



# rising tide

Healthy Oceans. Healthy Communities. [www.livingoceans.org](http://www.livingoceans.org)

FALL 2011

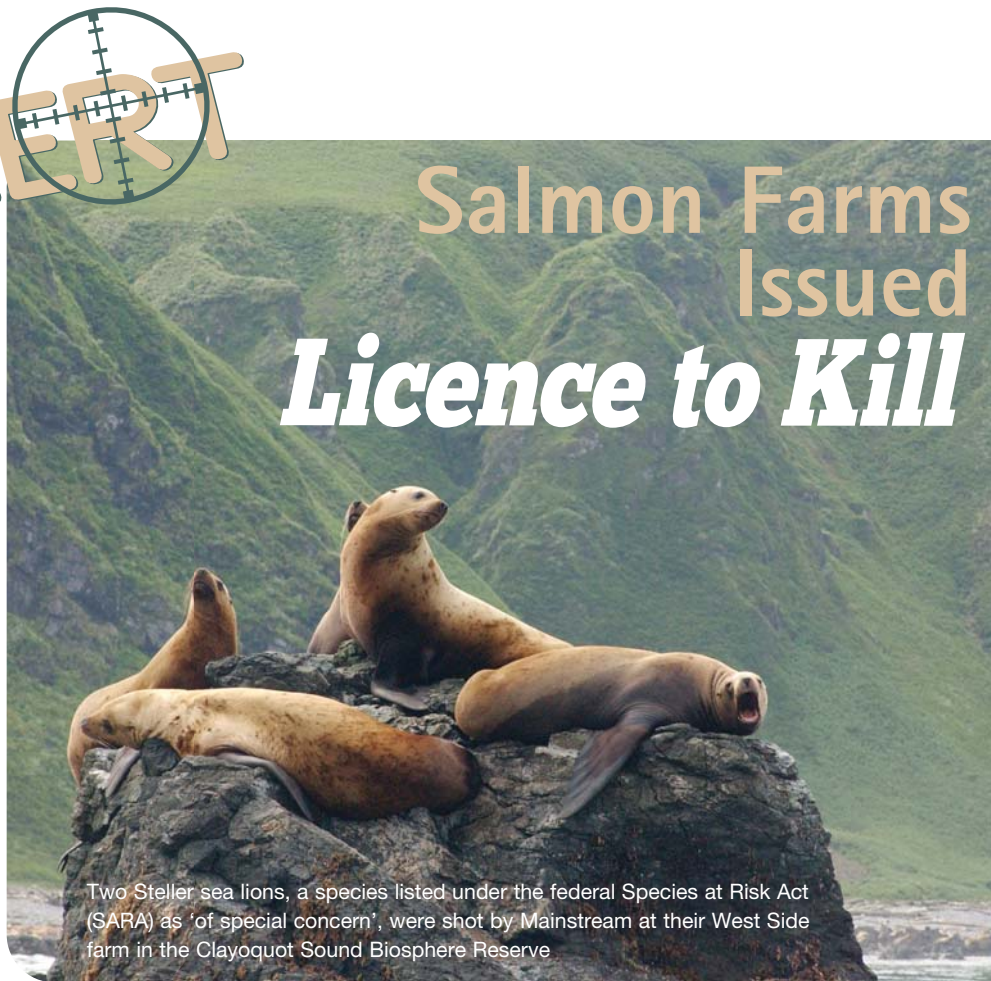
# ALERT

The shocking news that 141 California sea lions were deliberately shot by salmon farmers during the first three months of 2011 is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to recent revelations of the environmental damage caused by the net-cage industry in B.C. Now that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has responded to our demands for more transparent reporting on the impacts of salmon farms, we are beginning to get a much clearer picture of the harm that open net-cages are inflicting on coastal ecosystems.

Living Oceans Society, as a member of the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR), has long advocated for more transparency around activities at B.C. salmon farms. Neither the government nor the salmon farming industry have willingly supplied information about disease outbreaks, drug treatments or marine mammal deaths in the past. That's why we pushed hard for better public reporting of site-by-site impacts in talks with DFO as they drafted new salmon farming regulations in preparation for the transfer of jurisdiction from the Province of B.C. to the federal government. That hard work paid off and as DFO populates their web pages with data, all of us will have greater access to information on net-cage farm impacts. We'll learn more about incidental catches of fish such as herring, rockfish and juvenile salmon in the farm nets; marine mammal shootings, entanglements and drowning deaths; sea lice counts from all companies; recorded escapes; and licensing information such as how many tonnes of salmon each farm is allowed to produce. Of course, the government still relies almost entirely on industry self-reporting. But at least we'll know what the industry admits to.

continued on page 3

## Salmon Farms Issued *Licence to Kill*



Two Steller sea lions, a species listed under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) as 'of special concern', were shot by Mainstream at their West Side farm in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve

## Take *action!* on Stellar Sea Lions

Steller sea lions are a Species of Special Concern under *Canada's Species at Risk Act*, and DFO is managing their recovery. Yet DFO can also issue 'special permits' to salmon farms to kill these marine mammals.

Demand that DFO stop issuing permits to kill Steller sea lions and impose serious penalties on any salmon farm that willfully, or even accidentally, kills a Steller sea lion.



Please write a letter to  
Fisheries Minister Keith Ashfield  
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



Send him an e-mail from  
[www.livingoceans.org/initiatives/salmon-farming/action](http://www.livingoceans.org/initiatives/salmon-farming/action)

Tell him he can stop marine mammal deaths at B.C. salmon farms by transitioning the industry out of open net-cages and into closed containment.



## Letter from the Executive Director

Today is my last day at Living Oceans Society and I just finished packing the knick knacks on my desk, taking down the pictures of my kids from the bulletin board and cleaning out my filing cabinet. I thought the act of packing my belongings would be the most difficult part of leaving, a physical act that signifies the end of one journey and the beginning of another. But it is not what I take with me that makes this hard, it is realizing what I am leaving behind.

The staff at Living Oceans is, bar none, the most incredible group of people I have ever worked with. Their passion for the work they do inspired me for years and will continue to inspire me as I watch from afar. I leave behind the creative strategy discussions with Kim and Karin, developing negotiating strategies with Cath and getting the most beautiful maps on demand from Carrie. I will miss the little things like John's Monday morning reports, Mary's lists, Will's fires on a wet cold morning, having tea with Steph, and the people who put chocolate on the kitchen counter for all to enjoy. It has been an honour to help build this team and an even greater honour to know that Living Oceans remains in good hands as I move on.

I am leaving behind the opportunity for more adventures. During my time here I have participated fish farm protests in the Broughton Archipelago, piloted a submarine exploring for deep sea coral, and had a sustainable seafood meeting while sipping wine at the Eiffel Tower. I have been threatened five times with lawsuits by our opponents, met with federal and provincial Ministers, presented to Standing Committees and panels, and done

numerous TV, radio and newspaper interviews. I know there are many new adventures waiting for the new Living Oceans Executive Director and all the staff, and when I hear about them, I will be a little bit jealous.

And I leave behind the supporters who have kept us going for so long. The kids who send us their birthday money, the cheques we receive for \$5.00 from people who have so little but care so much, the individuals who give monthly, yearly or whenever they can. The foundations that supported my vision back in 1998 and the foundations that support the Living Oceans vision today. Your help has made my job more meaningful.

I will now turn my attention to the looming issue of the tar sands and climate change, working with organizations across Canada and in the U.S. to build a path to a clean energy future. However, I wish there was a place in my cardboard box for 13 years of memories so that I can draw on the humour, friendship, hard work, and adventures from my time here to inspire me as I embark on the next stage of my career. I guess I will have to make my way to the office every now and then to sit by the fire, have a cup of tea, and enjoy the parts of Living Oceans that I cannot take with me. And I think it is my turn to bring the chocolate.

Jennifer Lash  
Executive Director



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

Send us your e-mail address.  
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or  
sign up online at [www.livingoceans.org/newsletters/](http://www.livingoceans.org/newsletters/)

or  
mail your postal address to us:  
Living Oceans Society  
PO Box 320 Sointula, BC Canada V0N 3E0

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.

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## Many Thanks and All the Best to Jennifer

This is a thrilling time for Jennifer Lash, as she redirects her energies to work for a clean energy future by tackling the issues of the tar sands and climate change. On behalf of Living Oceans Society's staff and Board of Directors, we wish her every success in her new exploits. We greatly appreciate all that she has done to build what has become the largest organization in Canada focusing exclusively on marine conservation. While the Board of Directors conducts the search for Jennifer's replacement, Mary Lindsay our Managing Director, will serve as the Interim Executive Director.

Warmest regards,



Astrid Scholz, Ph.D.  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

## Harbour seals are shot or drowned in salmon farm net-cages



## Licence to Kill continued

After production information, seal and sea lion shooting and drowning statistics were one of the first items to be made public by DFO. When it comes to killing B.C.'s seals and sea lions, it's not surprising that Marine Harvest, the world's largest salmon farming corporation and the owner of more than half of B.C. salmon farms, recorded the highest totals. At the corporation's Mahatta West farm in Quatsino Sound, 46 California sea lions were shot between January and March of this year while 19 were killed at their Mahatta East net-pen site and 15 at the Cleagh Creek farm. Eleven harbour seals were shot at the Phillips Arm farm in the Discovery Islands, near the Wild Salmon Narrows.

Mainstream Canada (Cermaq) killed 47 California sea lions and the company was also responsible for the shooting deaths of two Steller sea lions at a farm site in the United Nations Biosphere Reserve in Clayoquot Sound. Stellers are listed as a species of 'special concern' under Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the government has a special management plan in place to aid in the recovery of the species. DFO has publicly promised to "follow up" on the Steller shootings by Mainstream. We'll



keep an eye on this, and let you know if there are any consequences for the company.

"The case for moving net-cage farms into closed containment just keeps getting stronger," Living

Oceans Society's Salmon Farming Campaign Manager Catherine Stewart said. "How long can our marine ecosystem keep paying the price for industry and government's unwillingness to adopt innovative solutions?" ■

# congratulations photo contest winners

Congratulations to our winners! "Days Work Done" by Marcia Mackay won the Working on the Ocean category and "Opalescent Nudibranch" by Tyson Ehlers took the prize for Ocean Ecosystems. They have each won a digital camera.

Living Oceans Society will be using the great photos from the Ocean Exposures contest to show the beauty of the ocean on our website, newsletters and print publications.



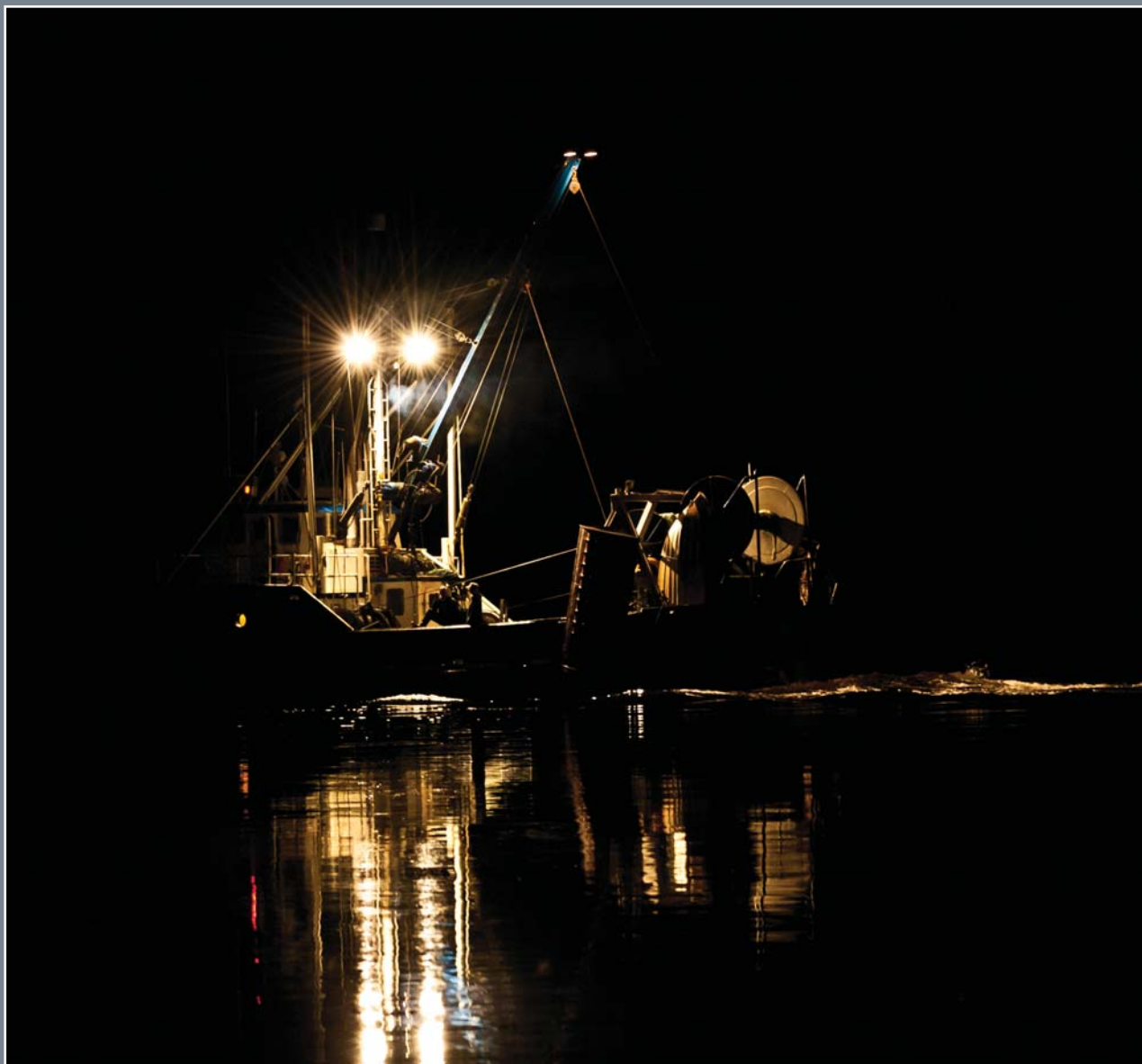
You can see all the entries we received this year at:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/livingoceansfriends/sets/>



My husband and I take our annual vacation in September, in Ucluelet since 2005, in a waterfront cottage (we married there in 2009) close to Whiskey Dock. "Day's Work Done" was shot 12:18 am on September 17, 2010 with a 300mm lens. The boats look amazing at night, all huge and lit up, and I just had to take night shots of them—all from outside the door of the cottage!

**Marcia Mackay** I was born 1948 in a small Welsh town, about 50-60 miles from the coast which is probably why I love Ucluelet so much—just wish I were closer to it! I emigrated to Canada in 1975, with my first husband, working from 1975-1999 for various law firms in a secretarial/PC desktop support capacity and from 1999-May 2011 for the publishing industry in graphic design.

## Day's work Done *by Marcia Mackay*



## Opalescent Nudibranch *by Tyson Ehlers*



This fascinating sea creature, the Opalescent Nudibranch (*Phidinia crassicornis*) was spotted by my two young sons off the dock at Phillimore point on Galiano Island where our family has a cabin. We since learned how the colourful orange tipped appendages (cerata) contain stinging cells which are accumulated by the nudibranch from the hydroids that it eats. The photo was taken underwater with a Pentax Optio W60 on macro setting.

**Tyson Ehlers** I am a biologist from the Slokan Valley specialising in forest mycology. When there aren't any mushrooms to photograph my attention turns to other things, like sea slugs.

## Our Marvellous Photo Contest Judges

Thanks to our wonderful contest judges, Darryl Luscombe and Dan Hillert.



Darryl obtained his PhD in chemistry in Australia in 1992, the same year he trained at the Melbourne School of Photography. He has worked as a research scientist, for the Australian Defence Department; a campaigner for Greenpeace in Australia, Canada and The Netherlands; a research specialist for Inhance Investment Management in Vancouver; and most recently as a full time digital artist, photographer and consultant based in Sointula, B.C. [www.facebook.com/pages/SointulArt/288383948515](https://www.facebook.com/pages/SointulArt/288383948515)



Dan has lived in Sointula on Malcolm Island for the past seven years where he owns the Sointula Gallery & Bistro. Among Dan's many photographic accomplishments is the book *Imagine An Island*, a book of images that explores the rugged beauty of Malcolm Island. You can view Dan's work at [www.Sointula.ca](http://www.Sointula.ca)

## Ranking Codes



Best Choice seafood is well managed, abundant, and caught or farmed in environmentally sustainable ways.



Some Concerns seafood should be consumed infrequently, or when a green choice is not available. There are concerns with abundance, management, or impacts on habitat or other marine life.



Avoid seafood items from this list for now. They come from farmed or wild sources with a combination of critical problems—habitat damage, lethal impacts on other species, critically low populations, or poor management.

| Fish                      | Best Choice  | Some Concerns   | Avoid                                     |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| Arctic Char               | Farmed   |   |   |
| Barramundi                | Farmed, Closed System (US)   | Farmed, Closed System (Australia)                             | Farmed, Open System (All)                 |
| Basa/Pangasius            |  | (Vietnam/Cambodia)  |   |
| Catfish                   | Farmed (US)  |   |   |
| Chilean Seabass           |  |   | (All)                                     |
| Clams/Mussels             | Farmed (All)   | Wild  | Arctic Surf (Canada)                      |
| Cod*                      | Pacific Longline (Alaska)  | Pacific Bottom Trawl (US/BC)                                  | Atlantic (Canada), Pacific (Russia/Japan) |
| Crab                      | Dungeness (BC/Washington), Stone (Florida/US Atlantic)                                 | King (US), Snow (US/Canada), Jonah (US/Canada)                | King (Russia)                             |
| Flounder/Sole*            |  | (Pacific)   | (Atlantic)                                |
| Haddock                   | Handline (Canada/US)   | Bottom Trawl (US/Canada), (Iceland), Bottom Longline (Canada) |   |
| Halibut                   | (Alaska)   | (BC)  | (Atlantic)                                |
| Lingcod                   |  | (Canada/US)   |   |
| Lobster                   | Spiny (US/Baja Mexico)   | American (Canada/US), Spiny (Bahamas)                         | Spiny (Brazil)                            |
| Mackerel                  | King (US), Spanish (US), Atlantic (Canada)   | Atlantic Mid-water Trawl (US)                                 |   |
| Mahi Mahi                 | Troll/Pole (US Atlantic)   | Longline and other (US)                                       | Longline (Imported)                       |
| Oysters                   | Farmed   | Wild (Canada/US)  |   |
| Pollock                   |  | Atlantic, Pacific (Alaska)                                    |   |
| Rockfish/Pacific Snapper* |  |   | Bottom Trawl (Pacific)                    |
| Sablefish                 | (Alaska/Canada)  | (US West coast)   |   |
| Salmon*                   | Wild (Alaska), Coho Land Farmed (US)   | Wild (BC/US West coast)                                       | (Atlantic), Open-net Farmed (All)         |
| Sardines/Herring          | Pacific (Canada/US)  | Atlantic (US)   | Atlantic (Mediterranean)                  |
| Scallops                  | Farmed Off Bottom  | Farmed Dredge, Wild (US/Canada Atlantic)                      |   |
| Shark/Skate               |  | Dogfish, Spiny (Canada Pacific)                               | (All)                                     |
| Shrimp/Prawns             | Pink (Oregon), Spot (BC), Farmed Closed System (US), Northern (Canada Atlantic – trap) | All Other (Canada/US)   | All Other Farmed                          |
| Squid                     | Longfin (US)   | (All Other)   |   |
| Swordfish                 | Harpoon (Canada/Hawaii)  | Longline (US)   | (International), Longline (Canada)        |
| Tilapia                   | Farmed (US)  | Farmed (South America)  | Farmed (Asia)                             |
| Trout, Rainbow            | Farmed (US), Land Based Farmed (Canada)  | Farmed Open Net (Canada)                                      |   |
| Tuna, Albacore            | (Canada/US Pacific)  | Longline (Hawaii)   | Longline (International)                  |
| Tuna, Bigeye (Ahi)        | Pole/Troll (US Atlantic)   | Pole/Troll (International), Longline (US Atlantic)            | Longline (International/Hawaii)           |
| Tuna, Bluefin             |  |   | (All)                                     |
| Tuna, Canned              | Albacore Chunk White (Canada/US Pacific)   | Albacore Chunk White Pole/Troll (International)               | Chunk light/white (All exc. Pole/Troll)   |
| Tuna, Skipjack            | Pole/Troll (Atlantic)  | Longline (US Atlantic/Hawaii)                                 | Purse Seine/Longline (International)      |
| Tuna, Yellowfin (Ahi)     | Pole/Troll (US)  | Pole/Troll (International), Longline (US Atlantic/Hawaii)     | Purse Seine/Longline (International)      |

\* Visit [seachoice.org](http://seachoice.org) for more details. Can't find something? Go to [SeaChoice.org](http://SeaChoice.org) for a full list!

CLIP AND SAVE

## Don't leave home without the 2011 SEAFOOD GUIDE

The table at left ranks seafood as Best Choice, Some Concerns or Avoid. Depending on where the fish was caught or what gear was used, some species may show up in more than one column, with additional information to assist you in making a better choice. Canadians want their seafood to be properly labelled to help make these smart choices. If your seafood supplier doesn't know the answers, keep asking so they know that this information is important to customers.



PHOTO: Pat Moss

Protesters greet the review panel at a community hearing held in Kitimat in 2010.

# OPPOSITION

## WILL BE LOUD & CLEAR AT NORTHERN GATEWAY HEARINGS

If Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline project passes its environmental assessment, 225 oil tankers loaded with crude would sail from Canada's Pacific North Coast bound for Asia each year. A record number of Canadians are signing up to say NO to Enbridge and NO to the federal review panel when it visits B.C. communities early in 2012.

Over 4,000 people have signed up to speak directly to the review panel at hearings in communities across the province, four times more than any other National Energy Board review. The response reflects the widespread opposition British Columbians have to tankers carrying tar sands crude through waters adjacent to the Great Bear Rainforest.

Living Oceans Society will be hosting free workshops in communities on northern Vancouver Island early in 2012 to help people prepare to speak to the review panel. We'll also help direct our supporters from other areas of British Columbia to workshops to be held in their communities. Stay tuned.



Didn't sign up but want your say? Consider sending a letter of comment to the panel: [www.livingoceans.org/initiatives/tankers/write-letter](http://www.livingoceans.org/initiatives/tankers/write-letter)

CLIP AND SAVE

## HARPER PULLS THE PLUG ON PNCIMA

For the last several years Living Oceans Society has championed the PNCIMA planning process as the best chance to protect B.C.'s North Coast waters while ensuring sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities. PNCIMA is pronounced pen-SEA-mah and it stands for the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area.

The PNCIMA process was the first time that the governments of Canada, B.C. and First Nations came together with the public, coastal communities, environmentalists and the marine industries to come up with a plan to use the ocean wisely instead of using it up. The public was engaged in the process through an advisory council, regional forums, workshops and capacity building initiatives that enabled community members to help build this plan from the ground up.

But now Stephen Harper's government has pulled the plug on their part of a funding agreement for PNCIMA over fear that the process will influence regional oceans management in ways the Conservatives would not like. The U.S.-based Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation provided \$8.3 million dollars to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO), which was tasked with running PNCIMA for the Canadian government but was not provided with sufficient funding to do so. Last January, federal government lawyers approved the arms-length funding arrangement after an extensive federal review. The Moore Foundation has a long track record working with U.S. state governments on multi-use ocean planning, and public-private partnerships are neither new nor unusual in Canada.

Prime Minister Harper, however, had made it clear that he will not let anything stand in the path of selling tar sands crude oil to China. It did not take much lobbying from the shipping industry and Big Oil to convince him that, because PNCIMA allowed the people who live and work on the coast to have a say in the planning process, there was a chance that they might not want 200 plus super tankers loaded with tar sands crude steaming through the region every year. So the government backed out of the public private partnership, thereby eliminating DFO's source of funds for those components that allowed for cross sectoral dialogues, community engagement and capacity building. DFO has announced that it will adopt "a more focused" plan. With its funding slashed, DFO will have little choice. They are left with a skeleton staff team and no money to pay for the much needed science team, working groups, workshops, forums, research, GIS analysis or a spatial plan. We now question whether the remnants of PNCIMA process can protect the ocean or ensure a sustainable coastal economy.

Now that the usefulness of the federal PNCIMA process has been thrown into question, the B.C. and First Nations governments are considering moving forward together with their own version of the planning process. They are designing a new marine use planning process for B.C. at a regional scale that will contain many of the elements now lost to PNCIMA. Although the avenues for the implementation of marine plans have changed, we will adapt and continue working towards our goal of ecosystem based management and an effective network of marine protected areas along B.C.'s coast. ■

### BCMCA hires project manager



Gillian Saxby has been hired as the Project Manager for the British Columbia Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA), a project of Tides Canada Initiative. Gillian will be promoting BCMCA's new Marine Atlas and Data Library, an impressive collection of over 260 digital colour maps of the coast, as well as the spatial analyses that explore a range of "what if?" marine planning scenarios.

"We want make sure that the people who are planning and making decisions about activities that could impact the future of B.C. coastal areas are aware of and able to use the BCMCA products," Gillian said. "The atlas and analyses are the best and most up to date data which show how and where humans use the ocean and what areas are critical for marine food webs."

Gillian's has spent her life living, working and playing on the ocean and its shores. Her love and respect for the ocean along with her experience working in project management with various levels of governments, NGOs and First Nations over the past 20 years will stand her in good stead with BCMCA's many collaborators. Gillian is a professional mediator with a Masters degree in planning and a Bachelors degree in economics. ■

## staff



Tiffany Hillman

### goodbye

**Tiffany Hillman**, our Salmon Farming Markets Campaigner, left us at the end of October. If you're a seafood chef in Canada, you've probably been in touch with Tiffany at some point over the past few years. We'll miss her laughter and her dedication to moving the marketplace to selling only wild salmon or salmon grown in closed containment.



Emma Point

### welcome!

**Emma Point** has joined us to conduct research on oil tanker safety for the Energy campaign. Emma works in our Sointula office and is originally from Toronto. Among a range of employment endeavours from camp counseling to assisting field-research teams, she has worked as a freelance environmental consultant and recently helped to develop a greenhouse gas emissions database of food products for a carbon accounting software.

# Cohen Commission Update

The Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River has wrapped up the evidentiary hearings and will begin to prepare its final report due to be released on or before June 30, 2012. On September 7 and 8, Living Oceans' Catherine Stewart testified before the Cohen Inquiry (transcripts can be found at [www.cohencommission.ca](http://www.cohencommission.ca)). The Commission's recommendations for improving the sustainability of the Fraser River sockeye could include changes to DFO's policies, practices and procedures.

"One of the key issues I raised at the Cohen Inquiry is the conflicting mandate within DFO. The department has a constitutional mandate to manage, protect and conserve our oceans and our wild salmon stocks. They have a political mandate to advocate for the aquaculture industry. In effect they're acting as the promotional arm of aquaculture in Canada. DFO spends a lot of time and money advocating for open net-cage aquaculture and

claiming it is sustainable. Since last year, DFO is also charged with regulation and enforcement of the aquaculture industry in B.C.. These mandates are in fundamental conflict and this has to be rectified. Living Oceans and CAAR are calling for any promotion and marketing of aquaculture to be delegated to another federal department."

Earlier in the proceedings, EcoJustice, CAAR's lawyers at the inquiry, won the fight for the release of years of fish health data from all salmon farms along the Fraser River sockeye migration route. Despite the objections of industry and government, the documents we had been refused so many times before were entered as evidence at the inquiry for all to see. The industry's fish health data sheds light on the constant threat posed by open net-cage salmon farms on our coast and the ever-present risk of serious disease outbreaks that could devastate wild salmon. DFO has indicated they will post disease information in future, but will delay reporting the information publicly until the fish in question have been harvested and sold. Real-time reports of diseases on farms could dampen sales of the fish in question.

The Living Oceans team worked hard with our CAAR allies to bring these hidden facts to light because we

believe that the more Canadians learn about the dangers and impacts of farming salmon in open net-cages, the more our elected officials will feel the pressure to clean up the coast and transition the industry to closed containment.■



Watch Catherine's video update at [www.livingoceans.org/cohen-commission-update](http://www.livingoceans.org/cohen-commission-update)



**Every dollar you donate to LOS is \$2 for the fish**

A generous supporter has challenged us to raise \$150,000 to protect the ocean. If we meet this challenge, our friend will match the donations, providing up to \$300,000 for ocean conservation.

# YES!

## Support Living Oceans Society

**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 Oceans Fund** at Tides Canada Foundation if you would like a tax receipt (min \$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](http://www.livingoceans.org/donate).

The Oceans Fund is a special fund set up at Tides Canada Foundation to support the charitable work of Living Oceans Society. Tax receipts will be issued by Tides Canada Foundation within six weeks of receipt. For more information about Tides Canada Foundation visit [www.tidescanada.org](http://www.tidescanada.org).

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

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☐ 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

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date MM / YY

Cardholder name \_\_\_\_\_ CVV2 3-digit code on back

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