

Submission by

Paul Dean

Address to the Cohen Commission, Sept. 20, 2010, New Westminster BC.

I recently had an opportunity to accompany a friend on a commercial seine boat during the recent commercial opening in the Fraser River off Steveston. Sockeye Salmon were visible as far as the eye could see in all directions jumping & fining on the surface. It was truly a spectacular sight. One of the sets we made was the largest my friend has ever seen in his 30 year fishing career. To see such abundance was staggering. Words can not describe how impressive this spectacle was, 35000 fish condensed into a mass in the net.

For me witnessing this really drove home the point that these creatures are without question a gift. Think about this... Unlike other animals this creature has no need to waste energy constructing nests, developing complex social structures etc. From the minute it hatches from its egg it has one purpose... to feed to grow large & strong enough to return to its place of origin to carry on its species.

Think about this... this nutritious, delicious food source returns on its own every year like clock work, as it has for thousands of years, for free providing a magnificent healthy food source to humans & probably 100s of other species that we share the planet with... including providing nutrients for the forests & plants. Its as if this creature was put here for the purpose of benefiting other life forms.

For humans to bring harm to this near perfectly designed creature would be immoral. We SHOULD do doing everything in our power to protect this precious resource.

Unlike global climate change, poor ocean conditions, and numerous other uncontrollable factors there are some human activities that ARE within our control that could be a threat to these fish.

I'd like to point out what an abysmal job this culture has done so far in its history by the threatening or damaging numerous runs & fish habitat.

Primarily these threats are driven by some profit hungry industry or corporation. I ask is it worth risking this precious resource for the short term gain of these industries & the political parties that willingly accept their gratuities?

Should this be permitted? Should this be tolerated? Should governments & regulating bodies not be using the precautionary principle in these cases where there is a reasonable question of harming this magnificent resource?

Justice Cohen you are in the unique position of not being under control of any political party or industry. I urge that you take advantage of this situation to get to the bottom of this issue before we cause unrecoverable damage to this noble creature.

Thank you.

Paul Dean.