



## **Artist Response Team Inc. (ART)**

PO Box 998, Crofton, BC V0R 1R0  
TEL: 250 324 3402 FAX: 250 324 3403  
EMAIL: [artistresponseteam@shaw.ca](mailto:artistresponseteam@shaw.ca)  
WEB: [www.CycleOfLife.ca](http://www.CycleOfLife.ca)  
[www.HollyArntzen.ca](http://www.HollyArntzen.ca)

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**PRESENTATION: SPOKEN WORD & SONG = 7 minutes**

**The Honourable Justice Cohen  
Cohen Commission on Fraser Sockeye  
Victoria, BC**

**September 16, 2010**

**My name is Holly Arntzen. Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission. I am here to stand up and sing out for wild salmon.**

I was born and raised on this west coast. My grandfather was a troller; my family made its way in the world thanks to the abundance of this ecosystem. I'm hoping I can give back in a small way to the magnificent heritage of wild salmon. I love this coast with a deep passion, and I traveled here today from up-island to share that passion with you.

I am a singer, songwriter and producer, and founder of the Artist Response Team—a “cultural swat team” dedicated to addressing environmental issues peacefully through music. We have worked for over 30 years in BC communities, and beyond.

Last year the sockeye stocks crashed. This year they have returned in record numbers, proving that the rivers and the ocean are still working. We must go out and meet the salmon halfway and do everything in our power to protect them.

The question I am addressing is:

**What can citizens do to ensure the sustainability of Fraser sockeye?**

- **Become ecologically literate.**
- **Place a high value on wild salmon.**
- **Work together with all Fraser Basin communities to restore habitats, engage the political process and demand sustainable policies.**
- **Engage cultural tools—music, environmental education and concerts—to drive a shift in culture.**

People must be constantly learning more about the ecological principles that govern our survival. We all have a responsibility to understand the natural world in a more profound way. In our busy lives and consumer societies, we have become disconnected

from nature. British Columbians need to understand that wild salmon are a keystone species: the “back bone” of ecosystems throughout the Fraser Basin.

As people become more ecologically literate, particularly with regard to wild salmon, they will make more informed decisions with regard to supporting policies that support the Fraser sockeye.

In order to drive this process of ongoing environmental education, we need to shift our culture to place a high value on wild salmon and all of nature. People need reminders and pointers about things other than the latest consumer goods they should be buying.

Music is an essential tool for driving culture shift. ART has developed a Community Outreach Model called “Voices of Nature” that facilitates School Music Programs and Community Concerts that focus on ecology and sustainability. ART produced, in partnership with Parks Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, a CD and Educators’ Handbook called Salish Sea, that focuses on marine conservation in the Southern Strait of Georgia. It is in use by teachers throughout BC. Last year ART produced a tour to Fraser Basin Communities called “Up Your Watershed!”—concerts featuring huge choirs of children singing salmon hits for their families and friends.

Music, environmental education and community cultural events are tools for helping people to work together on controversial issues that require unprecedented cooperation and collaboration amongst all sectors of society and user groups.

As an example, I am going to sing you a song called, “Fish & Trees”.

**SONG: FISH & TREES** (see lyrics below)

**In closing:**

We are confronting huge challenges to save wild salmon. If we can successfully do this, we will solve a lot of other problems as well. Some issues require global cooperation, such as climate change; other issues are within our power to act on now: fish farms are an example.

**I wish to go on record in requesting that the aquaculture industry release its data related to disease outbreaks on fish farms.**

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission, and the work you are doing to protect the Fraser sockeye.

**Holly Arntzen, President  
Artist Response Team Inc (ART)**

## **FISH & TREES**

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**Fish in the ocean**  
**Feed the forests that grow in mountain valleys**  
**Travel far up the rivers**  
**Bringing life to the trees that give us shelter**

Standing and watching  
Trees growing tall in their watersheds  
Waiting for salmon  
And the oolichan that feed the food web

**Fish in the ocean**  
**Feed the forests that grow in mountain valleys**  
**Travel far up the rivers**  
**Bringing life to the trees that give us shelter**

Fishing and logging  
Living on the wealth of watersheds  
People surviving where  
Forest and the ocean meet at sea's edge

**Fish in the ocean**  
**Feed the forests that grow in mountain valleys**  
**Travel far up the rivers**  
**Bringing life to the trees that give us shelter**

Living and dying  
From Sointula to Quesnel and Invermere  
Look how fish and trees  
Join the ocean to the atmosphere

**Fish in the ocean**  
**Feed the forests that grow in mountain valleys**  
**Travel far up the rivers**  
**Bringing life to the trees that give us shelter**