



Clear the Coast

Tackling marine debris on northern Vancouver Island

Page 3



Photo contest winners

Winners of our *Ocean Exposures* photo contest

Pages 4-5



Tanker Campaign

Supertankers, tsunamis and Northern Gateway

Page 7



Rising Tide

Fall 2012

At Living Oceans, we've been working to protect wild salmon against the harmful effects of open net-pen salmon farms from the day we opened our doors. The campaign to save wild salmon is even older than our organization. Many of us were there from the earliest days, trying to work with government and industry but feeling more than a little frustrated by their constant denials that the farms had any negative effects. When we read the long awaited *Final Report from the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River* we felt vindicated by Justice Bruce Cohen's words:

"I therefore conclude the potential harm posed to Fraser River sockeye from salmon farms is serious or irreversible." ... "On September 30, 2020, the minister should prohibit net-pen salmon farming in the Discovery Islands unless he or she is satisfied that such farms pose at the most a minimal risk of serious harm to the health of Fraser River sockeye salmon."

This is the first report on an environmental issue that has ever fully applied the precautionary principle. Justice Cohen reversed the onus and required salmon farmers to establish to government's satisfaction that they are not posing a risk of serious or irreversible harm.

This was just one of 75 recommendations—all of which, if implemented, will benefit Fraser River sockeye, their habitat and all of the other species that share it. Many of the recommendations can be applied equally well to other B.C. sockeye runs and other Canadian salmon species. The report also pointed to the



PHOTO: KATHRYN MITCHELL

The Final Report of the Commission into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon to the Fraser River contains 75 recommendations—all of which will benefit wild salmon if the Harper Government implements them.

need for more research to fill the gaps in our understanding of how the cumulative effects of natural and human-induced stressors combine to impact salmon runs over time.

Recognizing that past reports and recommendations have tended to sit on shelves col-

lecting dust, Justice Cohen wisely set firm timelines for implementing his recommendations, one of which calls for an independent watchdog to report every two years to Parliament and the public on what progress is being made.

continued on page 3

Take **action!** on salmon farms

You can help wild salmon by sending an e-mail to the Prime Minister telling him to implement all of Justice Cohen's recommendations.

www.livingoceans.org/initiatives/salmon-farming/action



Letter from the Executive Director



This summer, my husband and I took our sailboat *Viajador* north to Sointula where I spent six weeks working from Living Oceans' head office. It was a great opportunity to get to know our Sointula staff better and to get a real sense of the place as well. While we just missed the "Pawrade", we arrived in time to be part of the community's Salmon Days summer festival. Staffing our table at the event was a great way to meet Sointulans and I was really impressed by how much support there is in town for Living Oceans.

My life list of whale sightings increased from a paltry "one" to so many that I lost count, although I never lost my sense of delight at the sound of a blow drifting across still, fog-shrouded waters. I saw orcas rubbing at Malcolm Island's Bere Point and watched a humpback teaching its calf how to fish. We also had the rare experience of spotting a fin whale just off Robson Bight: the most massive creature I have ever seen!

It was a peculiar summer out on the water, however, and I had the great good fortune to be there to witness it. Opponents of Big

Oil took to the water in droves, with a message: Keep it Clean. People were out there in force kayaking, paddling, rowing and sailing to raise awareness of the current schemes to industrialize our coastline with pipelines and tankers. I was incredibly impressed with the sheer magnitude of their efforts—kayaking or rowing from Alaska to Victoria is no mean feat! The efforts of these water-borne protesters were mirrored on land by countless others who rode bicycles, motorcycles or walked Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline route.

Dozens upon dozens of these people sent us their pictures displaying signs and posters opposing the project. You can read in this newsletter how we're honouring all their efforts in our online *Keep it Clean* map where we've gathered the films, photos and stories of people who just couldn't stand by without challenging the planned destruction of the land and water that we all hold so dear.

Karen Wristen,
Executive Director



Healthy Oceans. Healthy Communities.

Sign up for our newsletters

Sign up to receive *Rising Tide* and our e-newsletter, *Oceans Update*, with articles on the issues affecting our oceans and coastal communities.

Send your e-mail address to:
newsletter@livingoceans.org
or sign up online at:

www.livingoceans.org/newsletters



EDITOR: Geoff Gilliard

CONTRIBUTORS: Karen Wristen, Will Soltau, Kim Wright, Carrie Robb, Kelly Roebuck and Geoff Gilliard.

© Living Oceans Society 2012

Rising Tide is published twice annually.

Printed on paper made of 100% recycled recycle fiber. Certified by FSC standards.



Living Oceans Society is working to ensure the long-term health of the ocean and coastal communities on the Pacific Coast of Canada. We believe that people are part of the environment and that we can build sustainable communities by protecting coastal ecosystems today.

HEAD OFFICE

235 First Street, Box 320
Sointula, BC V0N 3E0 Canada
T 250-973-6580 F 250-972-6581

VANCOUVER OFFICE

#1405-207 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7 Canada
T 604-696-5044 F 604-696-5045

info@livingoceans.org
www.livingoceans.org

Living Oceans launches Clear the Coast



Living Oceans campaigners Jake Etzkorn (L) and Will Soltau (R) organize annual beach cleanups on Malcolm Island.

Good ideas often spawn more good ideas. Take cleaning up garbage from the inter-tidal zone for instance. An ever growing mess of garbage and plastic floating around the ocean got us thinking about what we at Living Oceans could do to inspire more good work. By the time we took our thinking caps off we came up with a brand new project: Clear the Coast.

"Volunteers have removed and disposed of a serious amount of debris from the shoreline of Malcolm Island and other northern Vancouver Island locations. Some great new ideas have hatched during their outings," said Will Soltau, Living Oceans' Clear the Coast Coordinator. "One idea the beach cleaners came up with was to remove other kinds of marine debris like lost crab traps, fishing nets and lines. 'Ghost' fishing gear is a threat to ocean health because it can keep fishing and entangle all kinds of marine species."

Marine debris can be as harmful to ocean ecosystems as destructive fishing practices. Tonnes of plastic waste are circulating on ocean currents and breaking down into smaller and smaller particles, often ending up on or inside seabirds, marine mammals and fish. Closer to shore, debris accumulates on beaches including near-shore waters like estuaries that have a high conservation value.

"We're tackling some of the harder clean up issues in our home waters, like finding and removing lost fishing gear and dealing with derelict boats," said Will. "Over the summer we organized underwater clean up efforts by the Malcolm Island Lions Club and the Top Island Econauts Dive Club whose members offered their time and equipment to locate and remove lost crab traps in Rough Bay and Port McNeill Bay."

Clear the Coast will also raise the level of

awareness about the harm done to marine ecosystems from abandoned, derelict vessels that can pollute our local harbours. We're studying removal and disposal options and sharing solutions with local harbour authorities and contractors to find a way make it happen.

With help from our funders and supporters like you, and by working with local volunteers and organizations, we're turning brain waves into realities. For more information, check out Clear the Coast on our website or contact wsoltau@livingoceans.org



PHOTO: TOP ISLAND ECONAUTS

A volunteer from the Top Island Econauts untangles a line from an abandoned crab trap during a dive at Port McNeill.

Below: Northern Vancouver Island communities where Clear the Coast will operate.



www.livingoceans.org/clearthecoast



Cohen *continued from page 1*

DFO in conflict of interest

A key commission recommendation urged the federal government to get the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) out of the business of promoting farmed salmon and salmon farming. He felt that these responsibilities had high potential to conflict with DFO's legislated mandate, which is to protect wild fish.

"Living Oceans has pointed out this conflict for many years," said Will Soltau, Salmon Farming Campaign Manager. "We presented clear evidence of it during the Commission hearings."

The Commission also came down heavily on the Harper Government for its ham fisted handling of Bill C-38, otherwise known as the omnibus budget of 2012. Justice Cohen made no bones when noting that repealing the Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act, bringing in a new Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and gutting the Fisheries Act "would be a departure from the long-standing principle of maximizing biodiversity espoused by Canadian legislation, in the Wild Salmon Policy, and in Canada's international commitments." He found it "difficult to avoid the conclusion that the legislative amendments in Bill C-38 lower the standard of protection for Fraser River sockeye salmon."

Living Oceans believes that the same could be said for the protection of fish and fish habitat everywhere in Canada. •

Winners of the 2012 Ocean Exposures Photo Contest



PHOTO: MIKE HELLER

Above the Ocean Surface *Kayak Camping*

By Mike Heller

Location: Valdez Island, B.C.

My wife and I paddled to the island as part of a kayak camping tour and this was our first night on the island. The kayaks were pulled up into the grass and away from the tide. I thought it made for an interesting photo with the sunset in the background.



Prize: A limited edition print of Eagle Dance from renowned Vancouver Island photographer Dan Hillert, valued at \$300.

Below the Ocean Surface *In The Shallows*

By Dianne Reid

I came across this articulated coralline algae and orange hydroid (Garveia annulata) in 15 feet of water on the back side of Stubbs Island. My three minute safety stop became eight and I was cold but so content when I surfaced.

Scuba diving is my hobby, my passion. Underwater photography followed because I could never find the words to describe the colour, glory and abundance of marine life on the B.C. coast to my surface dwelling buddies.

Prize: A pair of Mantaray fins valued at \$170 from Nanaimo Dive Outfitters.



PHOTO: DIANNE REID



Commercial Fishing Gear in Action *Setting a Purse Seine*

By Russell Stirrett

Location: Off the Northwest Side Mayne Island.

I was on the Queen of Burnaby on the way to Salt Spring Island when I spotted this fishing boat setting its nets off of Mayne Island. Always interested in working boats of the B.C. coast, I had to snap this shot.

Russell Stirrett is a retired Canada Post employee who has been interested in photography since his youth. Now with the extra time on his hands, Russell is enjoying and expanding his hobby.

Prize: \$100 gift certificate from Mountain Equipment Co-op



PHOTO: RUSSELL STIRRETT

Sustainable Seafood on the Plate First Canning of 2012

By Wendy Davis

Location: Sointula, B.C.

Judge Mijune Pak: *I like it because it told a story. It had a vintage feel and the theme reminded me of forgotten traditions and old stories. The photo is also very natural, untouched and unedited. It was simple just like the natural process of preserving the salmon. The colours aren't sharp and it seems a bit faded, but it carries an emotional feel. I liked the rawness of the photo and subject.*

Prize: \$125 gift certificate from Vital Choice Wild Seafood & Organics.



PHOTO: WENDY DAVIS



PHOTO: JOHN RISDALE

Keep It Clean
Wedzin Ben

By John Risdale

Location: Morice Lake, B.C.

The picture is of the salmon bearing Morice Lake that flows to the Skeena River. The river is the Morice River (Wedzin Kwa) translated as meaning "Blue-Green Waters." The proposed Enbridge pipeline would follow and cross the Morice River before running on to Kitimat.

The Wet'suwet'en have been adamantly opposed to any pipelines that may cross their traditional unceded, unsundered, non-Treaty Lands.

John Risdale is a member of the Tsayu Clan, House of Tsa K,Äöex Yex. He lives in Tse Kya (Hagwilget) and works in Smithers at the Office of the Wet,Äösuwet,Äöen,Äös Natural Resources Department.

Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate from Mountain Equipment Co-op.



Living Oceans is grateful to our contest judges:

- Andrew S. Wright
- Chris Blondeau
- Guy Dean
- Mijune Pak

We thank everyone who entered the 2012 Ocean Exposures Photo Contest.

See all of the wonderful photos that were entered on our web site at:

www.livingoceans.org/photo-contest/enter



Canada Safeway makes choosing ocean-friendly seafood easy with SeaChoice labelling



Next time you're shopping in a Canada Safeway you'll notice something 'sustainably fishy' at their fresh seafood counter. This month, Canada Safeway is rolling out SeaChoice 'green' and 'yellow' labels on their fresh case seafood to help customers make ocean-friendly choices.

The global demand for seafood is increasing with more people competing for a diminishing resource. Despite the challenges, real progress is being made by forward thinking companies like Canada Safeway to set the oceans on a path to recovery. Living Oceans, as part of SeaChoice, is excited to be helping Canada Safeway along this journey.

SeaChoice has trained Canada Safeway's seafood staff to help them guide their customers through the growing number of sustainable seafood products that are available. SeaChoice

also provided the western Canadian retail giant with sourcing assistance, policy development and merchandising, and outreach support.

The new ocean-friendly seafood labelling is just one of many progressive steps for the company so far. Canada Safeway's other achievements include switching their private labelled canned tuna to a sustainably-caught skipjack that avoids typical tuna fishing methods that cause unwanted bycatch of other marine life. In addition, a number of red-listed items have been removed from stores and the company is actively working to find sustainable sources for the rest.

Canada Safeway has actively engaged with government and the aquaculture industry to support closed containment technology for farmed salmon. •

Living Oceans is a member of SeaChoice, a sustainable seafood program developed by five of Canada's leading conservation organizations.



SeaChoice assesses the environmental impacts of seafood items, giving them a 'traffic-light' rank of 'green', 'yellow' or 'red' that rates them on a scale from best to worst. Canada Safeway will label

their green and yellow options and remove all red-ranked seafood by 2015.

Brochures and wallet cards will help shoppers make ocean-friendly choices.



The Ecology of Economies

Nowhere is the "tragedy of the commons" better illustrated than with the ocean, where industrial fishing, pollution and climate change have taken a terrible toll since the mid 20th century. In 1968, ecologist Garrett Hardin coined the expression to describe situations in which shared resources become depleted by too many self interested users.

"On Canada's Pacific coast a tragedy of the commons would be a tragedy of the communities," says Kim Wright who directs our Marine Planning campaign. "The key is managing human activities so we don't push the ocean beyond the point of no return."

Kim often represents the conservation community at the various

Small scale fisheries have formed the economic backbone of many of B.C.'s coastal communities, some of which have sustained themselves from the ocean for millennia.

planning efforts on the B.C. coast. Across the tables sit reps from the many levels and jurisdictions of governments and industries that work in the marine realm.

"We hear the same thing every time: The economy must come first," Kim says. "And our response remains, that over the long term, bank accounts and bellies in coastal communities depend upon a healthy ocean to support their marine based economies."

Marine Planning works when all the users of ocean resources calculate their cumulative impacts on species, habitats and water quality. Then they work together to find ways to ensure that we don't cross thresholds from which our oceans cannot bounce back. Supplement this with sustainable business practices and you have a good plan.

"It is not whether to do business, but how we do business that counts," Kim says. "For example, a new UN report released this month shows that small scale artisanal fisheries require fewer subsidies, employ more people, use less fuel, and are less wasteful for the same amount of catch when compared to large scale industrial fishing fleets."

Living Oceans Society was formed to find ways to use the ocean without using it up. We're working to bring creative solutions to the Marine Planning Partnership process with First Nations and the Province of B.C., and the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) process so we can avert a tragedy of the commons on our coast. •

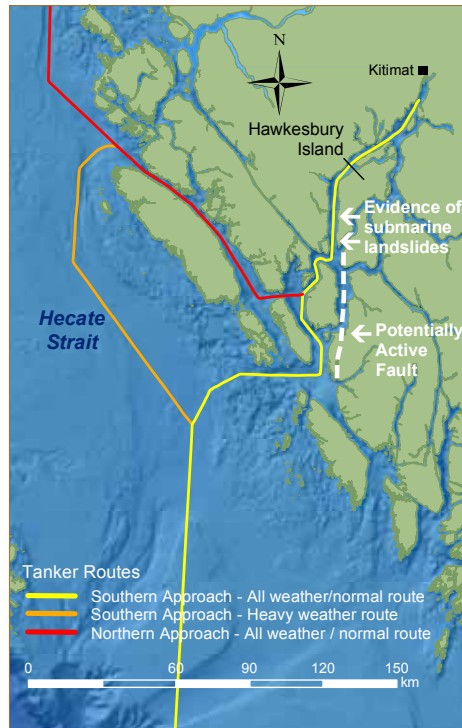
Tanker Campaign Update

Finding fault in Douglas Channel

The magnitude 7.7 earthquake that shook the North Central Coast on October 27 raised questions of tsunami preparedness. It also made us contemplate what a tidal wave might do to a fleet of supertankers servicing the Northern Gateway pipeline. If the pipeline proceeds it will bring over 200 tankers per year to Douglas Channel, a narrow fjord that reaches 140 km inland to Kitimat at the pipeline's western terminus.

The region is prone to seismic activity. In 1975 a landslide, possibly triggered by an earthquake, sent an eight meter high tsunami rushing down Douglas Channel that devastated Kitimaat Village, a Haisla community a few kilometres south of Kitimat. That wave may have been tame compared with earlier events. A recent sonar survey of the channel's seafloor found evidence of two older, huge submarine landslides, each of which caused over three million cubic metres of rock and rubble to fall from the side of Hawkesbury Island into the channel. Scientists studying the topography associated with these slides found "a potentially active fault line" running through the islands bunched at the entrance to Douglas Channel.

The study, by the Geological Survey of Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), identified some incipient slide blocks on Hawkesbury Island—in the proposed path of the oil tankers—making the "present conditions conducive to future submarine failures." DFO is now conducting tsunami wave model-



Since 1987 there have been 11 small earthquakes within 20 km of a suspected fault line running across the entrance to Douglas Channel.

ling to determine the probable consequences should those blocks let go during a future seismic event.

Marine hearings rescheduled

Living Oceans has intervenor status at the Joint Review Panel on the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline. This gives us the opportunity to delve into the environmental effects of the proposed marine terminal and on the

supertanker traffic it will bring. We're particularly interested in safety, accident prevention and oil spill response.

The first chance for our legal counsel to question the Enbridge experts has been rescheduled to run December 10-18 in Prince Rupert. The bulk of the marine panel's evidence will be heard from February through May, 2013. The panel will hear the statements of community members beginning January 4 in Victoria before moving to Vancouver and Kelowna.

Mapping support for a tanker-free coast

Since we launched our *Keep It Clean* map this past summer we've received hundreds of photos conveying the message to B.C. Premier Christy Clark to say "no" to Enbridge.



Have you sent us your *Keep It Clean* photo yet? We'll add it to the map as part of our visual petition to remind her that an overwhelming majority of B.C. residents don't want tankers on our coast or pipelines in our land. You can upload your photo in the form underneath the *Keep It Clean* map. •

www.livingoceans.org/maps/keep-it-clean



Staff welcomes and goodbyes



Dorie Pesicka has left Living Oceans after five years of plying her many skills and talents as our Donor Relations Co-ordinator, Assistant to the Executive Director and, most recently, as Office Administrator. Dorie brought a strong work ethic learned as a prawn fisherman to every task she took on - and it showed. But

now she's traded her gumboots for a snowmobile in northern B.C. Dorie was a great team player and we'll all miss her enthusiasm and knack for keeping her sunny side up - which isn't always easy to do in the rain forest.



Barb Iarocci has replaced Dorie as our Office Administrator. She grew up in Hamilton, Ontario, so the ocean was a whole new experience for her when she moved to Sointula 16 years ago. Barb feels blessed with the opportunity on many mornings to jump in her canoe with her partner and paddle out to the

rich kelp beds off the south shore of Malcolm Island to drink a cup of coffee, watch pipefish dart among the seaweed and see the sun come up over Stubbs Island. Before coming to Living Oceans, Barb worked as a pharmacist for 34 years.

Support Living Oceans

1 **Donate directly** to Living Oceans Society, if you *do not* require a tax receipt.

By cheque: Please make cheque payable to Living Oceans Society and mail to: Living Oceans Society Box 320 Sointula, BC V0N 3E0.

By credit card: Please call 250-973-6580 and provide us with your information.

2 **Donate to the Oceans Fund** at Tides Canada Foundation if you would like a tax receipt (minimum \$25).

By cheque or credit card: please fill out this form. Cheques must be payable to TIDES CANADA FOUNDATION-OCEANS FUND. Please note if you would like to make a one time or monthly donation. Monthly donors will receive annual tax receipts.

Online:

www.livingoceans.org/donate



Living Oceans Society advises Tides Canada Foundation regarding grants made from the Oceans Fund. Contributions donated to the Oceans Fund are granted to various charitable organizations that we collaborate with to support work that advances our mission of research and education projects to increase public awareness of the problems affecting our ocean and solutions that will ensure healthy oceans for generations to come. Donations to support this charitable work are eligible for a charitable tax receipt issued by Tides Canada Foundation. Tides Canada charitable number: BN 86894 7797 RR0001



I would like to donate to The Oceans Fund at Tides Canada Foundation

☐ I am enclosing a cheque for \$_____ payable to
Tides Canada Foundation-Oceans Fund.

☐ I'd like you to process my donation on my credit card.
Please charge:

☐ \$_____ each month OR ☐ \$_____ once.

Start date **DD/MM/YY**

Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Card number Expiry date

Cardholder name CVV2
3 digit code on back of Visa and MC, 4 digit code on front of Amex

Signed

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Thank you for supporting the work of Living Oceans Society. A charitable tax receipt will be sent to you for donations of \$25 or more.

Please return this form to:

Tides Canada Foundation - Oceans Fund,
400-163 West Hastings St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1H5

Questions? Contact Living Oceans at 250-973-6580 or info@livingoceans.org

Donate online and give the
gift of healthy oceans with
a holiday e-card



Make a donation to Living Oceans Society in the name of someone special and you can select a beautiful ocean e-card with your personal message. Your gift will help us keep protecting Canada's coasts.



Stay in touch between newsletters

The best way to keep current with Living Oceans is to follow us on Facebook.

Join the movement to protect Canada's oceans. Get the latest news, updates, videos and action alerts. "Like" us at:

facebook.com/livingoceans

