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Letter to the Editor
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Fishing for answers

Sea lice from fish farms are not the explanation for this year's extremely poor marine survival of Fraser River sockeye. Sockeye returns to the Skeena River in northern B.C. were also significantly lower than anticipated this year, and the migration route of juvenile sockeye from this river system does not take them anywhere near fish farms. The sea lice species found on juvenile sockeye in the Strait of Georgia are not the same species that typically infects farmed salmon.

The DFO is working with commercial harvesters, First Nations and the recreational fishery to support the conservation and sustainable use of the sockeye resource. The right approach under the circumstances this year is to manage fisheries in a manner that puts as many fish on the spawning grounds as possible.

Paul Sprout, Pacific Region director general, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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