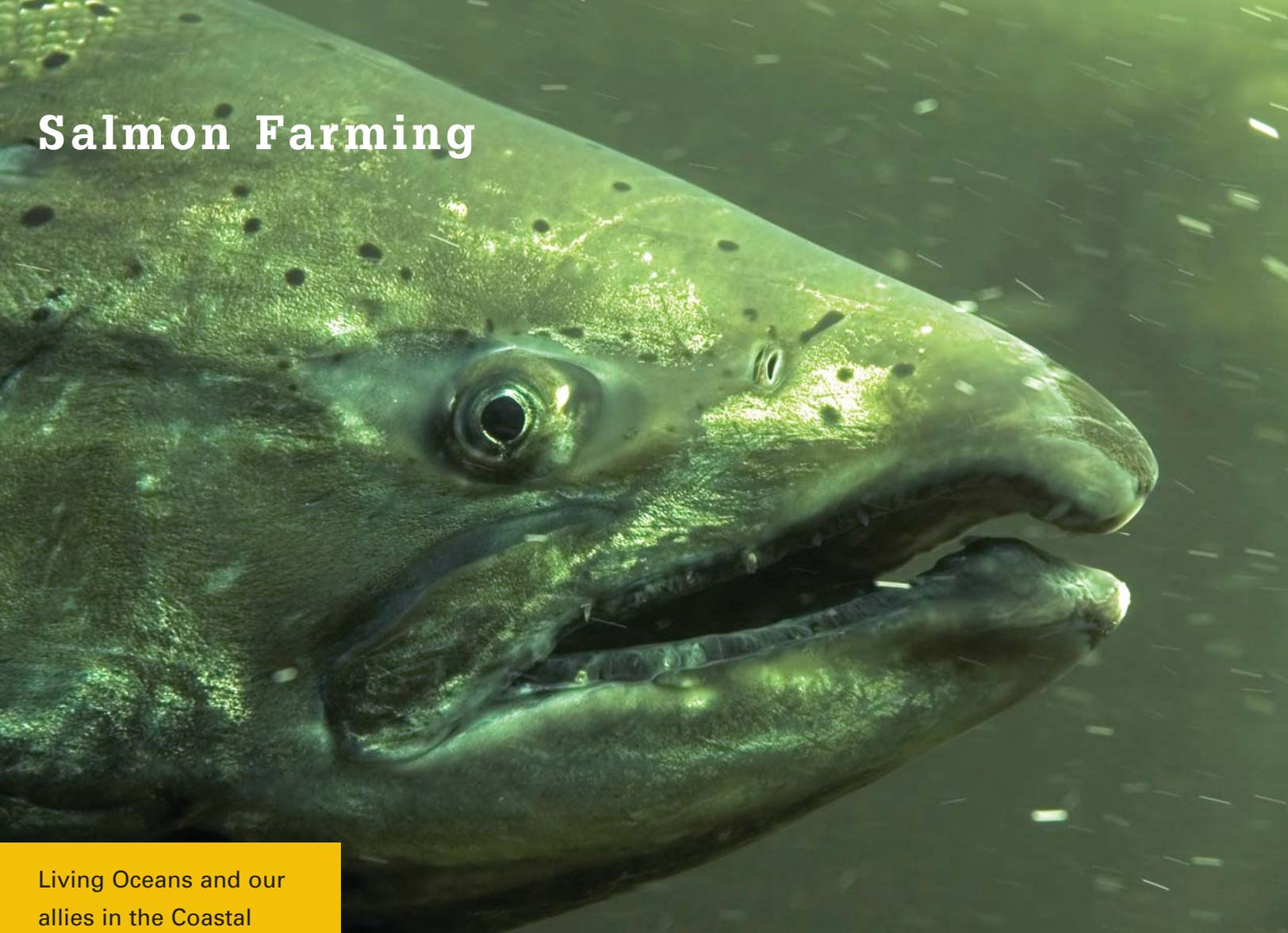
While much of our work is focused in B.C., Living Oceans Society is increasingly engaged at the national level, working with environmental groups on the east coast of Canada and helping forge new ideas for conservation in the Arctic.

At the core of all this work lies the same values that Jen shared with me on top of that mountain. The ocean is integral to the lives of coastal residents and, as we are learning, to the lives of all Canadians. Protecting the ocean is about learning how to manage our activities so that our children and our grandchildren can continue to benefit from the sea in perpetuity. I'm extremely proud of the work that Living Oceans Society is doing to make this happen.



Jody Holmes, PhD
Chairperson
Living Oceans Society





Salmon Farming

Living Oceans and our allies in the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform have kept open net-cage salmon farming front and centre as an issue of serious concern to British Columbians. We're forcing the federal and provincial governments to address the impacts on wild salmon and ocean health.

Catherine Stewart
Manager, Salmon Farming Campaign

Our goal

Transition British Columbia's fish farming industry from open net cages to closed containment systems that will control disease and parasite outbreaks, and eliminate escapes and predator interactions.

Why it matters

Research shows that fish farms spread sea lice to wild salmon stocks, with one study concluding that the lice kill up to 95 percent of the juvenile wild salmon swimming past the fish farms on their way to the open Pacific. Despite government assurances that the salmon raised in the open net cages (the majority of which are Atlantic salmon) could never escape—and if they did could not survive—over a million have swum away to compete with the native fish for food and spawning habitat. Research published in 2005 reported finding Atlantic salmon in over 80 B.C. rivers; hundreds of other rivers have not been studied. Nonetheless, the federal and provincial governments are promoting the expansion of the fish farm industry to twice its current size.

What we did in 2006

Living Oceans Society's salmon farm campaign, together with our allies in the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR), have:

- Continued to oppose the approval of new fish farm tenures through the environmental approval process. In fact, since 2001 when the provincial Liberal government lifted the moratorium on new farms, only four new farms have been approved coast-wide. This is considerably fewer than the industry's target of 10 new farms per year for 10 years.
- Negotiated an agreement with Marine Harvest Canada to enter into collaborative research on the impacts of sea lice from salmon farming on juvenile wild salmon, and the economic feasibility of closed containment. (This year Marine Harvest became the largest salmon farming corporation in the world after merging with Pan Fish.) The results of this collaborative effort will help shape the future of salmon farming and the protection of the marine ecosystem in B.C.
- Met with the Federal Fisheries Minister and representatives of all the federal political parties to provide a clear illustration of the scientific evidence that proves salmon farming is killing wild salmon and harming the marine ecosystem.
- Presented solid science and local knowledge in verbal and written submissions at hearings for the provincial government's Special Committee on Sustainable Aquaculture. We arranged for expert scientific evidence to be presented to the committee. We also encouraged people and businesses who depend on wild salmon and ocean health to make presentations. The committee evaluated the coast-wide submissions and recommended that all farms transition to ocean-based closed containment within five years.
- Continued to build a network of chefs from Canada and the U.S. who serve wild salmon exclusively. Over 160 chefs have agreed to stop selling farmed salmon until it is safe for the ocean.
- Conducted marketplace and shareholder campaigns that resulted in retail giant Safeway International sending its Canadian President and Chief Operating Officer to the Broughton Archipelago during the juvenile wild salmon out-migration period to see first hand why their customers are so upset about fish farms. We continue to work with Safeway, encouraging them to use their buying power to promote change in farmed salmon production methods and switch to more sustainable practices such as closed containment.

Marine Planning and Protected Areas

Our goal

Establish ecosystem based management, including a network of marine protected areas (MPAs), on the Pacific Coast of Canada.



Living Oceans Society is working hard to make sure the federal government lives up to its obligation to conduct marine planning, and that the people who work and live on this coast can participate in a meaningful way.

Kate Willis
Manager, Marine Planning and
Protected Areas Campaign

Marine Planning and Protected Areas

Why it matters

The overall health of the ecosystem on Canada's Pacific Coast is declining due to impacts from climate change, fish farms, unsustainable fisheries, pollution and other industrial forces. Moreover, the lack of effective MPAs in B.C. means that we have not established a level of protection that ensures the ecosystem is resilient in the face of change.

Ecosystem based management, including a network of effective MPAs, will ensure that an adequate representation of the ocean's biodiversity is protected, and that all industrial activities are managed with ecosystem health as the overarching goal. Living Oceans Society believes that ecosystem based management can best be achieved by involving the people who live and work on this coast in an effective marine planning process.

What we did in 2006

- Worked with First Nations, stakeholders and government to ensure that coastal people will be fully engaged in designing a conservation vision, including MPAs, for the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA).
- Collaborated with our conservation allies in the B.C. ENGO Marine Planning Caucus to produce two reports with recommendations for effective marine planning processes based on best practices.
- Gathered and mapped local ecological knowledge from residents and fishermen.
- Initiated a collaborative project to develop a science-based method to identify areas of high conservation utility, and likely areas for protection. The British Columbia Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) project drew scientists, environmental organizations and the provincial, federal and First Nations governments into a project team that is assembling the best available data to inform PNCIMA and other planning processes. The data includes information such as where species are found at various times of the year, migration routes, which parts of the marine habitat are used by which creatures, and where humans use the marine environment.
- Traveled to Ottawa throughout the year to make the case for MPAs and marine planning on B.C.'s coast, and to urge the federal government to support the planning process and allocate sufficient funds. Our campaigners met with Members of Parliament and representatives from at least seven Ministries including Fisheries and Oceans Canada. We also presented to the Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries, and the Conservative Party B.C. Regional Caucus.
- Developed grassroots support for MPAs and marine planning through presentations, tabling, community meetings, and one-on-one dialogues with coastal residents and fishermen in Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Sointula, Alert Bay, Prince Rupert and Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands).

Our goal

Ensure that the long standing moratoria on offshore oil and gas development and oil tanker traffic are maintained and strengthened.

Why it matters

The development of offshore oil reserves and the transportation of hydrocarbons pose many threats to the health of the ocean, and the danger starts before a drop of oil is extracted. The first phase of exploration involves seismic testing, where air guns blast high pressure air through the ocean to the seabed to map potential oil and gas reserves. Evidence suggests that this process may affect the eggs and larvae of marine species, damage fish such as rockfish that have swim bladders and disrupt the migratory routes of whales.

Once in operation, oil rigs pollute the ocean on a daily basis; a single rig can discharge over 90,000 metric tons of drilling fluids and metal cuttings into the ocean during its lifetime. Oil spills, whether from oil rigs or tankers, cause long term devastation. Research in Alaska's Prince William Sound has shown the ecological and social impacts of the Exxon Valdez spill have been far reaching and long-lasting. Neither the ecosystem nor the communities have recovered fully.

We continue to harness British Columbians' opposition to oil rigs and tankers, and turn it into policies that will keep the coast oil free.

Oonagh O'Connor
Manager, Energy Campaign



What we did

- Maintained a high level of public support for the moratorium on offshore oil and gas, and informed the newly elected federal Conservative government that coastal communities supported the ban. In a discussion with the Minister of Natural Resources Canada, we were told that the government is not planning to lift the moratorium anytime soon. While this is not a permanent confirmation of the moratorium, it is a small reprieve.
- Increased public awareness of the oil industry's plans to open the North Coast to tanker traffic, which could result in over 300 tankers per year carrying oil, condensate or liquefied natural gas through B.C.'s waters.
- Worked with First Nations, communities and a coalition of environmental groups to raise awareness of Enbridge's proposed pipeline from the Alberta tar sands to Kitimat on the coast of B.C., where crude oil and condensate would be transported via tankers and pipelines as part of the expansion of the tar sands. As a result of many concerns, this project has been delayed indefinitely.
- Harnessed public concern to quash government funding for an academic research project called "Batholiths" that called for extensive seismic testing. If the project had passed an Environmental Assessment it would have set a precedent for future seismic testing required for offshore oil and gas development.
- Played a pivotal role with other conservation groups to develop strategies to address climate change. While these discussions are still in their infancy, Living Oceans Society is ensuring that oceans issues are integrated with regional and national climate change strategies.



Sustainable Fisheries

Our goals

Shift to sustainable fishing gear and management practices to ensure that habitat is protected, bycatch and discards are minimized, and fish stocks are harvested at sustainable levels.

Why it matters

Canadians eat approximately 10 kilos of seafood per capita each year. Approximately six of those kilos come from Canadian fisheries. Ensuring that Canada's fisheries are sustainable is critical if the ocean is to continue feeding us for generations to come. However, some gear types, such as bottom trawling, are destroying critical habitat like corals and sponges. Bottom trawlers catch non targeted species which are thrown overboard, usually too damaged to survive.

Government assessments of fish stocks reveal that 24 species are rated as low, 12 are below average, and only 11 are rated average to optimal. A 2006 study from Dalhousie University predicted that if today's fishing practices continue, all commercially harvested wild fish could be extinct by 2048. The scientists who conducted the study recommended a solution: more sustainable fishing practises and the establishment of marine protected areas.

What we did in 2006

- Organized a meeting between Canada's Fisheries Minister and world renowned deep sea explorer Dr. Sylvia Earle to discuss the need for Canada to show leadership on oceans protection by stopping destructive fishing practices, both at home and on the high seas.
- Represented Canadian conservation groups at the United Nations Oceans and the Law of the Seas debates in New York in an effort to secure a moratorium on deep sea bottom trawling. Unfortunately, Canada sided with Spain and Iceland in opposing the moratorium. Nonetheless, the U.N. Sustainable Fisheries Resolution that was passed represents a step forward for high seas conservation.
- Heightened awareness across Canada of the federal government's poor performance in protecting the seas from the impacts of bottom trawling. The resulting surge in public opinion has put more pressure on the Canadian government to take decisive action.
- Worked with Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) staff and elected officials in Ottawa to change Canada's fisheries management policies, and appeared as witnesses at the Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans.

In 2006 Living Oceans Society joined forces with partners on the east coast of Canada and around the world to expose Canada's poor performance in fisheries management. Now we are developing the solutions.

Jennifer Lash
Executive Director

Sustainable Fisheries



PHOTO: Natalie Ban

- Participated in the Canadian government’s first science review of the impacts of scallop dredges and bottom trawls on deep sea habitat. DFO scientists acknowledged for the first time that bottom trawling and scallop dredges are the most destructive gear type. After the review’s report was published in 2006, we began working with DFO to create sustainable fishing policies based on the report’s recommendations.
- As a result of the work of Living Oceans Society and other conservation groups, DFO expanded the trawl closures around B.C.’s globally unique glass sponges.
- Organized our supporters to express their concerns to the government about the destruction of corals and sponges from bottom trawling. As a result DFO now has a process to create a Coral-Sponge Conservation Strategy and Living Oceans sits on the committee.
- Initiated the “How We Fish” research project with our partners on the east coast and in the U.S. This study will illustrate the relative impact of all fishing gear on habitat and bycatch. It will give Canada, for the first time, a clear road map of what fishing gear we need to use to ensure our fisheries are sustainable and our ocean remain healthy.

SeaChoice Healthy Choices, Healthy Oceans

Judging from the incredible interest since SeaChoice launched last September, Canadians are hungry for new ways like this to support ocean conservation—one bite at a time.

Shauna MacKinnon
Markets Campaign Coordinator

WILD
SALMON

1399

SeaChoice Healthy Choices, Healthy Oceans

In 2006 Living Oceans Society along with four conservation partners, launched the SeaChoice program. This program provides consumers, chefs and retail outlets with easy to follow, science-based assessments of wild fisheries and aquaculture. You can learn more about the assessment criteria and keep up to date on the latest sustainable seafood happenings at www.seachoice.org. The web site also features a searchable database where consumers, chefs and retailers can find out how their favourite seafood ranks, and search for the most sustainable options.

For eaters on the go, wallet-sized sustainable seafood cards can be downloaded or ordered from the web site. Now Canadians can always have the information they need on what seafood to eat and what to avoid.

SeaChoice continues to break new ground in seafood sustainability by working with Canadian restaurants, retailers and suppliers to help make it easier for everyone along the seafood supply chain to make the most sustainable choices and do their part to promote seafood that is good for us and good for the ocean.



Markets Campaign Coordinator
Shauna MacKinnon handing out
SeaChoice wallet cards.

Collaborative Science

Finding a Common Language

In 2006 Living Oceans Society helped lead the creation of two innovative, collaborative research projects that will help shape the future of this coast.

British Columbia Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA)

In 1999 Living Oceans Society launched a mapping project to develop a methodology to identify areas of high conservation value on the coast of B.C. Since then the project has gained the support of scientists around the world. Our goal was to use this analysis for marine planning processes to identify candidate protected areas and/or management regimes to ensure that the conservation values of these areas were not compromised by industrial activity.

In 2006 we embarked on the second stage of this project: The British Columbia Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA). To improve on the previous work and build support for our analysis, we helped to establish the BCMCA Project Team which includes representatives from federal, provincial and First Nations governments (observers) as well as the conservation community and academia. Under the leadership of the project team, scientists from around the province are coming together to provide their insights and gather a comprehensive collection of scientific knowledge about life on B.C.'s coast.

It is our goal, and that of our partners, that this analysis will be an essential tool in the PNCIMA and other marine planning processes. Linking the results of this analysis with the work done by local communities will ensure that we are building a conservation vision for this coast based on sound science that we can all support.

Framework for Dialogue

Living Oceans Society and our partners in the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR) announced a joint research program with major salmon farm corporation Marine Harvest Canada – West Coast Division (MHC). MHC and CAAR came together to work to resolve the extremely polarized debate around salmon farming. Conservationists have long called for a transition to closed containment technology as a way to address the myriad problems associated with the open net-cage industry, but the salmon farming industry claim the technology is unproven and uneconomical.

CAAR and MHC will cosponsor five sea lice research projects and a technical and economic assessment of closed containment technology. For this project to succeed, both CAAR and MHC need to agree on the research methodologies, the scientists who will conduct the research, and jointly secure the necessary funding. Working out these details is a slow process that requires a great deal of negotiation. However, the results of both the sea lice and the closed containment research will go a long way towards finding solutions to a very contentious and serious issue Living Oceans believes is threatening the survival of our wild salmon.

Collaborative Science Finding a Common Language

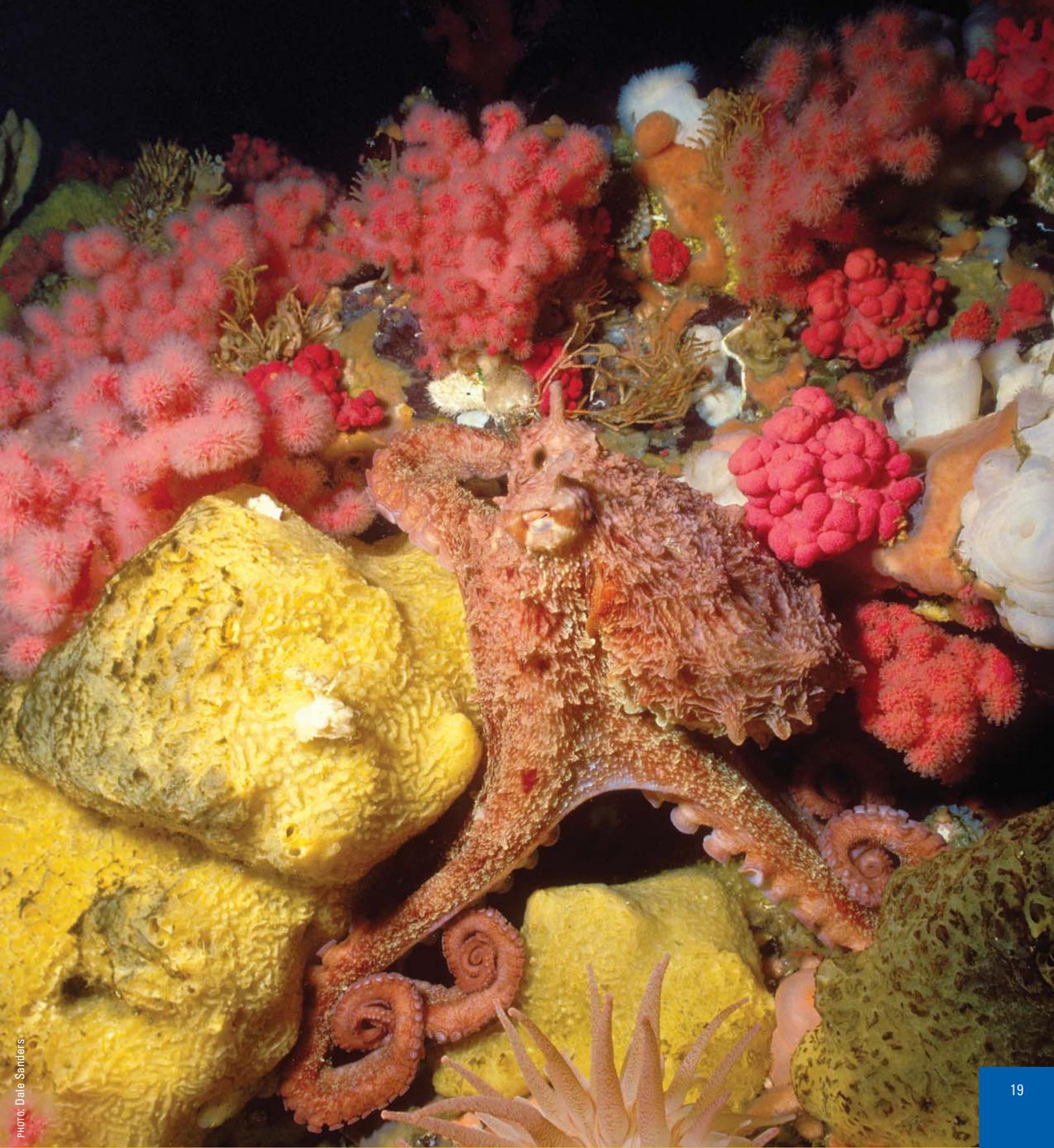


PHOTO: Dale Sanders

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

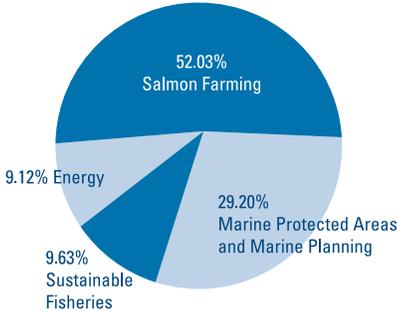
Revenue

Donations from foundations	\$1,538,953
Donations, fundraising and other	\$ 11,942
Total	\$1,550,895

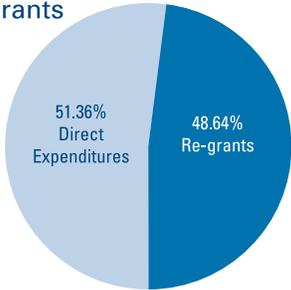
Expenses

Programs	
Marine Protected Areas and Marine Planning	\$ 221,338
Salmon Farming	\$394,336
Energy	\$69,280
Sustainable Fisheries	\$73,023
Contributions to Organizations	\$717,865
Administration	\$44,764
Fundraising	\$22,171
Total	\$1,542,777
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 8,118

LOS Program Expenditures



Direct Expenditures vs. Re-grants

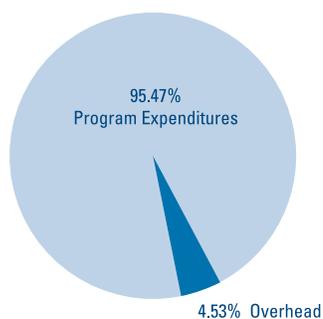


Funders

The work of Living Oceans Society was generously supported by:

- Generous contributions from individual donors
- Bullitt Foundation
- David & Lucile Packard Foundation
- Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
- Flora Family Foundation
- Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- Oak Foundation
- Patagonia Foundation
- Rockefeller Brothers Foundation
- Vancouver Foundation
- West Coast Environmental Law
- Contributions from others who choose to remain anonymous

Overhead as
Percentage of
Gross Expenditures





Partnerships

Living Oceans Society is a member of the following coalitions and partnerships

Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR)

David Suzuki Foundation
Friends of Clayoquot Sound
Georgia Strait Alliance
Living Oceans Society
Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council
Raincoast Conservation Society
Raincoast Research
T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation
Watershed Watch Salmon Society

B.C. ENGO Marine Planning Caucus

David Suzuki Foundation
Living Oceans Society
Sierra Club of Canada – BC Chapter

SeaChoice

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
David Suzuki Foundation
Ecology Action Centre
Living Oceans Society
Sierra Club of Canada – BC Chapter

Oil Free Coast Alliance

David Suzuki Foundation
Dogwood Initiative
Georgia Strait Alliance
Living Oceans Society
T Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation
West Coast Environmental Law
And others

Directors and Staff

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Karen Wristen, LLB, Treasurer
David Lane
Dr. Astrid Scholz

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Jennifer Lash, Executive Director
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Karin Bodtker, Marine Analyst





PHOTO: © J. E. Brouwer

Printed on paper made with 100% pcw recycled fiber content using non-polluting wind-generated energy. Certified SmartWood for fsc standards. Green Seal certified. Acid free. Using this stock, we saved: 1.79 trees; 5.16 lbs off water-borne waste; 758 gallons of wastewater; 84 lbs of solid waste; 165 lbs of greenhouse gases; 1,264,000 BTUs of energy; 86 lbs of air emissions; 204 cubic feet of natural gas. That's the equivalent to driving 93 miles in an average car or planting 6 trees.



Healthy Oceans. Healthy Communities.

Living Oceans Society

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