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The Fisherman

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Industry waits on impact of Oceans buyout by CFC

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Gillnetter John Stevens weighs a sockeye at his sales dock on the Fraser River in Ladner following the first gillnet opening on Somass River sockeye in Barkley Sound June 14. Fishermen reported good catches over the first three openings, with a good portion of five-year-old fish weighing in at six pounds and over. The Somass run was updated June 30 from 600,000 to 1,050,000, providing more openings for both the seine and gillnet fleets.

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The CAW hall in New Westminster was packed June 16 for the Protein for People salmon barbecue, with dozens lining up at the table (left). At right, PFP president John Radosevic and Surrey Food Bank executive director Marilyn Hermann display a map showing the communities in Surrey that receive the salmon distributed through the program. Some 50,000 cases went out last year, paid for by union donations through United Way.

FISHERMAN PHOTOS-SEAN GRIFFIN

WCB jurisdiction could go to top court

Osprey Marine files appeal to challenge regulation of safety

The issue of whether the Workers' Compensation Board of B.C. (WCB) has the constitutional authority to regulate safety on fishing vessels may still be decided by the Supreme Court of Canada despite a comprehensive ruling upholding that authority by the B.C. Appeal Court in February.

Osprey Marine, whose appeal was one of two related cases under review by the Appeal Court, applied to the Supreme Court of Canada April 4 for leave to appeal the B.C. court ruling. On May 30, the WCB was granted additional time to respond to the application, which will likely put off a decision by the SCC until the fall as to whether it will hear the appeal.

The delay likely won't affect day-to-day vessel safety monitoring in the fishing fleet but it still leaves some uncertainty in an industry with a legacy of high fatality rate and critical safety issues, many involving vessel stability.

The Appeal Court ruling is the latest ruling in two related cases going back four years, both involving a challenge to the WCB's authority to regulate vessel safety. In one case, Jim Pattison Enterprises, owner of

Canadian Fishing Company, along with the vessel owners of the seiner-trawlers Western Investor and Northisle, challenged the WCB's jurisdiction in conducting vessel safety inspections, an area traditionally governed by Transport Canada. In the other case, Osprey Marine challenged the WCB's authority to issue orders after its investigation of a fatal accident in 2007 aboard the Osprey No. 1, when a crew member was struck and killed by a trawl door.

A review by the B.C. Supreme Court resulted in a February, 2009 ruling upholding the WCB's authority to regulate occupational health and safety on board fishing vessels. The ruling was based on earlier cases establishing that the "business of fishing" was in provincial jurisdiction as well as 1995 and 2001 memoranda of understanding between Transport Canada and the WCB that provided for a cooperative approach and gave the WCB the green light to govern all aspects of occupational health and safety on commercial fishing vessels.

The court also noted that between 1975 and 2005, 157 fishing vessels capsized and 66 lives were lost. It was following a 2002 tragedy when the Cap Rouge II rolled over in the Gulf of Georgia and five people drowned that the WCB began moving more forcefully in dealing with vessel stability, a move that eventually prompted the court challenge.

In February, the B.C. Court of Appeal upheld the B.C. Supreme Court's decision, declaring that the WCB's health and safety

inspections and orders were mainly within the board's health and safety jurisdiction and in those areas where there was a shared federal-provincial responsibility, the WCB's actions did not conflict with federal legislation.

Lawyers for the two fishing companies had argued that because their vessels occasionally ventured more than 12 miles offshore, vessel safety fell under the Canada Shipping Act, a federal Act. They also contended that issues related to vessel stability were exclusively a federal responsibility.

However, the three justices on the Appeal Court ruled that even if the vessels did move beyond provincial boundaries, their fishing business were based in B.C. and therefore fell under provincial jurisdiction. And in those areas where jurisdiction may not always be clear, they pointed out that cooperative arrangements between the WCB and TC had the effect of carrying out the purpose of both federal and provincial legislation.

"Both levels of government, through their cooperative efforts, have enacted complementary regulatory regimes that provide enhanced protection on issues of worker safety," Justice Daphne Smith wrote in her reasons for dismissing the Pattison and Osprey Marine appeal. She said that the WCB and Transport Canada's "cooperative federalism" should be given "significant deference", adding that courts "should be slow to interfere" with such federal and provincial agreements in areas of overlapping jurisdiction.



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Impact of Oceans-CFC deal is still not known

Canfisco plans to operate on a business as usual basis in 2011

The long-rumored consolidation of the province's two largest fishing companies, Ocean Fisheries and Canadian Fishing Company (CFC), finally became a confirmed corporate announcement June 1, leaving many in the industry wondering what impact the move will have.

For the 2011 season, "we'll be operating on a business-as-usual basis," Rob Morley, executive vice-president for Canadian Fish, told the Fisherman. All plants that both companies currently run are expected to operate, assuming salmon returns are as projected.

UFAWU-CAW president Irvin Figg, who met with CFC July 4, together with shoreworker representative Brian Hamaguchi, tendermen's representative Glen Katnich and northern representative Joy Thorkelson, said Morley told them that the company will be operating all the plants in north as well as the home plant in Vancouver, with a special emphasis this year on frozen pinks. "He told us that if the fish show up as expected, we'll be busy in all the plants," Figg said. The Canadian Fish cannery in Prince Rupert was expected to ramp up production July 6, running the skinless-boneless line on Bristol Bay sockeye. Oceans was expected to continue cannery butchering at its Royal fresh fish operation in Prince Rupert, although some of that may now go to the CFC cannery for canning in addition to the Oceans cannery in Richmond.

Still, few are looking at possible changes in operations and management beyond 2011, and the companies' formal announcement offered scant details.

"The Canadian Fishing Company and Ocean Fisheries Ltd. are pleased to announce that the fishing and processing assets of Oceans are being combined with those of Canfisco. Through this combination, Oceans and Canfisco will achieve some key operational synergies — and by better utilizing their assets, will be able to reduce their costs of operation..." it said.

"Canadian Fish is to assume operational and management

control over the consolidated fishing and processing assets of both companies," it stated, adding the executive vice-president of Oceans, Tom Todhunter will become part of the senior management team at CFC. Edward Safarik, whose father Edward Safarik Sr. founded the company together with his wife Juanita in 1962, is expected to retire after a 50-year career with Oceans.

Morley confirmed that the consolidation means that Canadian Fish now owns the boats and processing operations previously owned by Oceans.

The two companies will retain some parts of their separate identities, with Oceans expected to continue selling its branded products in competition with the Canadian Fish Gold Seal brand and retaining its "arrangements with suppliers in Canada, Alaska and Southeast Asia."

But it is the references to "reducing their costs of operation" that is likely to raise concern over the future of the combined operation.

Asked about possible rationalization of operations in the wake of the change, Morley said Canadian Fish "has no plans at this time." Neither are there any plans to put new investment into operations, he added. Figg said the UFAWU-CAW was also told the company had not made any plans on changes, only that the union "will be consulted if there are plans."

"Re-structuring and consolidation of ownership always make us nervous," Figg said. "We can take some comfort from Canadian Fish assurances that everything will operate as in the past, but it remains to be seen how long that will last."

"All of us will need to watch carefully how this unfolds," he added.

Canadian Fish currently operates two union plants on the North Coast, the Oceanside cannery and the Seal Cove fresh fish plant, as well as the home plant in Vancouver, which is also certified with the UFAWU-CAW. Oceans operates the Royal fresh fish plant under UFAWU-CAW certifica-

tion while its cannery in Richmond is not unionized.

Both companies also have seine fleets as well as union certified packer fleets. Union contracts with both companies begin to expire in April, 2012.

The Canadian Fish-Oceans deal is the second major consolidation in the industry since Canadian Fish took over the assets of former industry giant B.C. Packers in 1999. At the same time as the consolidation with Oceans, Canadian Fish also announced its takeover of Leader Creek Fishing in Alaska, a major producer of frozen salmon fillets, based in Naknek in Bristol Bay, AK.



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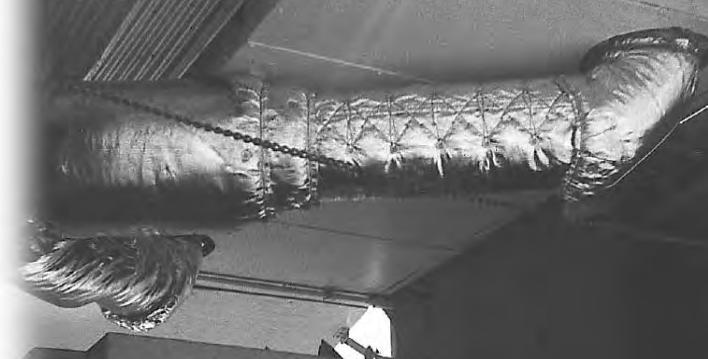
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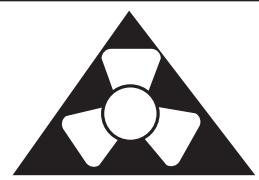
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fish & ships

Funny. Premier Christy Clark wasted no time in encouraging people to jump on their computers and use social media to post photos of those participating in Vancouver's Stanley Cup riot with police. But when it comes to providing access to a website so that citizens can comment on Mainstream Canada's proposed new salmon farm site at Plover Point in the ecologically sensitive Clayoquot Sound area, suddenly the government can't even get the technology off the ground.

The province was originally set to close submissions on the proposed site on May 18 and then extended it to June 18 after no one was able to access the documents relating to the fish farm application. For weeks, all they got was the message: "We are experiencing

quietly extended the deadline for comment to July 22, although Mainstream Canada's website still lists the deadline as June 18.

Even with the broken website link, the proposed 55.7-hectare farm site — in Fortune Channel on the east side of Meares Island — touched off a tsunami of protest. Sparking even more outrage were statements by Mainstream managers that there was "limited life" under the proposed farm site and claims that the farm would have "little impact." They didn't even mention that the site is within a kilometre of a chinook spawning stream.

But when fisherman Jody Eriksson took a video camera up to the site, they found the



NICK CARR... on duty at the Protein for People salmon barbecue just before marking number 89.

technical difficulties with viewing the documents. We are working to resolve these errors and appreciate your patience." Complaints poured in to the provincial Ombudsman.

Not until June 24 did someone at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources figure out the code and get the website link working again. Just a day or two earlier the government had

sea bed under the proposed site teeming with spot prawns, rock crab, pink shrimp, scallops, kelp and Dungeness crabs. "The camera never lies," said Eriksson. "Cermaq (parent company of Mainstream Canada) has been caught hook line and stinker."

In response, the company amended its statement to say that the site had "limited non-motile (stationary) life." "We

clarified the wording to say 'limited non-motile (stationary) life' because that is what we meant," wrote Grant Warkentin, communications officer for Mainstream Canada, in an email to the **Tofino-Ucluelet Westerly News**. We're not sure whether that clarifies anything, but apparently Mainstream thinks so.

Clear or not, the protest over the site has not abated. The **Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform** has launched an online petition calling on the government to deny the Plover Point application and introduce a moratorium on fish farm expansion. You can add your name at www.farmanddangerous.org

Sometimes when you get used to seeing someone on a regular basis, you forget how the years have gone marching by. Not that fisherman-activist Nick Carr has really noticed those years as he marked his 89th birthday on June 25. It's been a while since he turned over the gavel as the president of UFAWU Local 1 and even longer since he gave up his bunk on the **Belina**, but he still volunteers regularly for the Benefit Fund, packs boxes around as well as those half his age and still presides over the barbecued salmon platter at the annual Protein for People barbecue to make sure everyone gets their portion. We wish him many more.

They don't make inspiring reading but anyone who has seen the **WorkSafeBC** statistics on occupational fatalities in recent years couldn't help noticing that occupational disease is now the leading cause of workplace-related death in British Columbia. And most of that occupational disease is disease related to asbestos exposure — asbestosis, lung cancer and

mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining around the lungs. It's not known how many shoreworkers are among those affected by asbestos-related disease but given the extensive use of

asbestos in retorts and boiler operations in dozens of coastal canneries from the 1920s through the 1970s, there undoubtedly are some. UFAWU-CAW president Irvin Figg remembers working as part of asbestos removal crews during the 1980s in B.C. Packers' Imperial cannery in Steveston where the cancer-causing mineral frequently showed up in materials used in the cannery.

When you consider the toll that asbestos-related disease has taken on just a single generation of Canadians, you'd think that Canada would want to stand up tall in the world in protecting workers from asbestos exposure.

Not the Harper government, apparently.

The **Lab Chrysotile** asbestos mines in **Thetford Mines**, Quebec, produces more than 150,000 tonnes of asbestos annually, shipping it to such places as India, Malaysia and Latin America where it is manufactured into dozen of different building materials. Across the developing world, thousands of construction workers are exposed to asbestos, most without protection.

But even given its grim trade, Canada could provide some protection if it wanted. The countries of the United Nations, including Canada, have established a UN treaty called the **Rotterdam Convention**.

The convention lists a number of hazardous chemicals and other materials that are part of international trade. Once a material is listed, countries importing that material must be informed about its hazards and given information on safeguards.

Several times signatories to the Rotterdam Convention have met to consider adding chrysotile asbestos — the white asbestos mined in Quebec — to the list. Every time, Canada, often supported by such

countries as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Vietnam, has blocked its listing. Just two weeks ago, on June 23, the conference met again to consider once again listing chrysotile asbestos on the Rotterdam Convention hazardous chemicals list. This time, despite demands from across the political spectrum in Canada that the federal government support the listing, Canada again blocked it. It was almost alone in that stand, except that at the last minute Kazakhstan and the Ukraine — also asbestos exporters — decided to block the listing as well.

Back in Parliament, federal Industry Minister **Christian Paradis** probably set a new record for repetition of the same sentence in a Question Period: "We know that chrysotile can be used in a safe fashion in a controlled environment," he droned in answer to every question on the topic. All the while, remediation crews were at work at the prime minister's residence — removing the asbestos that was used in renovations over the years because it's now known to be hazardous.

And where did Paradis and Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** go the very next day? You guessed it — to Thetford Mines in Paradis' Quebec riding which, not surprisingly, has the highest rates of asbestos-related cancers in the country. They were there to cut the cake celebrating St. Jean Baptiste Day. Never mind compensation for asbestos disease victims — let them eat cake.



HARPER, PARADIS... let them eat cake.

The Fisherman

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'Yes' vote urged on referendum

Despite the upside-down question on the mail-in ballot, the real choice is between the regressive HST and the fairer PST, says B.C. Fed president

By Jim Sinclair

During the lead up to the 2009 provincial election, instead of campaigning on their plan to introduce the HST, the Liberal government and their MLAs denied they were considering it. But with the ballots barely counted, the Liberals announced they would proceed with the largest and most unfair tax shift in the province's history.

Incensed at being lied to and having their taxes increased to fund tax cuts for corporations, the people of British Columbia rebelled.

When the dust settled, the people won Round One. A grassroots movement spread across the province, forcing a referendum on the issue.

The people won Round Two in November 2010, when Gordon Campbell was forced to resign.

Today a desperate Liberal party led by newly elected Premier Christy Clark, is scrambling to win Round Three by spending millions of taxpayer dollars to convince British Columbians the HST is good for them.

Let's be clear, the HST can't be fixed.

The changes made by Premier Clark are a cynical attempt to buy British Columbians with their own money and, more importantly, dropping the tax by two points will cause a major revenue crisis leading to more cutbacks of schools, hospitals and government services.

Ms. Clark knows this is true — she said it herself.

"We aren't going to be talking about trying to reduce it by a point or two before the referendum. I think people will see that as buying them with their own money," Clark stated on March 21, 2011. "We're going to have a \$1.6 billion bigger deficit or we're going to have \$1.6 billion fewer heart operations, special-needs teachers, school facilities, hospital emergency rooms." She is right on both counts. And she did it anyway. But the cost to

citizens of the HST goes beyond creating bigger deficits or extreme cuts to public services.

This tax is fundamentally flawed because it takes billions of dollars from working families and gives those dollars to BC's largest corporations.

Despite the convoluted question on the referendum the real choice is between the HST and the PST.

If British Columbians vote YES to reject the HST and re-introduce the PST, the government will receive an

billion. Corporations and citizens share the responsibility and the tax will not apply to hundreds of essential purchases.

If British Columbians vote NO to keep the HST the government will receive in 2014/15 about \$5.3 billion from the tax paid entirely by British Columbians and their families. Not only will this create a huge shortfall in revenue (as predicted by the premier) but corporations will pay virtually nothing. This is unfair.

Premier Clark's HST will still see British Columbians pay \$1.4 billion more in taxes in 2014/15 but the provincial budget will be more than \$1 billion short to pay for public services. Citizens pay more money and get fewer services. This makes no sense.

Yes, Clark announced a "temporary" increase in corporate taxes from 10 percent to 12 percent, but that will generate only a small portion of



JIM SINCLAIR... the HST can't be fixed.

result has been a windfall of nearly \$8.5 billion since 2001. Corporate profits also increased

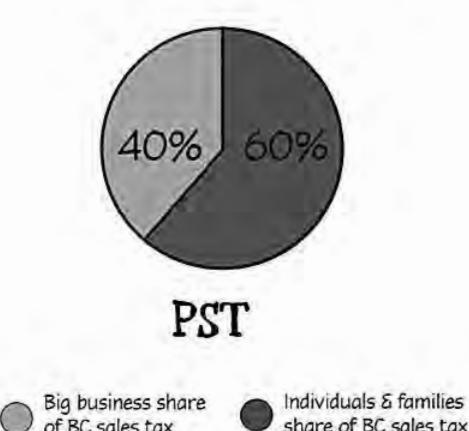
money and ran — closing mills and factories at a record pace, leaving us with 28,000 fewer manufacturing jobs today than we had at the beginning of the Liberal regime.

British Columbians are fair people who work hard and don't mind paying taxes for important services. But they want everybody to pay their fair share. The HST does the opposite. It dumps all the responsibility on families, lets corporations off the hook and forces government to cut back services.

Don't be fooled by the Liberals or the upside down question. Vote YES to scrap the HST, vote YES to the PST, vote YES for fair taxes and vote YES to properly funded public services for all British Columbians.

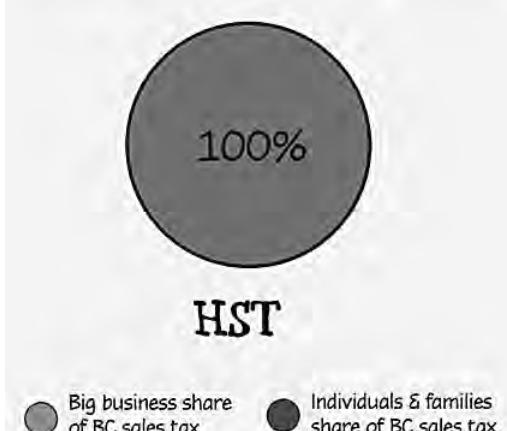
The PST is fair.

Families and big businesses both contribute.



The HST isn't fair for families.

Families pay more and big businesses pay nothing.

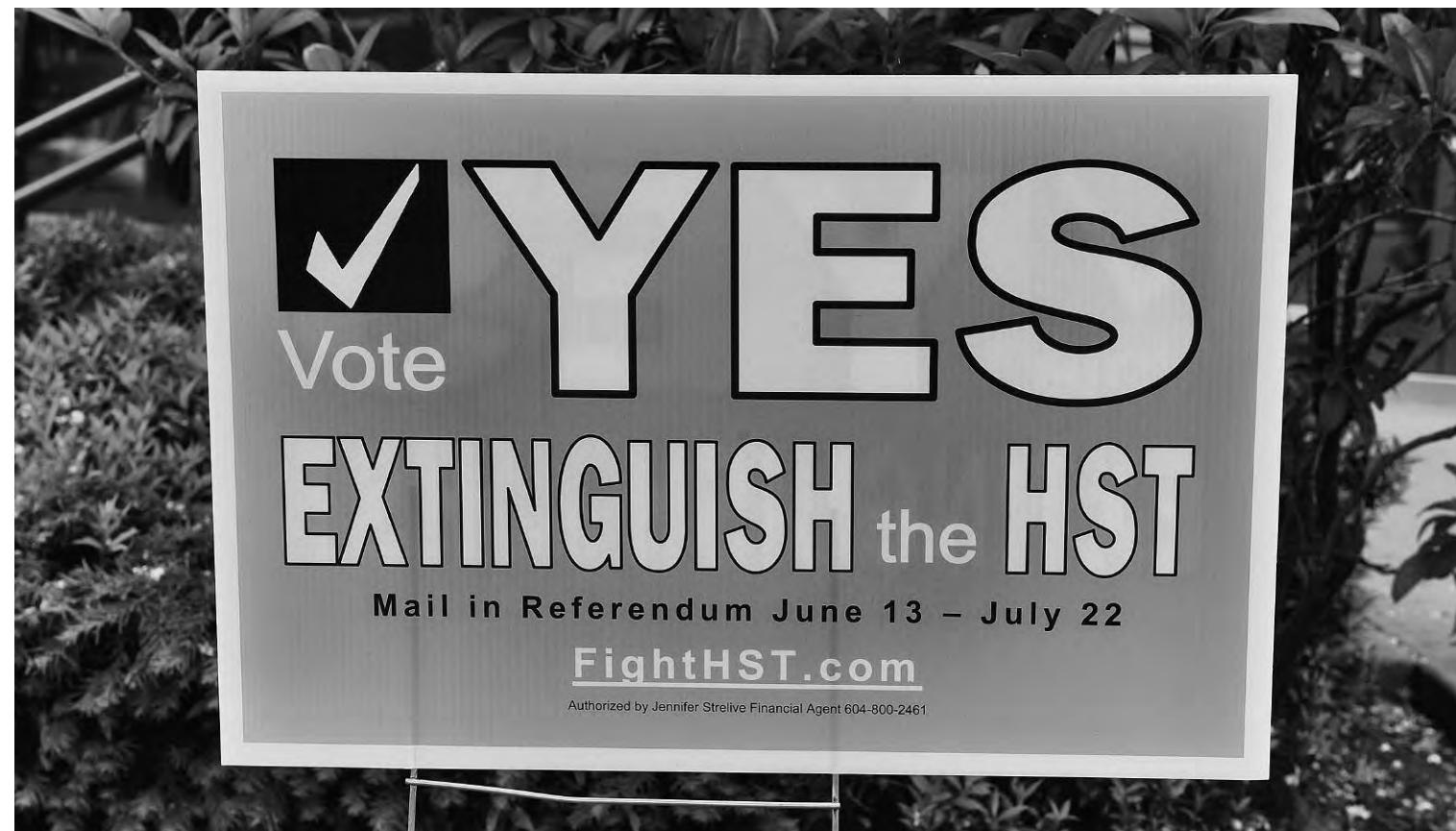


estimated \$6.4 billion from the PST in 2014/15 to pay for public services. Based on historical data, corporations will pay about \$2.6 billion and citizens will pay \$3.8

what the HST will save them. And don't forget, since the Liberals took power, the tax on corporate profits was cut from 16.5 percent to 10 percent. The

60 percent during the same period.

Did all those corporate tax cuts create jobs? Unfortunately, no. Corporations took the



Elections BC has announced that the deadline for returning referendum ballots has been extended to Aug. 5.

Cohen 'listening, pushing DFO for answers'

His inquiry is already closing in on two years of deliberations — and several more months are planned before a final report next summer — but Cohen Commission chair Bruce Cohen has already earned the respect of fishermen for throwing a spotlight on the Fraser River sockeye fishery as no inquiry before him has ever done.

"He's listening, he's really listening," said Fraser River gillnetter Paul Kandt who has been keeping a close eye on commission hearings for the UFAWU-CAW. "He's asking a lot of questions that get right to the heart of issues like the Wild Salmon Policy. This is definitely

a full-blown inquiry."

Announced by the federal government following the collapse of the Fraser River sockeye run in 2009, the inquiry has involved public meetings, site visits, commissioned studies and weeks of evidentiary hearings conducted under formal courtroom procedure.

The hearings have been particularly revealing, opening a window on DFO policies that have frequently been kept well behind closed doors.

Testimony earlier this year from several leading scientists outside DFO put DFO restrictive management policies under scrutiny, showing that the



COHEN

high escapements over the past decade have not only failed to rebuild stocks but also contributed to the overall decline in the Fraser run. They

also cost fishermen millions in lost earnings (see story).

Testimony from DFO enforcement staff revealed a sting operation involving potentially thousands of dollars in illegal sales of salmon. But the investigation was shut down before charges were laid.

The hearings have also shed light on DFO's failure to maintain scientific research in areas vital to protecting salmon stocks, including contaminant research, and impacts from salmon aquaculture. The effects of salmon farming, especially sea lice infestation and disease transfer, are likely to be a major issue in testimony when

hearings re-convene Aug. 18 after adjourning July 8.

Kandt said that at the beginning, with the huge number of reports being filed and the line-up of participants, many in the industry thought that it might be just another DFO-led inquiry.

"But that's changed," he said. "It took a long time, but now we're seeing Cohen putting the pieces together and asking a lot of questions.

"He's pushing DFO for answers," he said.

After requesting an extension, Cohen is now expected to file his final report by June 30, 2012.

DFO harvest policy led to decline: scientists

High escapements seen as failure as sockeye runs declined, costing fishermen millions, independent scientists testify

The high sockeye escapements over the past decade that resulted in closed fisheries and millions in lost earnings not only failed to rebuild salmon stocks but probably contributed to the decline in returns, leading independent scientists testified before the Cohen Commission.

DFO began cutting back harvest rates on Fraser sockeye following the 1995 decline in the Fraser run and even more dramatically after 1998 when the early entry of Late-run sockeye into the river caused high pre-spawn mortality. The result was huge escapements in some years on the Adams run and some of the highest escapements ever recorded on the Quesnel and Chilko systems.

Now analysis of those escapements outside DFO is showing that they did not provide benefits to the resource and probably caused severe reductions in

salmon production, UBC Fisheries Centre scientist Dr. Carl Walters told the Commission Feb. 9.

During cross-examination on the issue of over escapement, Walters testified: "When Brian (Dr. Brian Riddell) and I were asked to write about this for the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, we pointed out that there are two definitions (of over escapement). One, the Alaskan definition, I think people call it today, and that's allowing escapement surplus to those needed to produce the maximum average yield. The second definition was a catastrophic collapse in recruitment of very high spawning stock sizes.

"We argued based on the evidence we had then that there was little risk of that in the Fraser. But subsequent to writing that report, two things have come to light. One of them is additional data collected during a period — recruit-

ments from high spawning stocks during the late 1990s and early 2000s. Another was Gilhausen reconstruction of abundances in the late 1880s.

"The newer data do provide stronger evidence of over-escapement in the terms of the big decrease in recruitment, most spectacularly for the Chilko stock. Taken together with the Gilhausen reconstruction, I think we have to now admit substantially higher risk of severe stock declines and severe cyclic population behaviours under reduced harvest rates."

Dr. James Woodey, former Head of the Fisheries Management Division of the Pacific Salmon Commission agreed, testifying that when some stocks are reviewed based on newer data, it "suggests that in the Fraser watershed, over-escapement can actually lead to a substantially lower total recruitment from that spawning population and thus it's not an insignificant issue from the standpoint of future returns and harvest."

Walters noted that pushing escapement beyond the maximum

sustained yield as was done in 2001, 2002 and other years had a negative impact on "stocks like the Adams, the Chilko and the Quesnel."

"The data are pretty clear that the highest recruitments to those stocks have been produced at intermediate spawning stocks levels, not at the highest point spawning levels," he emphasized.

Had DFO escapement policy followed those more intermediate levels during the period from 1995 to 2007, Walters estimated, it would have meant an additional \$200 in economic benefits to the fishery through increased fishing opportunity. The figure was based on an additional 20 million sockeye harvested, at \$10 a fish landed value.

"I carried out a retrospective spreadsheet analysis for the 1995 to 2009 period and looking forward for the next eight years," Walters testified. "And using that model, the retrospective analysis showed that the total loss in value from harvesting would be about \$200 million, not including the loss from 2010 which would be another probably \$40 million. So it appears to me that the economic losses were very substantial."

Walters also emphasized that a retrospective analysis on the eco-

nomic effects of harvesting policy should be carried out "by any good fisheries agency."

That's likely to be a key point in the Cohen Commission deliberations, as escapement policies come under increasing scrutiny and the fishing community pushes for inclusion of socio-economic considerations in developing fisheries policies.

With both the public and the public worried about declining runs and overfishing, DFO's restrictive harvest management policy was sold as a precautionary approach. Conservation groups mainly supported it as well, arguing that even if the fish were excess to spawning requirements, they provided nutrients for others species. There was also the underlying theme that before European contact, the Fraser sockeye run had been healthy despite high escapements that were unaffected by commercial fishing.

But there is now compelling evidence that before contact, the Fraser sockeye run was "violently cyclical," with a huge dominant run one year followed by three small runs. That evidence emerged from the report that Walters referred to in his testimony.

see REVIEW page 3

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AK escapement policy seen as option

Continued from page 6

ny, by Philip Gilhausen, entitled Estimates of Fraser River Sockeye Escapements from Commercial Harvest Data 1892-1944. Although the data had been compiled decades earlier, the report was not published by the Pacific Salmon Commission until 1992.

It showed that so-called "cyclic dominance," marked by one dominant run followed by three lesser ones, existed before the commercial fishery. A second sub-dominant run only emerged following the Hell's Gate slide in 1913, creating the pattern that mainly exists now, which is now a dominant run, a second subdominant run followed by two lesser runs. But the long-term effect of restrictive harvest management and high escapements could be a return to



the old pre-contact pattern, Walters noted

"I think what Gilhausen and the early data warn us is that we also need to think about the possibility that these effects have transmitted across stocks, that the old mechanisms that cause synchrony in the cycles across the stocks may be reasserted," Walters testified. "They may be in fact reasserting as we speak. It may be that some of what we've seen in the last four years, the very low production and suddenly a very high production across several stocks like the Chilko and Adams, it's indicative that the sys-

tem is trying to return to that earlier synchronized mode where all the stocks are showing high in one year, all the major stocks at least, and then very, very low returns in between.

"I don't think anyone wants to see that world again," he said. "It's certainly not a world that would be good for any of today's fishing interests, that boom and bust or feast and famine world with only one good year out of four," he added.

Woodey indicated that there may be some changes currently being considered in fisheries management, prompted by what he called the failure of the rebuilding experiment of the late 1990s and early 2000s. "In a sense we've been conducting a big experiment by

seeing these large escapements," he told the commission, "and as we are seeing these large escapements fail to produce, we're learning more as to what the optimal escapements are."

In going after those optimal escapement, fishing groups are urging Cohen — and DFO — to look closely at the practice in Alaska fisheries where managers acknowledge potential inaccuracies in run projections and are more flexible in setting targets. They also consider social and economic factors as well as biological.

Chris Harvey, lawyer for the UFAWU-CAW and Area G Trollers, asked Pacific Salmon Foundation director Dr. Brian Riddell to outline the Alaska model during Commission hearings June 2.

"Alaska has a target acknowledging that that there's uncertainty in their data and they target is, I believe, down to 80 per cent of

maximum sustained yield (MSY)," Riddell explained. "And so all they're really acknowledging is that with the uncertainty of the quality of the data that we deal with, that if you've got 80 percent of MSY or you've 100 percent of MSY, you probably couldn't tell the difference in subsequent production of the progeny."

Is there anything equivalent here as to whether it should for fisheries managers — 100 per cent, 75 per cent or whatever? Harvey asked.

"There's nothing in the policy, now, because that's part ... of the management target discussion that should go on in preparation of the annual fishing plans," Riddell replied. "I mean, right now, implicitly it's 100 percent of MSY, but that doesn't have to be the case once you have a fuller discussion on, as you started out, the biological, the social and the economic discussions."

Toxics risk to sockeye not monitored by DFO

The growing failure of DFO to carry out its basic mandate of protecting fisheries resources and habitat is emerging from testimony at the Cohen Commission, showing that the federal agency has virtually abandoned contaminants research even as Pacific salmon are forced to swim through a "chemical soup" during their migrations.

The chemical soup reference came directly from an independent scientific review prepared for the Cohen Commission by McDonald Environmental Sciences Ltd. It reported that salmon are exposed to some 200 toxic contaminants in their freshwater and marine environment. While those contaminants are probably not the "sole cause" of the decline of Fraser sockeye, it said, "there is a strong possibility that exposure to contaminants of concern, endocrine-disrupting chemicals and/or contaminants of emerging concern has contributed to the decline of sockeye salmon."

Another study presented to the commission, prepared by a team headed by well-known DFO ocean scientist Peter Ross show that a growing "environmental reservoir" of PBDEs — fire retardant chemicals used since the 1970s and still not completely phased out — were posing a threat to fish that should be evaluated.

Yet despite the evident risk to salmon populations, DFO has essentially withdrawn from contaminants research, especially research that could assess the effects of contaminants on salmon, the Commission heard.

Robie Macdonald, section head of marine environmental quality at DFO's Institute of Ocean Science testified June 6 that a federal re-organization in

2005 led to DFO withdrawing from any contaminant monitoring. In theory, the work was to fall under Environment Canada's mandate, but EC never picked up the file.

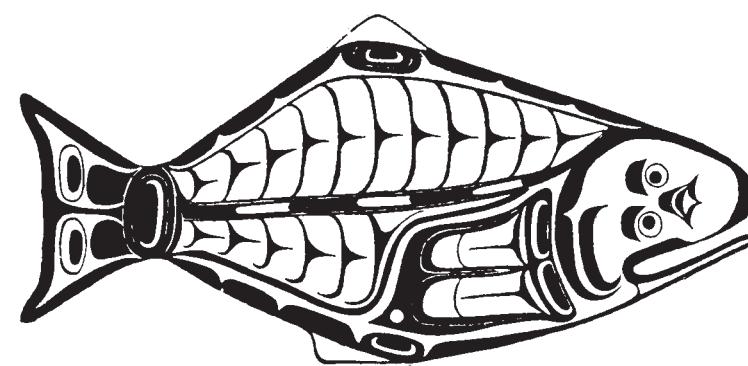
Macdonald testified that monitoring was critically important. "Monitoring is actually one of the ways you can see what's happening in the environment," he said. "It's crucial to maintain a watch on your resources and monitoring is one way you do that."

He also noted that research done several years ago in New Brunswick on nonyl phenols — chemicals used in pulp mills, cleaning products and pesticides — revealed previously unknown effects on fish. "It shows that exposure to nonylphenol in the river didn't kill the fish outright. They went out to sea. They just did not come back," Macdonald said. That research later led to adoption of federal regulations in 2002 phasing out most uses of nonyl phenols.

But now, no research on cumulative effects is being done within DFO, he said.

Macdonald noted in his testimony that "pathways research" — research that follows the transport of contaminants in air and water as well as their movement up the food chain — "has been dropped officially from the system. You can't do that in DFO."

An internal e-mail on the issue from 2008 shows that scientist within the department had sought many times to find ways to get research going again but were stymied by the department's national headquarters. As a result, "there is no core, peer-reviewed budget for contaminant research" and "no dedicated funding for biological effects work within DFO," the e-mail stated.



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PHOTOS-JOHN KRGOVICH, AL NEWTON

Winners of the fastest drill in the under 3 crew category, Neil Remmen (r) and son Chris, with Fish SAFE manager Gina Johansen. At right, the crew members of the Pender Isle, skipper Garth Roberts, Jason Roberts, Brent Campbell and Mike Kristmanson won best photo with Al Newton's shot.

Herring fleet hosts first fleet-wide drill

More than 100 fishermen take part in abandon ship safety drill while awaiting Gulf fishery

By John Krgovich

Attention the Roe Herring Fleet in Georgia Strait – Abandon Ship!

With these words, on March 3, 2011, the fleet that was patiently waiting for the roe herring fishery in the Gulf, embarked on a significant first for herring fishermen — the first ever fleet wide safety drill.

This event was coordinated by Fish SAFE after discussion with fishermen safety advocates who felt it would be a great exercise

which would put the spotlight on safety for the roe herring fleet. There was great collaboration and support from all sectors including the Department of Fisheries, Coast Guard, fishing companies, and, most important, from fishermen themselves.

The logistics to pull off such an event required quite a bit of creativity. The fleet was spread from Comox to French Creek with a fishery potentially imminent. We were also trying to pull off an event that had never been

done before, so we had a lot of uncertainty about the level support it would garner. With this in mind, Gina Johansen and I headed to the grounds.

Fish SAFE contacted DFO to provide the announcement to the fleet and to demonstrate their support for the event. The fishing companies' on-ground managers also worked their end to support the event. Fishermen then took ownership and spread the word at the grassroots level. With this initial support, Brenda Spence,

DFO's herring regional manager and the crew of the **Atlin Post** made the initial announcement about the fleet wide drill the evening before the event during the regular herring update.

On Thursday morning, March 3, we mustered on the **Western Rainbow** in Deep Bay hosted by Canadian Fish manager Chris Cue and the crew of the **Western Rainbow** so that we had a platform to organize the drill and also a good place to watch the action that was going to take place.

Brenda Spence started things rolling as she took the microphone at the end of her morning herring report on 78A and announced that the safety drill would take place that morning. Gina and I then took over from the **Western Rainbow** and explained that all the vessels on the grounds were invited to participate in this voluntary exercise and each vessel that wanted to participate was asked to call in and register the name of their vessel and number of crew. Since this was a first-ever event we weren't sure what the response would be like and waited anxiously for the first vessel to register. First to call was the **Atlin Post**, which set the pace for what would become an impressive number of vessels to join the drill. By the time we were ready to get underway, over 100 fishermen were taking part.

We explained the drill: it was to include a mock mayday call, with all crew donning their immersion suits and mustering at their life rafts. Prizes would be awarded to the fastest vessel to complete the drill in two categories, vessel crew-three or more and vessel crew-less than three. All other vessels would be entered into a draw for an additional prize. They were also encouraged to take pictures after the drill and another prize would be sent for the best photo.

After all participants had been registered and the drill explained, we said they could anticipate the abandon-ship drill announcement in 10 minutes. That wait became

too much for one competitive fisherman who came back during the silence and said: "Jeez, I don't get this anxious before the darn herring opening. Hurry up!" Even before the laughter had died down, the announcement was made: "Attention the Roe herring Fleet in Georgia Strait Abandon Ship!"

When it was all done, a total of 20 vessels and 103 fishermen — along with some curious fishermen observers — benefitted from this first-time event. The winners for each category were: fastest drill with crew of three or more: Al Marsden and the crew of the **Snow Drift**; crew of less than three: Neil and Chris Remmen of the vessel **Chaser**; draw prize winner: Michel Jutras and crew of the **Silver Dawn**. The best photo award went to Al Newton who captured his fellow crew aboard the **Pender Isle**, including skipper, Garth Roberts, Jason Roberts, Brent Campbell and Mike Kristmanson.

When moving through the fleet after the drill we had the opportunity to talk to some of the fishermen participants and listen to their stories of how the drill went on board. We heard from people who appreciated the opportunity to practise their skills in a fun, semi-competitive manner. We also heard that the **Canadian No 1** took the opportunity to have George Jr. jump overboard in his immersion suit so they could practise a man overboard drill. Then there those that wanted other categories for prizes such as "fastest to don an immersion suit while holding a cup of coffee."

The herring vessels which took part in the first ever abandon ship drill event should be commended for taking the lead by making safety a part of their operations. The numbers which participated is indeed proof that the fishing industry is serious about safety and is taking ownership of safety matters on their vessels.

Thanks to all for your support and participation of this event.

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Training can pay off with discount

Safety on board has always made sense to most fishermen, and for the first time on this coast, someone is willing to recognize these fishermen financially. Nesika Insurance, working with Fish SAFE has implemented a discount on vessels insurance to fishermen who have taken steps to insure the safety of themselves and their crews. This leadership position by Nesika is the first of its kind on this coast by directly providing financial discounts to all fishermen for having a safety program on their vessel.

In January 2011, Fairway Insurance and Tom Amirault finalized the purchase of Neisika Insurance and approached Cindy Morten at Harlock Murray Underwriting to have some recognition for those fishermen who were participating in Fish SAFE programs. The underwriting staff were supportive of the Fish SAFE Stability Education course and Safest Catch program and saw this type of initiative as the wave of the future.

How do you qualify for a discount? Tom Amirault of Nesika Insurance explained that in his 20-year career as a commercial fisherman he had completed a number of training courses and he was most impressed by the Fish SAFE Stability Education course that dealt directly with the reality of fishing. Tom believes that although it is almost impossible to prove statistically, many lives have been saved by this fishermen-driven training. He was also impressed by the Safest Catch program, which uses fishermen as safety advisors, who provide the tools and assistance to fishermen in developing a safety program.

After completing the Stability Education program as well as the Safest Catch program, Nesika Insurance members can apply for a 10 per cent discount on their premiums for vessel insurance. On request Fish SAFE will provide a letter of reference to Nesika indicating that the fishermen have completed the two programs.

So if your vessel is with Nesika Insurance, or you are just shopping to insure your vessel, you can give Tom a call at (604) 448-9196. Be sure to ask about their 10 per cent discount on premiums for those of you that have already voluntarily completed these Fish SAFE programs. If you haven't yet completed these great programs you can give John Krogovich a call at Fish SAFE 604-261-9700 and he will get you started to safety programs that pay.

—John Krogovich

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This course was developed using the same proven methods used in the Stability Education Program. The fishing industry recognized that as a result of less fishing time, there is less time to be mentored in safe navigation practices as in the past and that relevant education and training for new and experienced fishermen is of benefit to all. Fish SAFE initially recommended to Transport Canada that a version of the Small Vessel Operator Proficiency be adapted for a certificate for an Officer of the Watch-Fishing and this is essentially what we have done with this curriculum.

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WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PNCIMA is the new marine acronym

Commercial Fisheries Caucus brings fishermen to marine planning table

Fifteen years ago the federal government created the Oceans Act to manage our oceans better, something commercial fishermen called for decades ago. At the heart of this legislation is the idea of an integrated ecosystem-based approach to management, managing for all users including fishing.

The path forward from the legislation has been slow; today we are only just starting to write the first integrated management plan for the west coast. This plan will cover the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area, (PNCIMA) an 88,000 sq. km. area shown in the adjoining map.

Over the past year the pace has picked up; there are now two main bodies giving the planning process direction. The process is lead by a governance steering committee (SC) made up of federal, provincial and First Nations government representatives. The provincial government only officially signed on to this governance SC in January of this year.

The second body giving direction is a stakeholder body called the Integrated Ocean Advisory Committee (IOAC) made up of stakeholders from 10 different sectors, that are: marine transportation, renewable energy, non-renewable energy, aquaculture, conservations organizations, recreational fisheries, local communities, recreation, tourism and commercial fishing. They work together to give consensus advice to the SC.

Early in 2010 the commercial fishing sector was offered two seats on the PNCIMA IOAC. A broad-based representation of commercial fisheries interests met to discuss their effective participation in the PNCIMA process. It was recognized that no single commercial fisheries organization had the capacity to participate effectively in this process.



PNCIMA
Jim McIsaac

A first order of business was to resolve whether, given the diversity of the sector, the BC commercial fishery could be collectively represented in PNCIMA as requested. Representatives agreed that participation in PNCIMA was worthwhile and potentially achievable given the right conditions. This led to the creation of the Commercial Fisheries Caucus (CFC). The key step was to discuss what they had in common, specifically a desire to see healthy commercial fisheries on the BC coast, to see and what they needed to engage effectively.

Over the past year the CFC has held 10 in-person meetings, and numerous telephone conferences to discuss PNCIMA related issues. The effort shows a substantial commitment on the part of the commercial fishing sector to participate in PNCIMA processes. The CFC has demonstrated that it can work together, often under very tight time lines.

The Commercial Fisheries Caucus remains open and broadly based, representing the commercial fishing organizations interested in participating in the PNCIMA process, including: BC Seafood Alliance, United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union - CAW, Native

Brotherhood of BC, Northern Native Fishing Corporation, T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation, Herring Conservation Research Society, Area A Crab Association, Pacific Shrimpers' Coop, BC Longliners Association, Area G Troll, Area B Seine, BC Dogfish Hook & Line Industry Association, Canadian Sablefish Association, Deep Sea Trawlers Association, Pacific Halibut Management Association, Pacific Prawn Fishermen's Association, Pacific Troll Alliance, Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association, Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association, Underwater Harvesters Association, and West Coast Green Urchin Harvesters Association.

Here is a list of the common goals identified by the CFC:

Goal 1: Healthy Fishery Resources

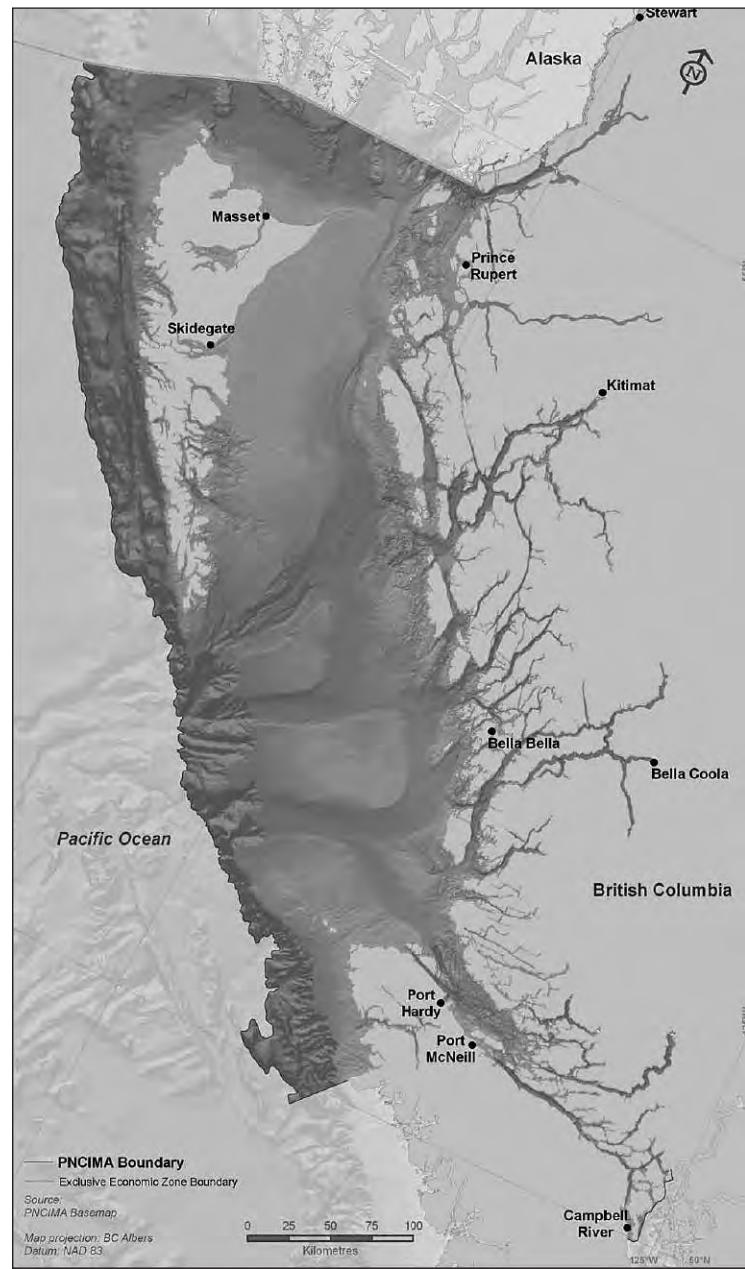
Effective conservation of fishery resources, protect fish habitat from degradation, with particular attention on spawning and rearing habitat. Prevent pollution from entering our ocean from land, sea and air.

Goal 2: Healthy Commercial Fisheries

Commercial fisheries provide food, employment, and income for individuals, companies, and communities on our coast and beyond. The 22 commercial fisheries on our coast compete in a global seafood market by providing consumers with consistent, healthy, quality food products, sustainably harvested, at a fair price.

Goal 3: Access to Fish

Without access there will be no fishery. Currently commercial fisheries have access to 99% of the coast. Although no one fishery uses all this space, conditions change that move fish in space. Unnecessarily locking off areas can destroy a fishery. Changing climate, ocean acidification,



The area set out in the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management area, or PNCIMA.

underutilized species and other conditions may provide opportunity to diversify commercial fisheries. These opportunities require access that should not be unnecessarily restricted.

Goal 4: Constructive and Enduring Relationships

Numerous interests use the marine space. There are interrelated levels of marine governance and society as a whole benefits from well-managed and sustainable marine ecosystems. Efforts towards sustaining ocean ecosystems will benefit from a collaborative effort and an interest-based approach to planning.

Goal 5: A Diverse Fleet

A fleet where both small and big boats can thrive under varied ownership with local and coast wide access.

Goal 6: Human Resources

Maintain and develop well educated, trained, and experienced professionals to manage and execute fisheries. Training programs, inter-generational transfer mechanisms, and full career considerations are needed to develop talented professionals for the industry's future.

Goal 7: Safe, Reliable and Green Coastal Infrastructure

Coastal infrastructure docks and wharfs, shipyards, fuel stations, recycling facilities, search and rescue, safe harbour buoys,

and navigational aids need to be maintained and enhanced. Commercial fishing provides and supports coastal infrastructure to the benefit of communities and other sectors.

Goal 8: Diverse Markets and Distribution Channels

Both local and global, retail and wholesale markets are important for BC fisheries. Distribution (sea, rail, road and air) channels are important to the fishing industry and need to be effective and efficient.

The process also seeks input by hosting sub-regional meetings. In March meetings were held in Campbell River, Port Hardy, Kitimat, Prince Rupert, and Skidegate.

The next phase of the process will see four work groups created covering: fisheries, integrated economics strategies, marine transportation and safety and marine protection.

These work groups will bring together sector experts later this summer to address some of the substantive issues identified for each topic. Meetings will carry through the fall and into next year.

For more information or to get involved with the Commercial Fishing Caucus contact caucus coordinator Jim McIsaac at 250-360-1398. For more information on PNCIMA see: www.PNCIMA.org.



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Netpen farm salmon can never be organic

Draft federal proposal out of step with all certifying bodies

Commercial fishermen have long maintained that wild fish from pristine B.C. waters deserve to be labelled organic when it is clear that there are no pesticides, no antibiotics or other chemicals involved. In fact, the whole idea behind "organic" foods is that they should be produced under conditions that are as close as possible to conditions in the wild.

Unfortunately, all organic certifying bodies to date have refused to acknowledge that wild salmon in B.C., at least, have grown to adulthood in some of the cleanest ocean waters on the planet. The usual argument is that no one knows exactly where wild salmon have travelled or what they have been eating. In fact, in most cases we do know exactly where wild salmon have migrated from.

That said, it is incredible that farmed salmon producers, with the willing help of our federal government, have been attempting to have netpen farmed salmon certified as organic, despite the fact that a significant part of their diet is wild fish.

A draft proposed standard for farmed salmon organic labelling surfaced recently for public comment in Canada. Not only is the feed issue contradictory and hypocritical, but many other proposed standards are diametrically opposite to the main principles of organic certification.

The Canadian draft standard allows for uncontrolled waste disposal into the marine environment, the use of synthetic pesticides and sets a much lower bar for environmental and consumer standards than the recommendations for organic aquaculture standards passed by the US National Organic Standards Board three years ago.

In a letter to the Canadian standards board signed by more than 60 organizations opposed to certifying organic farmed salmon, a number of important principles were set out:

A key principle of organic production is that there must be protection of the environment from degradation, erosion and pollution. The draft standards for farmed fish inadequately address this issue despite the large body of scientific evidence linking net pen production of farmed salmon to wild salmon declines, the spread of disease and sea lice, escapes, and pollution that degrades the marine environment. Net pens cannot and do not control the flow of waste and disease or, despite the

industry's efforts, the frequent escapes of farmed fish.

Organic standards cannot allow the use of pesticides such as SLICE (emamectin benzoate), which is used to reduce sea lice infections on salmon farms despite clear evidence of harm to non-target crustacean species such as lobsters and prawns. Pesticides are not needed in closed containment systems where it is possible to eliminate parasites and disease completely.

Escaped net pen salmon must not be allowed. They have the potential to transmit disease and parasites, as well as compete and hybridize with wild salmon. This is a much greater threat to wild Atlantic salmon in Eastern Canada where salmon populations have become threatened or even endangered.

The standard inadequately addresses marine mammal deaths associated with open net systems. British Columbian open net salmon farmers were only recently required to report marine mammal drowning deaths caused by net pen entanglements. Due to the absence of reliable reporting data, the death toll of marine mammals including threatened and endangered species remains unknown, and potentially high.

DFO records indicate that between 1990 and 2008, B.C. salmon farmers killed approximately 7,650 seals and sea lions, including more than 370 Steller sea lions. Organic standards should only allow culture systems that do not pose a risk to marine mammals or other predators. Closed containment systems would eliminate marine mammal kills.

The proposed standard for net pens ignores the loss of local biodiversity in areas around salmon farms that result from waste build up and fails to require waste recapture that is possible in closed containment fish production. Organic standards should require recapture of farm waste to meet basic organic principles for "decreased pollution and recycling of materials and resources within the enterprise."

Consumer polling in the U.S reflects consumer expectations of what an organic label on farmed fish should mean. The overwhelming majority of those polled believed that fish labelled "organic" should be free of contaminants, that waste should be recovered to eliminate ocean pollution and that 100 percent organic feed should be used as in other organic livestock production.



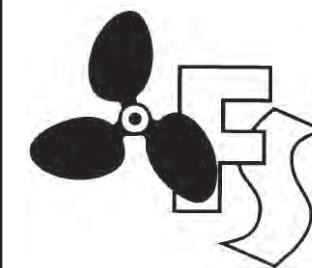
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Collecting local fishing knowledge

Two years ago the T. Buck Suzuki Foundation launched a project working with fishermen to collect local fishing knowledge in a manner that protects their privacy while allowing their information to be brought into marine planning processes.

Sustainable fisheries are a key component of integrated marine ecosystem based management and marine planning. For marine planning to be successful, local fishing knowledge is needed at the decision-making tables.

Our intention is to use the knowledge collected in this confidential manner, to produce general maps for public use, and more specific maps to protect access to fisheries areas needed and used by fishermen. This means that when another use is proposed for an area it can be checked against current and historic fisheries usage.

If you would like to find out more about this project or if you are willing to help the project with a personal interview please give one of our offices a call:

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No sets for herring seine fleet in Gulf

A brooding sky hangs over the Canadian No. 1 and the Vampy 1 waiting in Baynes Sound March 3 for the Gulf seine herring opening that never came. Although herring soundings showed 125,000-145,000 tonnes in Georgia Strait on March 10 — with 25,000 tonnes in Baynes Sound, well above forecast abundance — the herring were small, and roe weights well below the size needed for the key gift-pack Japanese market traditionally filled by B.C. roe. Still, the Gulf gillnet fleet was able to take an estimated 4,868 tonnes of its 5,785 quota as with gillnetters moving farther south, from French Creek to Nanaimo. The gillnet fishery opened March 13 and wound up March 22.



PHOTO-JOHN KRGOVICH

More leasing no answer in halibut, says union

Comments come as DFO opens new licence for sporties to lease quota

The sports fishing sector is continuing to lobby for a hike in allocation to the recreational halibut fleet, but both conservation and commercial fishing groups have warned that any increase would put conservation at risk and would benefit only the unregulated charter fleet.

The UFAWU-CAW also raised concerns earlier this year about a new experimental licensing plan proposed by the federal minister following this year's allocation impasse. Although former Fisheries Minister Gail Shea upheld the longstanding 88 percent-12 percent split between the commercial and recreational sectors, she opened the door to a new experimental licence for recreational fishermen that will allow them to lease quota from commercial quota holders as part of a one-year pilot program.

"We believe the pilot experimental licence has the potential to radically change the current allo-

cation, UFAWU-CAW president Irvin Figg said in a letter to Shea March 18.

"It leaves individual commercial fishermen, non-active quota holders and recreational businesses responsible on their own for an ever-changing allocation formula," Figg stated. "This appears to be a 'free market' allocation process of a common property resource. One need only look at the financial crisis of 2008 to understand what free markets can do without proper regulation."

Figg emphasized that the union doesn't support the so-called 'slipper skippers' — commercial quota holders who don't fish but instead lease out their quota — "nor do we support a new class of resource owners, the lodge corporate owners."

"Transferring fish from the commercial sector through the 'free market' has no community interest, only licence holders. There is no concern for captains, crews, shoreworkers, truckers and

others in those communities," he said.

He added that if recreational operators are to lease quota to fish more intensively and increase their revenues, "commercial harvesters will see their costs to lease quota rise to unsupportable levels and many will be forced out of the industry."

"If there is going to be an adaptive and flexible system for transfer of fish, it must be open and transparent," Figg told Shea in his letter.

"A good start would be an accounting of how halibut quota is handled now; who owns it, how much is actively fished and what is being leased. Transfer of fish and predictable access for all users should only be accomplished within defined regulations. Such regulations should be developed through a stakeholder collaborative process which we are eager to participate in," he said.

So far, there is little indication that charter operators are taking advantage of the experimental licence, focusing instead on lobbying government to increase the allocation to the sports fleet. Much of the campaign has been aimed at presenting the sports fishing lobby as the voice of more than 400,000 individual anglers in B.C.

But the bulk of the recreation-

ally-caught halibut is taken by the fishing lodge and charter fleet. According to DFO figures, 70 per cent of the sports catch currently goes to the charter operators, up significantly from 50 per cent in the 1990s.

The total allowable catch for all sectors in the halibut fishery has declined substantially in recent years as halibut have moved into a cyclical period of low abundance. That has generated demand from the recreational fleet, which was shut down early in 2008 and 2010 when DFO said that the sports sector had "achieved or possibly exceeded its allocation for the season."

Sports catch statistics are considered to be under-estimates of the real numbers because the sports fishery is largely unregulated, operating without the catch monitoring provisions, such as on-board observers and dockside monitoring, that are licence requirements in the commercial fishery.

It was that lack of regulation that prompted the Marine Conservation Caucus (MCC), which represents leading environmental organizations in marine conservation, to oppose any increase in allocation to the sports sector.

In a letter to Shea earlier this year, the MCC pointed out that a

"substantial gap exists between the monitoring standards between the commercial and sport sector, particularly the portion of the sport sector composed of the commercial guide operations."

Even the limited catch monitoring in the sports sector — based on random creel surveys — has shown that the sports fleet often exceeds conservation limits, the MCC noted in its letter to Shea.

"Even by the numbers reported under this incomplete monitoring system, the sport fishing sector has exceeded its combined recreational/leased commercial halibut TAC in five of the previous six years, with the preliminary numbers for 2010 indicating an average of more than 100,000 pounds — which, it should be noted, will not be deducted from the recreational sector's 2011 TAC."

The situation is similar in the Southeast Alaska, where the sports charter fleet has exceeded what is known as the guideline harvest limit (GHL) in every year since 2004. As a result, fisheries managers have recently ramped up regulation on the sports fleet, introducing new catch restrictions that limit catch to one halibut per day. But even with the one-fish limit in 2010, the sports charter fleet exceeded its GHL by 62 per cent, or 491,000 pounds.

"Accountability and fishing within catch limits are principles fundamental to sustainable fisheries irrespective of license type and allocation," the MCC stated in its letter to Shea. "In our judgment, the commercial halibut sector meets these principles; the sport sector does not yet do so," the MCC said.

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Budget cuts will put fisheries more at risk

Protection of the resource is critical to future sustainability

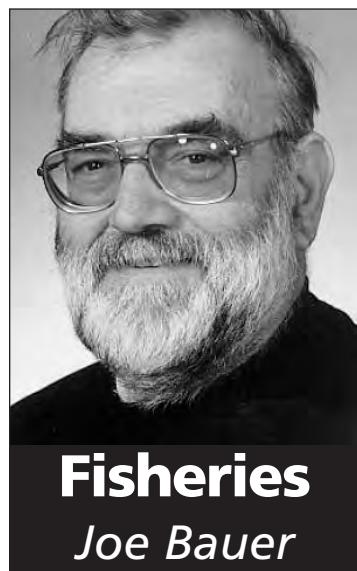
Well, Stephen Harper finally got his wish for a majority government, so he no longer needs to prorogue Parliament to get his way. Now all he has to do is ignore it completely.

My concern has been with Fisheries Minister Gail Shea whose main concern seems to be privatizing the common property fisheries resources and providing support to aquaculture instead of carrying out her mandate to protect and manage the natural resource. Now she's been moved to the Revenue Department to oversee budget cuts and I understand that DFO has already been hit with a cut of over \$56 million. There's no question that will have a negative environmental effect as jobs are cut and the very people that are now responsible for protection and management of our marine resources are laid off. The scientific arm may become the hardest hit. Having already muzzled scientists, the politicos may now cut off their funds.

Search and rescue cuts have already been announced with the closure of the base in St. John's, Newfoundland and consolidation of Atlantic rescue capacity in Halifax. I see it as a serious setback for a successful program that had a proud record of saving lives. I guess we'll have to wait and see what card the government plans to play next.

The new fisheries minister, Keith Ashfield, a former Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) minister from New Brunswick, is now our man. I sure hope that he is more competent than his predecessor and more committed to protecting the resource.

We all have to make a living to



Fisheries
Joe Bauer

sustain not only ourselves, but also our children. The beauty of our living resources is that they have the ability to rebuild themselves and be sustainable if we take care of them and don't over-harvest. That I was one of the main things I was taught as a young lad by my many mentors as I grew up fishing for a living and learning to respect the life-sustaining environment.

When I worked for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and was part of doing surveys and working on spawning channels, I really grew to appreciate life and its natural cycles and the need to protect it. I also grew to respect the main people I worked with in the biology and resource management who were deeply committed to protecting

and sustaining the resource.

Today, as the needs of capital investors trump the need to address resource sustainability, we find ourselves in a position where offshore capitalism takes precedence over our planet's resources.

We've always supported and respected DFO's mandate to protect and manage our biodiversity for our benefit and for those generations yet to be born. But can the department continue to do that when its budgets are repeatedly cut, when habitat protection and scientific research departments are dismantled and when a common property resource is turned over to the salmon farming companies and the Jimmy Pattisons of the world?

If we continue on this track as our populations grow and feed only the one god — money — we'll wake up one day with the resource depleted and nothing to support life as we know it.

It would be wonderful if there were a god that could zap everything back into place and protect the planet's sustainability. But that's not going to happen and it will be up to us to manage our future sustainability. But we sure are going to need a different course from Ottawa. The budget cuts planned by Stephen Harper and his Conservative majority will only put the resource more at risk than it already is.

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More than 3,000 people rallied in St. John's NL June 25 against federal government plans to close the Coast Guard rescue centre in Newfoundland and consolidate rescue coordination in Halifax. The move is part of the Harper government's proposals to strip \$56 million from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans across the country.

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With CAW Local 111 bus drivers bringing Canadians to the border, more than 3,000 people rallied at Peace Arch Park April 2 as part of actions across both Canada and the U.S. protesting legislation introduced in Wisconsin that stripped public sector workers of their collective bargaining rights as part of measures to slash government budgets. At right, the crowd welcomes Dale Anderson, from the Wisconsin local of the Amalgamated Transit Union which was at the centre of the opposition campaign. Wisconsin's legislation, which was eventually forced through the state legislature, triggered warnings from unions about similar plans by governments in Canada — warnings borne out by the bill forcing postal workers back to work.



FISHERMAN PHOTOS-SEAN GRIFFIN

Union ranks lose activist Morris Anderson

The trade union movement lost a very "significant son" on June 23. Morris Anderson, long time UFAWU member and activist, former Benefit Fund Director, and my Dad, passed away peacefully in the Royal Columbian Hospital after a very brief and unexpected illness. My Mom and I were by his side.

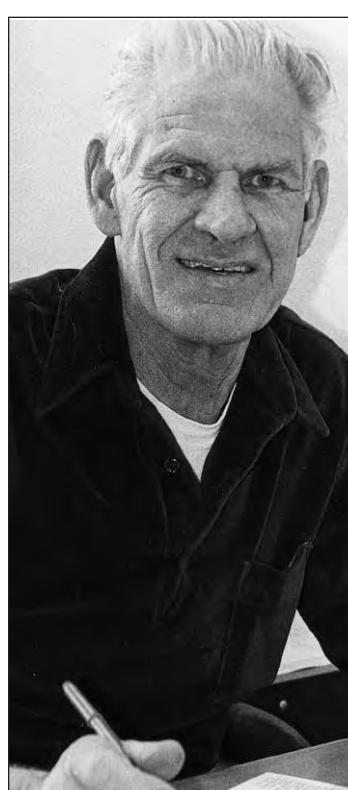
Dad ("Mo") had spent the better part of his life as a very active and dedicated member of the UFAWU, and all of his life working for social and economic justice for working people and a better and more peaceful world for all.

He began his activism in the union in the late 1960s while driving truck and hauling fish for Queen Charlotte Cannery in Richmond. He quickly became involved with union politics, acting as shop steward, and eventually serving as chief shop steward in that plant for the remainder of his employment there. Mo's love of people and desire to ensure that his co-workers' work lives were identified by fair treatment, dignity, respect and the upholding of their collective agreement, led him on to many committees where he assumed leadership roles that paved the way for huge

respect and high regard from his fellow workers and union colleagues.

Dad would have said that his involvement in the union ran two ways; he not only contributed to, but also learned and benefited much from his union sisters and brothers. Union leaders such as Homer Stevens, Steve Stavens, Jack Nichol, George Hewison, Scottie Neish, Walter Tickson, Bert Ogden, Helen O'Shaughnessy, and many others became some of his most cherished and life-long friends. Together their lives, work and political visions collectively drove the UFAWU on to become one of the most important labour organizations in the province for many years.

Often it meant as a child that I spent many hours at union meeting. But Mo's dedication to his union brothers and sisters saw him take on the roles of Local 8 (Steveston) President, Shore-worker Vice-President, Shore-worker Bargaining Committee member, UFAWU Peace Committee member, delegate to the Vancouver and District Labour Council, and member of the UFAWU General Executive Board for many years. There were also many other committees and



MORRIS ANDERSON

organizations where he contributed his energy and political vision.

After years of activism as a cannery worker, Dad's political leadership eventually took him into the UFAWU Office as Assistant Benefit Fund Director, working with longtime UFAWU organizer Bert Ogden. When Bert decided to put his gillnet back into the

water, Mo assumed responsibility as director of the Benefit Fund, a position he filled with pride until he retired in 1992.

Dad continued his fight for a more socially just, and better world for all long into his senior years with my Mom (Pat) proudly by his side — just as they had always done together for the past 56 years. Morris was a gentle, kind, principled and visionary man who never put his own interests ahead of the common interest of his fellow workers. The only time he put himself first was during the many health crises he dealt with over his lifetime, including a devastating lung cancer diagnosis in 1996 and his eventual blindness. In the words of former UFAWU secretary George Hewison, "that makes him a 'giant' among labour leaders".

Dad will be missed by all who he touched and knew, but I take great pride in knowing that Mo's immense contribution and dedication to the struggles of working people will live on, and that he has passed the torch to many of us.

Dad is survived by his wife Pat, son Maurie, daughters Sharon (Terry), Tina and Corry (Randy), grandchildren Colin and Whitney, brother George, sisters

Vivian and Helen and many, many friends.

A celebration of a life well lived will take place for Morris on Saturday, July 9 at 2 p.m., at the Ladner Fishermen's Co-op Hall (4481 Savoy St., just off River Road in Port Guichon).

We very much hope you will be able to join us. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Protein for People Project (www.proteinproject.ca) would be greatly appreciated.

— Tina Anderson

Gillnetter Roy Burnell passes

Longtime gillnetter Roy Burnell passed away April 21, 2011 in Nanaimo at the age of 94. Born Sept. 10, 1916 in Vancouver he grew up in Langley and began fishing with his brother Eric in the early 1930s. He later got his own boat and joined the gillnet fleet on the river, fishing the Fraser River and the coast during a long fishing career that spanned 56 years. For most of that career he ran the combination gillnetter-troller **Lady Roma**. A founding member of the UFAWU and a frequent strike committee member, he remained an active member of the union until his retirement in 1988. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Bernice, son Jack Snaith, daughters Diane (Brooke), Marilyn (Dell), and Sharon, nine grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as special friend David McIntosh (Louise). Predeceased by his sons Nick Burnell and Geoff Snaith, brother Eric and brother-in-law Danny Davis. A private memorial service will be held.

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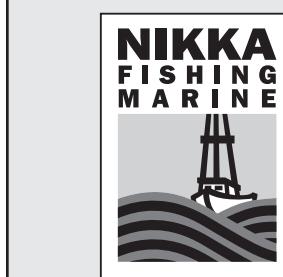
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Rally vows to stop Enbridge pipeline

Campaign for North Coast tanker ban to continue

More than 800 people turned out to a rally in Prince Rupert to voice their concern with the Enbridge Northern Gateway project. The rally was organized by the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation and coincided with a North Central Local Government Association conference where Enbridge was a Platinum-level sponsor.

The annual convention allows municipalities from across north and central B.C. to gather each year to discuss issues and policies. Enbridge has repeatedly declined to speak to the citizens of Prince Rupert but has no problem spending thousands of dollars to co-sponsor a convention in the hopes of swaying our local politicians. Enbridge has not met with the public since 2008 and has declined all invitations to attend public forums in the North.

The crowd of people attending the rally gathered in Mariner's Park and then proceeded to march along the waterfront led by a local First Nation's dance and drum group. The march was greeted by



**North Coast
Jennifer Rice**

a flotilla of boats and watercraft including someone on a surf board. "I haven't seen a gathering of all nations like this in Prince Rupert in a long time," announced Chief Murray Smith, a Tsimshian hereditary chief from Lax Kw'alaams (Port Simpson).

The rally brought out a diversity of people including many elected and hereditary First Nations, local, provincial and federal politicians including MLA Gary Coons and MP Nathan Cullen. Twenty people made a 12-hour boat ride from Bella Bella to attend, including a youth group and hereditary chiefs from the Heiltsuk First Nation. Jasmine Thomas, a young Manitoban First Nation activist who had just protested the Enbridge annual meeting in Calgary made the trip

to add her voice to the opposition.

UFAWU-CAW northern representative Joy Thorkelson reminded the crowd that Enbridge's proposal is not the first oil and gas project that the fishing industry has had to fight. "We have won these battles in the past and we will win this one, too," she told the crowd. For those unable to get to Prince Rupert, a satellite rally organized in Masset on Haida Gwaii with more than 200 people turning out in solidarity with the Prince Rupert rally.

But despite fierce opposition from 80 First Nations groups, unions, businesses, environmentalists and the Union of BC municipalities, Enbridge is confident it will receive regulatory approval for its Northern Gateway project. A legislated north coast tanker ban will be extremely difficult in the short term with the election of a Conservative Harper majority government.

If approved, the Enbridge project would oversee construction of the first direct oil pipeline from the Alberta tar sands to the West Coast of Canada at Kitimat. The proposal would require a large number of oil and condensate tankers travelling through the very narrow Douglas Channel and past either end of Haida Gwaii, bringing 225 supertankers a year to the North Coast. The company's justification for the project is to diversify markets for bitumen beyond the U.S.. With China already investing billions of dollars into increased production in the Alberta oil sands, no doubt the goal is to quench Asia's thirst for energy.



Part of the crowd of 800 who joined the protest in Prince Rupert May 12 against Enbridge's pipeline project.

Columbians on this issue. The next four years will be challenging but the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation will continue to press for a tanker ban for Hecate Strait, Dixon Entrance, and Queen Charlotte Sound.

A hearing order was released May 5 by the Joint Review Panel overseeing the environmental assessment of the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project. It is expected that the final hearings – and a decision made regarding the project – will be a year from now, probably around July 2012.

Although the Conservatives now have a majority government, Harper does not speak for British



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