

alexandra morton

Safe to eat?

In Norway

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1 entry from October 2019

Canada's Shame

On September 23, 2019 Port McNeill photographer Rolf Hicker posted devastating photos of bears starving to death in two different rivers in the Broughton Archipelago, Lull Creek and Hoeya Sound.



In 2007, I coauthored a scientific paper that was published in the top scientific journal in the world SCIENCE that predicted local extinction of the pink salmon of the Broughton in 4 generations, that's 8 years for pink salmon due to sea lice from salmon farms. The salmon farming industry began using drugs as a result of this work and pressure from First Nations and environmental groups, but like everywhere in the world this industry operates, the drugs began to fail and so our prediction was off by four years. These fish are currently commercially extinct, they once supported fisheries, bears, orca, and people, but today the orca don't come here to feed, there are no fisheries and the bears are starving.

Declining Wild Salmon Populations in Relation to Parasites from Farm Salmon

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Rather than benefiting wild fish, industrial aquaculture may contribute to declines in ocean fisheries and ecosystems. Farm salmon are commonly infected with salmon lice (*Lepeophtheirus salmonis*), which are native ectoparasitic copepods. We show that recurrent louse infestations of wild juvenile pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), all associated with salmon farms, have depressed wild pink salmon populations and placed them on a trajectory toward rapid local extinction. The louse-induced mortality of pink salmon is commonly over 80% and exceeds previous fishing mortality. If outbreaks continue, then local extinction is certain, and a 99% collapse in pink salmon population abundance is expected in four salmon generations. These results suggest that salmon farms can cause parasite outbreaks that erode the capacity of a coastal ecosystem to support wild salmon populations.

It is not difficult to understand how sea lice from salmon farms kill young wild salmon - eating away their gill covers, eating holes into their skin and eating so much of the fish, they simply cannot keep up with the lice and the energy they need to grow.



TavishCampbell_Clayoquot_1

from Alexandra Morton



00:17



vimeo



Untitled

from Alexandra Morton



[Sea lice eating wild salmon smolt by Tavish Campbell](#)

However, in addition to the visuals we have the science [published](#) published by my colleagues and I that shows that sea lice from salmon farms are killing young wild salmon.

None of this is guesswork and none of this is specific to the Broughton Archipelago. This is business-as-usual for the salmon farming industry. This Norwegian industry reports sea lice are a \$1Billion problem for *them*. But when you calculate the damage to places like British Columbia, the losses far exceed a mere \$1Billion.

We are losing a part of this earth, an ecosystem that generously made clean air, clean water and clean food. We are losing a fish that feeds the trees that makes the oxygen we breathe. What the hell are we doing?

Now the world knows Canada has traded her living wilderness for three Norwegian salmon farming companies...

Emaciated grizzly bears in Canada spark greater concerns over depleted salmon population [CNN](#)

Heartbreaking photos show emaciated grizzly bears wandering through the Canadian wilderness after **freak salmon shortage** caused by warming waters and open fish farming - just one month before they're supposed to go into hibernation [Daily Mail](#)

Grizzly Bears Starving in Canada Due to Decreasing Salmon [People.com](#)



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