



# Cohen Commission

Presentation by:

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Foundation

September 2010

# Commission Question to be Addressed

## What is required to secure the future of the Fraser sockeye?

- SOS Background & Goals
- SOS Perspective on the Fraser River sockeye
- SOS Plan
- Recommendations



# SOS: Who We Are

- The SOS Marine Conservation Foundation funds:
  - Economic, scientific and legal research
  - Public education
- We are pro-business and pro-smart aquaculture
- A group of Western Canadians aiming to resolve marine conservation challenges and create new economic opportunities
- A broad coalition of business leaders, entrepreneurs, engineers, financial and legal professionals and philanthropists
- Network includes scientists, Government officials, First Nations, salmon farmers, fishers and environmental groups



# SOS: Our Goals

We are committed to work collaboratively and innovatively with Federal and B.C. Governments to achieve two fundamental goals:

- 1. Protect B.C.'s wild salmon stocks, and allow B.C. businesses, First Nations and local communities to thrive**
- 2. Establish B.C. as a leader in creating a globally renowned, stable and viable aquaculture industry**



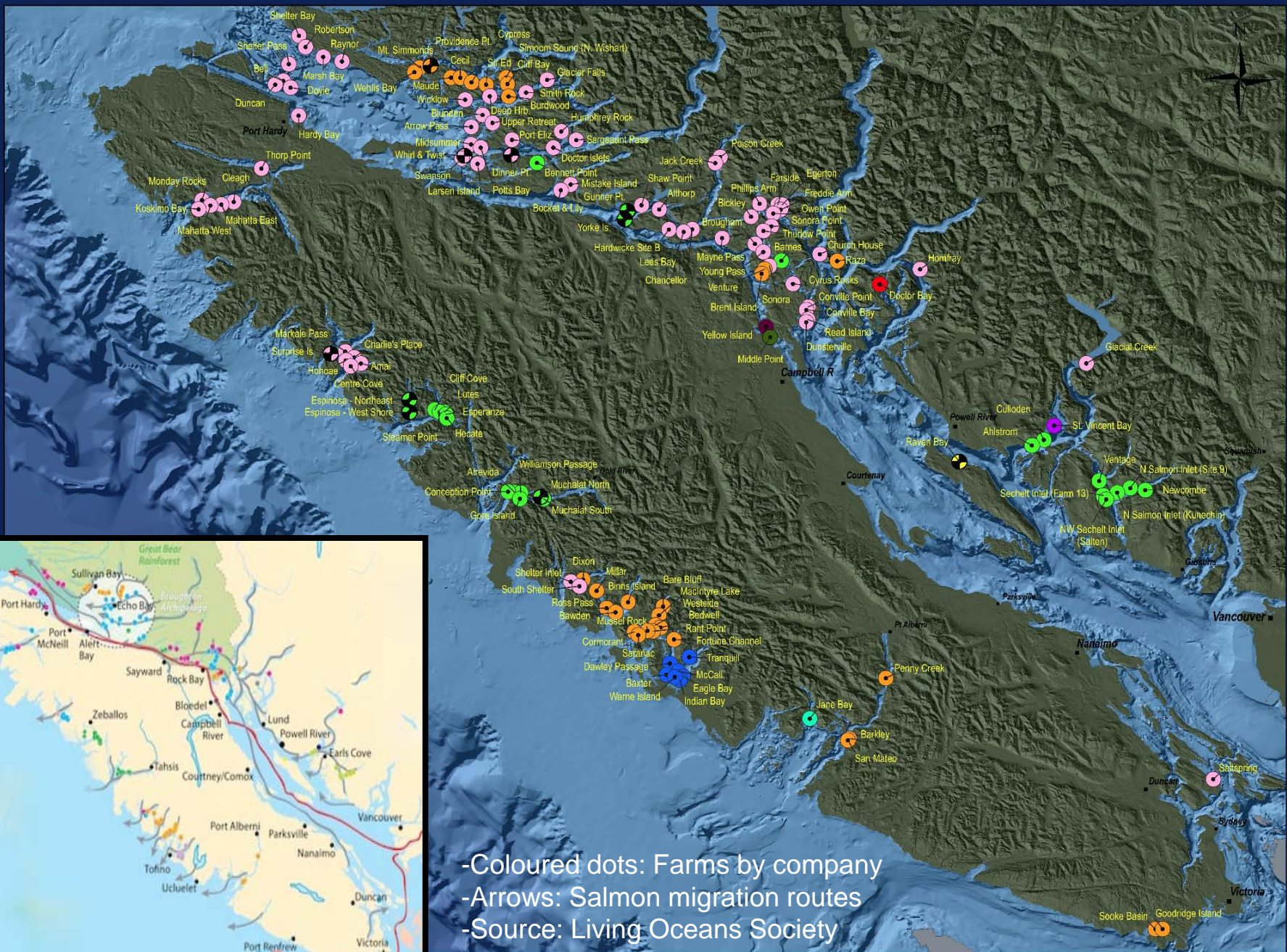


# SOS: Our Perspective

- The **unpredictability, enormous variability and lack of understanding** of the Fraser River sockeye testify to the need to control what can be controlled in a world of increasing threats to this keystone species
- Of all the threats to wild salmon, **ending the potential for the amplification and transmission of disease and parasites** from open net-cage salmon farming offers the **most immediate** opportunity to restore wild salmon stocks

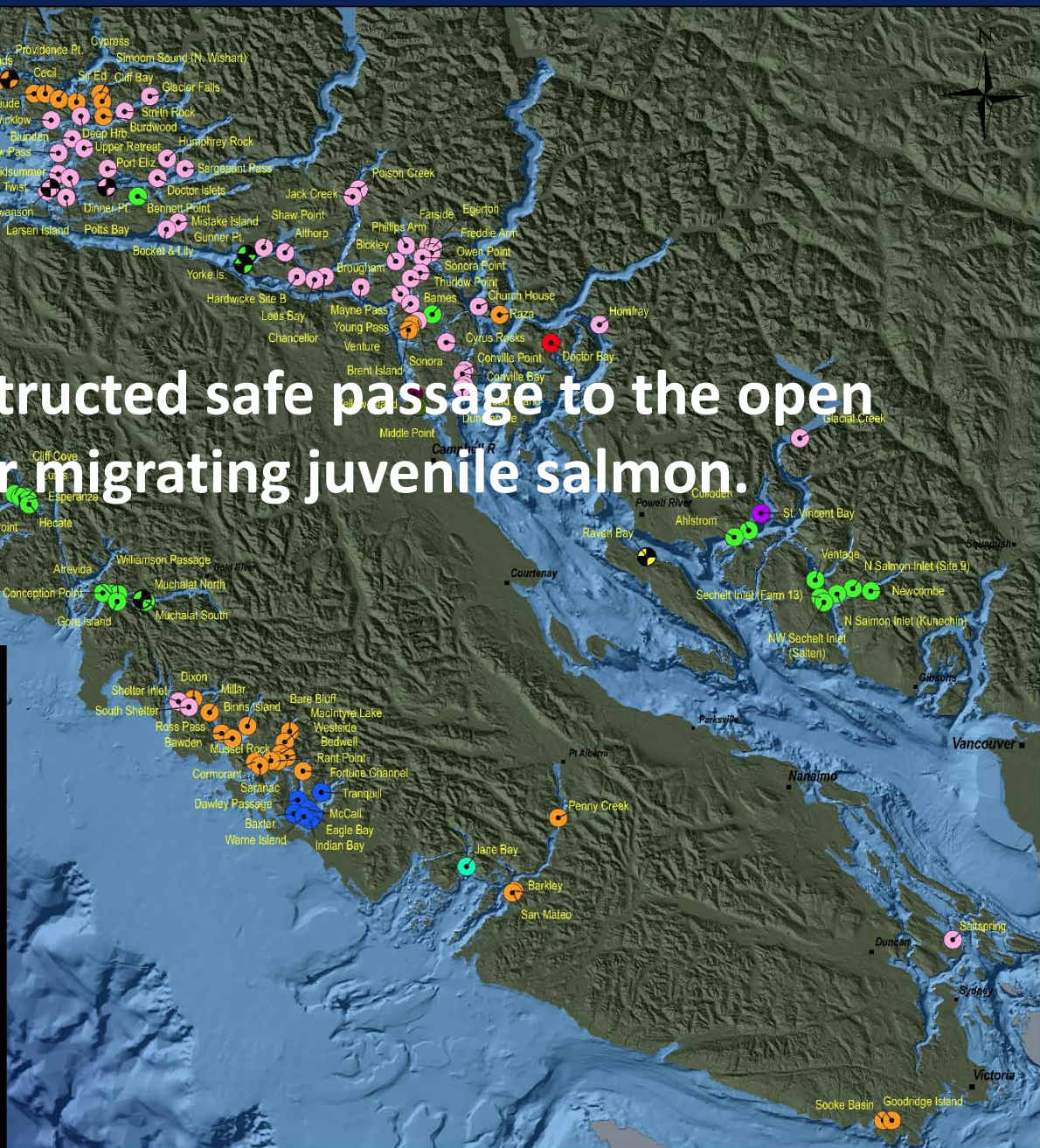








**Needed: Unobstructed safe passage to the open ocean for migrating juvenile salmon.**





# SOS: Three Point Plan

- **Point 1:** Develop and Implement a Workable Farm Management Plan
- **Point 2:** Create a Transparent and Accountable Regulatory Regime
- **Point 3:** Catalyze a “Made in Canada” World Class Closed Containment Aquaculture Industry (land-based)





# SOS: Our Plan

- **Point 1: Develop and Implement a Workable Farm Management Plan**
  - Remove Atlantic salmon from open net-cages on key migratory routes of out-migrating wild juvenile salmon



# SOS: Our Plan

- **Point 2: Create a Transparent and Accountable Regulatory Regime**
  - Address DFO conflict between protection and promotion
  - Establish science-based siting and farm management criteria
  - Establish mandatory, timely public reporting requirements for disease, parasites, and therapeutants

There is an opportunity to create this regime of transparency and accountability as DFO takes over salmon aquaculture in B.C.

However, it appears from the draft *Pacific Aquaculture Regulations* that this opportunity is being lost.





# SOS: Our Plan

- **Point 3: Catalyze a “Made in Canada” World Class Closed Containment Aquaculture Industry (land-based)**
  - Already in progress with participation from DFO and MAL
  - Feasibility study proved closed containment aquaculture is technically and economically feasible
  - Working with TIDES Canada:
    - Sponsored a land-based closed containment salmon aquaculture workshop with broad range of stakeholders
    - Building a Salmon Aquaculture Innovation Fund of +\$15 million - P3 incentives for closed containment innovation in industry
  - Currently at Front End Engineering and Design stage for a Land-Based Recirculating Salmon Aquaculture Pilot Project with the 'N̓amgis First Nation (Northern Vancouver Island)



# SOS: Recommendations

- **Point 1:** Develop and Implement a Workable Farm Management Plan
- **Point 2:** Create a Transparent and Accountable Regulatory Regime
- **Point 3:** Catalyze a “Made in Canada” World Class Closed Containment Aquaculture Industry (land-based)

## Thank You

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*Everything Depends On The Wild Salmon –  
The Survival of Wild Salmon Depends On Us*