

# Reprint **Island Tides**

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## **Fishy business** ~ Sara Miles

Has Cermaq learned a lesson?

According to an August 10 joint statement co-signed by the Norwegian fishfarm giant, Friends of the Earth Norway, and Forum for Environment and Development (ForUM), Cermaq says their Chilean operations should have been done in a more sustainable manner.

'There is a connection between the way aquaculture has been carried out in Chile and spread of fish diseases that led to the collapse of the industry in Chile in 2007,' the agreement states.

Friends of the Earth Norway agreed that Cermaq has contributed to research to make the industry more sustainable and changed their global operations to prevent fish disease.

Cermaq also claims that their operations in Chile, Canada and Norway will operate according to the precautionary principle, and will respect the rights of indigenous people and workers. They will 'continue reporting against sustainability indicators'.

Only time will tell if these measures are sufficient to protect BC salmon from diseases such as the infectious salmon anemia that decimated fish populations in Chile.

### **Inquiry Continues**

In Vancouver, the Cohen Commission evidentiary hearings into BC's sockeye salmon runs resumed mid-August. Dr Kristi Miller, whose work centers on pre-spawn fish mortality and who was previously prevented by the Harper government from speaking to media, testified on August 24. Scientist Alexandra Morton appears on September 7 and 8.

The group 'Salmon Are Sacred' reminds citizens that the hearings (on the 8th floor of the Federal Court at 701 West Georgia Street) are open and public participation is essential to this process.

'The aquaculture hearings are going to be extremely important to the survival of wild salmon in BC,' says Alexandra Morton. 'When you have the Privy Council suppressing scientists studying the demise of a huge public fishery you can be sure the public is at the losing end. People need to attend this hearing to support Justice Cohen in getting to the bottom of this highly political situation and preventing government from spinning the hearings to meet its needs.'

Evidentiary hearings will continue until the end of September, with final submissions expected in November. Details are at [www.cohencommission.ca](http://www.cohencommission.ca). Exhibits and transcripts are posted online once available, and the calendar is updated regularly.

### **Sustainable Fishing?**

Meanwhile, the BC commercial pink salmon and albacore tuna fisheries are now certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as being sustainably managed, and chum salmon and spiny dogfish fisheries are currently being assessed for MSC certification. However, Watershed Watch is questioning one of these designations, stating that commercial fisheries targeting pink salmon on BC's north coast discarded over 1.37 million pounds of chum salmon in August, and that most discarded fish are not expected to survive. ☞

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