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## Another Norwegian fish farm in Clayoquot waters?

The Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations has extended, until July 4, the public comment period for a new open net-cage salmon farm site in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve.

Norwegian-owned corporation Mainstream is applying for a new 55-hectare feedlot site near Plover Point on the east side of Meares Island.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound is calling on the Provincial Government to deny this tenure application, place a permanent moratorium on expansion of net-cage tenures in BC and move existing farms to closed containment.

'With the Cohen Commission still under way, and while we wait for the disease data from Mainstream's farms to be released to the public, it is not the time to expand fish farms in the Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve,' says Bonny Glambeck.

The Plover Point area, rich with marine life, is frequented by orcas, sea lions, porpoises, and sea birds. Stream assessments found streams nearby with cutthroat trout and salmon populations. There are also productive clam beds along the shores of the Meares Island Tribal Park, as well as eelgrass and kelp beds and herring spawning areas.

The Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform says ongoing research shows that populations of various wild salmon species in Clayoquot Sound are declining even where freshwater habitat remains pristine. They also reference studies that show a correlation between increased numbers of sea lice on wild salmon and the number of active open net-cage fish farms on the wild salmon's outmigration route. ☞

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