


Judge Cohen [leo-perra@cohencommission.ca]
Cohen Commission,
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19,10 /10



Sir;

Grateful for your presence! Hoping for your success in seeing to the heart of the humanly created conditions that our wild salmon must fight thru in order to exist. Praying for your strength to uphold the things we little citizens can see are so sadly lacking in their Management ; above all, sincere respect and concern for a truly global-based, God-given, consistently recurrent food source. And this, versus the unhealthy ambitions of conglomerates focussed on wealth created by short sighted human manipulation. Plus, our nation's D.F.O. in its long-established, self-serving complacency. .

By-the-way Sir, if I may be excused ;,your sire-name suggests to me that your roots lie in that nation out of which came the Christian faith : perhaps you may know that the fish was an important symbol to early Christians. Today, to me [not one to be called "religious"] that fact appears very apposite.

I fear I have nothing thing to add to what my coastal friends are saying to you, drawing your attention to the deceit of these fish farms in deliberately concealing from the public their record on diseases and management thereof: the collusion of our governments in allowing that, and in allowing import of eggs from other, already disease-prevalent countries . And all such matters, which should be unthinkable to an honest governance . To my mind net-containment fish farms should be completely removed from any wild fish bearing waters, they have proved disastrous to the wild in every other country so far. Canada should harness its enterprise and expertise in developing a healthy land-based fish farm - if we must have fish-farms.

I could repeat what Alex Morton and other close watchers of the coast are reminding us, such as that the little-understood but much touted success of the Sockeye this year still only represents a healthy return from little more than half of the former sockeye runs: what of the other half - and of the other salmon? The damage that unnatural quantities of sea lice do in the path of the migrating young. And so on.

I left the coast 30 yrs ago, but previously for 45 yrs in Quatsino Sound I saw the logging practices, the pulp mill, finally Island Copper do their share of harms locally. DFO was seldom onside with the victims, industry almost invariably blameless. It was the same everywhere: the roots of what we have today.. I will never forget my older fisherman-brother's blue eyes blazing at me when one day as a young teenager at the dinner table I had gasped in disbelief at what I was hearing , "But don't people know, isn't it in the news?" I asked.

"The papers don't tell you the truth", he said.

The truth is muffled as ever. Many who are close to the situation are often overwhelmed by the near necessities of life and cannot find a voice. Double or triple the numbers you hear from to know that a mighty section of the public will breath a new breath if your Inquiry is as fruitful as one might dare to hope.

Yours sincerely. [Mrs] Dora Kevis



P.S. My husband reminds me that here in the interior maybe we do have an item worthy of mention! It's that little Osoyoos lake had a Salmon Fishery this year, open to commercial Sockeye fishing for the first time since -when? That lake feeds into the Columbia river system. Are the Americans doing anything better than we are?