

## **NEWS RELEASE**

# **Stolt Sea Farms Ignores Scientific Experts Puts Pink Salmon at Risk of Extinction**

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**Broughton Archipelago, B.C.** - Despite recommendations from leading scientists that all salmon farms in the Broughton Archipelago should be emptied by April 2003, Stolt Sea Farms is turning a blind eye and currently stocking their farms with new salmon smolts.

At least one farm in the Broughton Archipelago, located off northeastern Vancouver Island near Port McNeill, was stocked with salmon smolts this week, says biologist and local resident Alexandra Morton. Earlier this week, the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC) recommended all area farms be left fallow.

I am shocked that this company would discount the recommendations of well-respected scientists and look only at their bottom line, says Ms. Morton of Raincoast Research. The federal government must step in and do something before our salmon go extinct.

Local residents believe that salmon farms at Glacier Falls and Cliff Bay, also in the Broughton Archipelago, may be stocked within the next week.

The fish-farming industry is playing Russian roulette with our wild salmon. The federal Fisheries Minister must use his authority to fallow all farms in the Broughton Archipelago and stop this madness, Ms Morton said.

The PFRCC is a federally appointed body with the mandate to advise governments on the conservation of wild fish stocks on the Canadian Pacific coast. In a hard-hitting report released Nov. 25, the Council concluded that all evidence indicates that salmon farms are the cause of a major sea-lice outbreak on juvenile pink salmon in the Broughton.

In order to save eight runs of pink salmon from extinction, all salmon farms in the Broughton Archipelago should be left empty from mid-January to April 2003, say the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientists who wrote the report.

Raincoast Research is a member of the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR), an alliance of First Nations and conservation groups working to protect wild salmon and marine ecosystems from the negative impacts of fish farms. Information about CAAR is available at [www.farmedanddangerous.org](http://www.farmedanddangerous.org).

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