



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

October 10, 2012

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
Box 9041, Stn PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Re: Approval of Mainstream Canada's new salmon farm tenure at Plover Point, Meares Island, Clayoquot Sound, Land File # 1413555

Dear Premier Clark,

We are writing you to express serious concerns about the approval of a new salmon farm tenure at Plover Point, off Meares Island in Clayoquot Sound.

Clayoquot Sound already has 20 salmon farm sites, despite the fact that wild salmon runs are in dramatic decline. No wild salmon population anywhere in the world has thrived in close proximity to salmon farms. We are particularly concerned about the threat of diseases on salmon farms infecting and killing our wild stocks.

We wrote you on July 18 and you responded saying that we would be hearing from the Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, who would address our concerns. We have not heard from the Minister, nor has the issue of pathogen transfer from farmed salmon been addressed, nor was it dealt with adequately in the approval process.

In May of this year, Mainstream reported an outbreak of Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis virus (IHN) on one of their open net-cage salmon farms in Clayoquot Sound. The fish from this farm, numbering 560,000, were destroyed. . In July another of Mainstream's Clayoquot farms reported an outbreak of IHN, and those fish were also destroyed

Dr. Kristi Miller, Head of the Molecular Genetics section at the Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, reported Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus (ISAv) positive test results in two other Clayoquot Sound salmon farms last year.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) began a two-year, coast-wide surveillance program this spring to get a more complete picture of the ISAv, IHN, and infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN) situation in British Columbia's wild salmon. All of these diseases are highly contagious and can cause mortality in wild and farmed salmon.

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No new salmon farm tenures should be granted, including the Plover Point site, until the CFIA investigation has been completed and new measures are in place to ensure there are no impacts on wild salmon stocks due to disease outbreaks on B.C. salmon farms.

We look forward to a specific response to this priority issue of pathogen transfer from salmon farms to B.C. wild salmon.

Respectfully,

Bonny Glambeck, Friends of Clayoquot Sound
Terry Dorward, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations
Will Soltau, Living Oceans Society
John Werring, David Suzuki Foundation
Ruby Berry, Georgia Strait Alliance
Torrance Coste, Wilderness Committee
David Lane, T. Buck Suzuki Foundation
Sarah King, Greenpeace

cc: Adrian Dix, BC NDP Leader of the Official Opposition
The Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada



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