



LIVING
OCEANS

Rising Tide

Fall 2023



Drawing 'The disappearing skate' by Sequoia Roebuck

Certifying Extinction: The Tale of Two Fish

Right now, in the emerald waters of Clayoquot Sound on west coast Vancouver Island, the last of the once abundant Chinook salmon are returning to their natal streams. Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, tucked away in the tannin-rich waters of Macquarie Harbour in Tasmania's west coast is the world's rarest skate species, the dinosaur-era Maugean Skate.

Both fishes are fighting for their existence against the salmon farming industry in their critical habitats. Lice and disease

from Clayoquot Sound fish farms threaten the survival of wild salmon placing the species at risk; while waste from Macquarie Harbour farms have depleted oxygen to staggeringly low levels making the harbour uninhabitable for the endangered skate which is likely to be uplisted to critically endangered next year.

In both cases, the perpetrators -- salmon farms -- are certified by the Best Aquaculture Practices and/or

GLOBALG.A.P. In turn, the certified salmon shows up in major grocery stores with misleading promises of 'responsible' and 'sustainable' eco-labels.

Simply put, certifying extinction is greenwashing at its worst.

Living Oceans, as part of the SeaChoice program, has been holding farmed salmon certifications to account for nearly 20 years - including challenging the certification of Clayoquot Sound

Continued on page 4...



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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 name and e-mail address to: info@livingoceans.org or sign up online at: livingoceans.org/media/newsletters

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

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Clear the Coast 2023 Wrapup

Our spring expedition took us to Guise Bay in Cape Scott Provincial Park. From there, we cleaned approximately 8 kilometers of the Cape Scott Trail. One of those areas was new to us: the Stacks, a beach near the lightstation, was so heavily littered! People had been collecting and securing plastics above the high-tide line for so long that we literally had to excavate the trailhead—we were walking on plastics to a depth of a couple of feet.

For the summer expedition, with the support of Blue Friday, we were able to use a helicopter on the first and last days of the trip. This enabled us to send crews out to Cox Island both of those days, cleaning 4 beaches on the southwest side of the Island. These had been previously identified to us as being the most heavily impacted—and they were! Our crew recovered 3 tonnes of plastic in two days.

The balance of our time was spent hiking to nearby San Josef Bay, Lowrie Bay and the Helen Islands. There was a shocking amount of debris in new areas: Cape Russell, to the north of Sea Otter Cove; Hansen's Lagoon, just below Guise Bay and a number of small pocket beaches in between the two.

In all, we cleared 26 linear kilometers of foreshore and brought in 10.5 tonnes of plastic debris. In terms of volume, that was over 100 cubic metres. This was only

possible because David Jensen had travelled out to Hansen's Lagoon some three weeks earlier and had cleared the Lagoon and several pocket beaches south to Cape Russell, working from his paddleboard to get into areas that other boats can't reach.

It was a surprise to find that, in some of the pocket beaches that we had never before been able to reach, there was recognizable debris from the 2011 Tohoku tsunami. Property markers and artisanal fishing equipment were sobering reminders of the awful toll that the disaster took.

Not as surprising, every beach we cleaned yielded plastic debris that has been identified as originating from either the Zim Kingston or the ONE Apus container ship spills. The Zim Kingston, in particular, was carrying cargo packed in molded foam which has now broken up into pieces that are often so small they can't reasonably be picked up. Some areas looked like it had snowed, they were so covered in tiny, white pieces.



Help get David Jensen back on his Paddleboard

This summer all of David's equipment was smashed to pieces after falling from a helicopter during an operation to clean marine debris off northern Vancouver Island beaches. 🙄

Together we can ensure this amazing outdoor enthusiast, adventurer, and marine debris removal hero gets back on his board. 🙌 The link to donate is gofund.me/116fe3ac

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INTO**

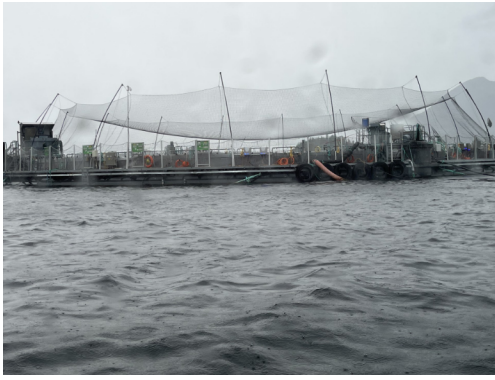
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Shop #BlueFriday
November 24, 2023



Healthy Oceans.
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Salmon Aquaculture: Expansion or Transition?



The long-awaited Transition Plan for BC's salmon aquaculture industry has still not arrived and in the extended hiatus in the planning, the industry has been busy applying to increase its production capacity in Clayoquot Sound, Klemtu and near Port Hardy. And of course, DFO staff have been accommodating the industry with approvals.

Living Oceans had the opportunity, courtesy of Clayoquot Action and Skookum John, to visit the “semi-closed” system operated by Cermaq in Clayoquot Sound. Cermaq has recently stocked the site with a very large number of salmon smolts—fish that will be grown there to about a kilo and then transferred into open-net pens to grow out, for about a year. Smolts placed in this floating bag system this fall will not achieve market size until long after Cermaq's licences expire next June. DFO is clearly setting Cermaq up to claim it legitimately expected its licences for open-net pens to be re-issued. After all, they're using new technology...for at least part of the growout cycle.

Cermaq has also been permitted increased biomass at three of its Clayoquot Sound open-net pen sites.

Clayoquot Sound is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Such Reserves are intended to showcase sustainable development: that would be development that meets the needs of today without compromising the

needs of future generations. Clayoquot Sound's salmon feedlots have been documented to be incubating piscine orthoreovirus (PRV) and passing it to wild Chinook salmon. In Chinook, the virus causes jaundice/anaemia syndrome—essentially causing the red blood cells to rupture, organs to cease functioning and death to follow. Local stocks of Chinook have reached critically low levels, despite the fact that their habitat is pristine. Salmon farms are unquestionably playing a role in compromising the needs of future generations, to say nothing of the current needs of Southern Resident Killer Whales.

While in Clayoquot Sound, Skookum John took us to the location where Cermaq's semi-closed system was operating during its last growing cycle, which ended over a year ago. He turned on his depth sounder and showed us the mountain of feces and dead fish left on the ocean floor: it was still over 120 feet high, after a year of exposure to tides and natural decomposition processes. Dan Lewis at Clayoquot Action explained that, when the bag system was operating, that pile of feces reached to within five feet of the bottom of the bag. These are ideal conditions for anaerobic decomposition, producing lethal hydrogen sulphide gas. Cermaq has never publicly disclosed any evidence of the cause of death of the fish it tried to grow in the system.

It is interesting to note here that the manufacturer of Cermaq's system supplies the equipment to capture the solid waste generated by the farm, which can be processed for use as a fertilizer. Cermaq chose not to use this feature—and why would they, when DFO allows them to pollute for free?

We continued on to the new site of the semi-closed system. The first thing that struck us was the noise: with huge pumps operating 24/7 to draw in seawater and

circulate it through the floating bag, the system sounded like a jet engine. Apparently, divers have reported that the noise is even worse underwater. Noise can disturb feeding, echo-location or communication among marine mammals and fish.

While in Tofino, we were invited to a public meeting hosted by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. They had invited the Broughton Nations to give a presentation to invited members of all the local Nations about the process that was followed in the Broughton to remove all of the salmon farms that used to operate there. Community members praised the leadership of the 'Namgis, Mammalikula and Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nations and observed that they had been rewarded by the return of bountiful runs of pink salmon as well as forage fish. Reconnecting with Ahousaht members who have been staunchly opposed to salmon farming in their territories from the beginning, we learned that public opinion there is much the same as in Tla-o-qui-aht, where the majority of members want to see an end to salmon farming.

It is an agony to wait while the will of the people translates into leadership by the elected government, knowing that so many stocks of fish are nearing extinction in Clayoquot. We will be urging Minister LeBouthillier, when we meet with her in early November, to keep the government's promise to remove these farms by 2025.

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to tell her, your MP and the Prime Minister that you expect the same.

Send a letter today!

tinyurl.com/y4jns6hm



farms due to dangerously high sea lice loads.

So, when we heard that an extinction emergency was unfolding in Tasmania's remote wilderness for the millenia-old Maugean skate, we knew we had to rally global allies and call it out. We had to try to stop what would be the world's first modern-day extinction of a shark or ray due to human activity-namely salmon farming.

This summer, we led a coalition of 82 groups from 17 countries calling on the BAP and GLOBALG.A.P. to revoke their certifications from Macquarie Harbour. They refused, citing mere legal requirements (that have been found to be inadequate) for farms as 'good enough'. In response, we and allies have submitted formal complaints to both certifications. Stay tuned!

You can help too. Learn more and sign the petition calling on Aussie grocers to stop selling the extinction by scanning the QR code or going to savetheskate.com

**WARNING:
EXTINCTION RISK!**



**MORE
INFO**



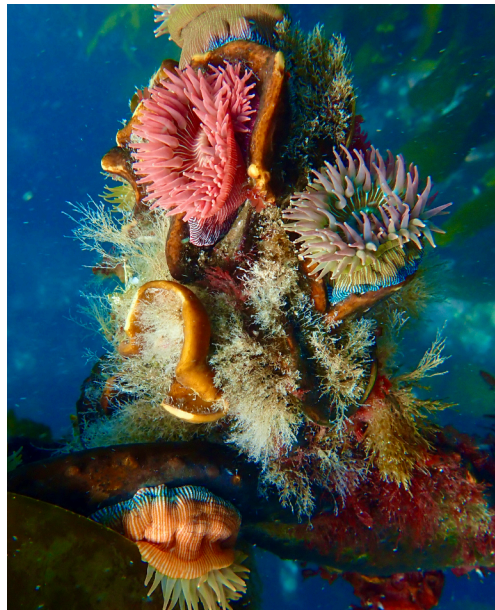
Ocean Exposures Photo Contest Winners Announced

It is official. On November 1, 2023 the Living Oceans Society unveiled the winners of its 2023 Ocean Exposures Photo Contest, featuring images that champion the ocean and remind us of how it plays a vital part in all our lives.

We had a total of 74 images submitted within three categories (Below the Surface, Work and Play on the Ocean and Coastal Wildlife). Plus, we had the public vote for their favourite photo where the winner is awarded "Sea Huggers Choice."

The images were such an inspiring representation of wildlife and exploration on and under the water. Our judge, Andrew S. Wright, commented that "the quality of photos was excellent." View all the submission by visiting flic.kr/s/aHBqjAWzKx

Winners for "Below the Surface" category. These shots may be taken under water or from the surface, but must depict life, objects or landforms beneath the surface.



First Prize: Below the Surface
Photographer: Sara Ellison
"Anemones"



Second Prize: Below the Surface
Photographer: Mark Cantwell
"Vermilion Star and Moon Jelly"



Third Prize: Below the Surface
Photographer: Chris Sherwood
"Octo at Steep Is"

Continued on page 5...

Winners for “Coastal Wildlife” category. From birds in the sky to fish in the sea, so long as it's wild and there's an ocean in sight.



First Prize: Coastal Wildlife | Photographer: Amanda Nelson
“CloseUp”



Second Prize: Coastal Wildlife | Photographer: Wendy Davis
“Orca and Porpoise”



Third Prize: Coastal Wildlife | Photographer: Ken Szeto
“Salmon got Away”

Winners for “Work and Play on the Ocean” category. The focus here is on people who derive a livelihood or enjoy recreation on the ocean.



First Prize: Work and Play on the Ocean
Photographer: Wendy Davis | “Blackfish Sound”



Second Prize: Work and Play on the Ocean
Photographer: Catherine Anderson | “Ocean Roll”



Third Prize: Work and Play on the Ocean
Photographer: Allison Voth | “Awakening”

Every year we also ask the public to vote for their favourite photo. The winner gets the “Sea Huggers Choice” award.



Sea Huggers Choice award | Photographer: Yasmine Mohammad | “Juvenile Humpback”

Special thanks to our sponsors



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We were thrilled with the level of interest from sponsors this year. Without these donations we could not offer the amazing prize packages to the winners. Thanks to Spirit of the West Adventures some top winners got a cash bonus in their package. For the first time ever, we were able to provide actual awards to the first prize winners because of the generosity of Eclipse Awards. And a special shout out goes out to Learn Photography Canada for their enthusiasm and support. The video they provided to help photographers hone their skills, was much appreciated. All the goodies and treats provided by our sponsors were wonderful and we can't thank them enough! You can thank them too. Visit their websites and follow them on social media.

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Gumboot Guys: Nautical Adventures on British Columbia's North Coast

The northern BC coast saw an influx of real characters during the 1970's—hippies and draft dodgers joined city folk escaping their urban origins for a taste of the wild, all drawn on the promise of work in the fishery, the cannery, the forest. In Gumboot Guys, we get the (probably) unvarnished truth about challenges met, bonds forged and boats beloved by thirty-one of those characters.

As you might expect from the Guys' diverse origins and experience, the tales told include both adventure and misadventure, salted with the humour and tenacity you'd expect in fellows who choose to live off the grid in a place only accessible by boat, when they have no boat nor any boating experience. The common theme running through all the stories is community: nobody managed without some help and these authors both helped and were helped.

Gumboot Guys arrives at just the right time to remind readers of all the jobs and

wealth that drew vital young people to our coastal communities; and all that we lost with the mismanagement of fisheries and permitting of salmon farms. But the book also reminds us of what we could regain, as we await the fulfillment of federal government promises to remove the fish farms and focus on rebuilding stocks.

I learned about this book in the strangest way. Not long ago, I'd come across a copy of Gumboot Girls and loved the first-person accounts of the feisty women who came to the north in the 1970's. So, when editor Jane Wilde called me up to say that the Gumboot Guys was about to be published, I had a clear idea who the authors would be and what the book would tell us. What I was totally not prepared for was to learn that the Guys had decided to donate all the royalties from the book to Living Oceans!

Living Oceans wasn't even created back then; we came along in 1998. We began working on fisheries issues as it was all

Say No to Deep-Sea Mining

As mining companies explore exploitation options, there is growing concern over how much damage deep-sea mining could cause to the overall environment and the ocean in particular.

We urge you to support a moratorium on deep-sea mining and protect the ecosystems that we all rely upon. Sign the letter to stop deep-sea mining [#DefendTheDeep](https://www.livingoceans.org/act/mining).

[only.one/act/mining](https://www.livingoceans.org/act/mining)



unravelling, as we see it now. But we have always considered that coastal communities and the people earning their livings there are as much a part of the environment we seek to protect as the whales, the fish and the birds that depend on the ocean's bounty. We've tried to work with fishing communities and to support policies that give them greater control over fishing. I am very grateful for the recognition by the authors and the vote of confidence in our work.

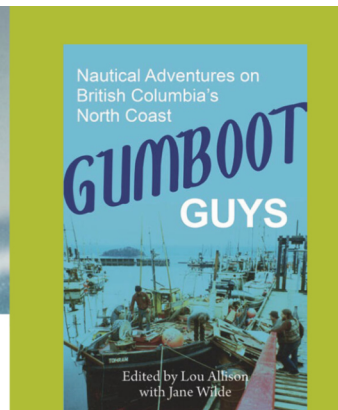
All the readers on your holiday gift list will enjoy a copy of this book. And you can let them know that their gift supports Living Oceans to do more good work to protect our oceans.



You are officially invited to this celebratory event taking place in-person at Banyen Books (3608 W 4th Ave) in Vancouver.



Please RSVP by Nov 23, 2023
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bb3/1050025>



Purchase a book
<https://banyen.com/events/31525>



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2023 Top 10 Wins for the Ocean

1 Pink salmon have returned in historic numbers where salmon farms have been removed.

2 Discovery Islands salmon farms remain closed, pending yet another Court hearing; juvenile salmon migrating through there this spring were plump and abundant.

3 Support from Blue Friday enabled LOS to remove another 10.5 tonnes of plastic debris in our Clear the Coast 2023 expeditions.

4 Canadian grocers and seafood brands made progress against their sustainable seafood commitments, and other wins as highlighted in our new [SeaChoice 5-Year Impact Report](#).

5 Greenwashing of farmed salmon faced increased global scrutiny with Living Oceans and over 80 allies publicly challenging certifications and eco-labels.

6 The High Seas Treaty was finalized after two decades of talks, putting an end to the lawlessness of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Slave labour, illegal fishing and pollution are three ills the treaty seeks to address, with preservation of biodiversity through protected areas as a major tool.

7 Deep Sea Mining was staved off for another year, when the International Seabed Authority responded to calls to defer establishment of a regulatory regime. Member states argue much more study is required before churning up the seabed or strip-mining undersea vents for rare metals.

8 175 nations agreed to develop a legally binding agreement on plastic pollution by 2024, which is a very ambitious and very necessary target date!

9 Greenland and Canada signed a letter of intent in October for what will be the world's first bilateral #MarineProtectedArea. Called Sarvarjuak, or the North Water Polynya, it's a critical region for Arctic biodiversity.

10 Canada announced it will add 10 new marine protected areas in partnership with Indigenous nations as part of its '30x30' commitment. Proposed areas include the Southern Strait of Georgia, the Central Coast of BC and the northern coast of Labrador.

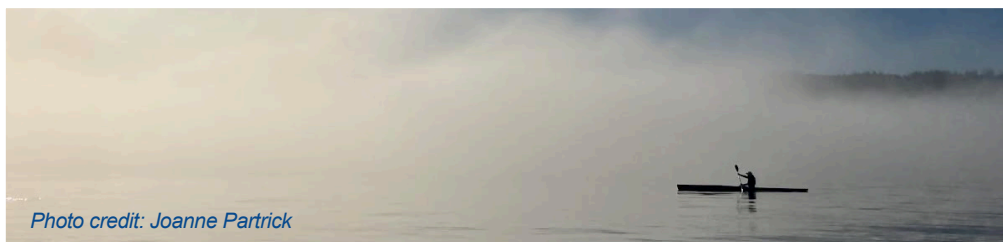


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By cheque or credit card: please fill out this form. Cheques must be payable to CANADIAN COASTAL RESEARCH SOCIETY. Please note: Monthly donors receive annual tax receipts.

3. Online: You can donate directly to Living Oceans or to the Canadian Coastal Research Society using your credit card or Paypal on our web site.

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