

Press Update – 30 October 2012

[“Here Comes Cohen!”/“Probe Shows Need for Reform”/ Uncalled-for Attack”/“Respected Scientist”](#)

Please find enclosed a press update (in full [online here](#)) including:

[“Here Comes Cohen: Halloween Horror for Harper?”](#) (Superheroes 4 Salmon, 30 October)



[“Salmon inquiry final report will be made public Wednesday in Ottawa”](#) (The Canadian Press/Vancouver Sun/Montreal Gazette, 29 October)

[“Fisheries stakeholders searching for answers on eve of Cohen report’s release”](#) (The Globe & Mail, 29 October)

[“Media Alert - Commissioner Bruce Cohen to address media regarding his final report on Fraser River sockeye salmon”](#) (Cohen Commission, 29 October)

THE VANCOUVER SUN

Salmon inquiry final report will be made public Wednesday in Ottawa

VANCOUVER - A report into the 2009 collapse of the Fraser River sockeye run will be made public this week after an inquiry took two years to study what happened, but a debate about what happens next has already started.

Justice Bruce Cohen, of B.C.'s Supreme Court, handed his report to the federal government Monday, sparking an exchange in the House of Commons between the NDP and Conservatives.

"Canadians want to know, will the government commit today to implement the recommendations in this report?" asked Fin Donnelly, MP for New Westminster-Coquitlam.

[“Report into faltering salmon stocks due out this week”](#) (News 1130, 28 October)

[“Report on decline of Fraser River sockeye due tomorrow”](#) (Global News, 28 October)

[“Otto Langer Unleashes on Salmon Inquiry, DFO, Harper on Eve of Report”](#) (The Common Sense Canadian, 28 October)

[“Salmon Inquiry: Probe shows need for reform, group says”](#) (The Globe & Mail/The Canadian Press, 28 October)



[“Uncalled-for attack/Respected scientist”](#) (The Chronicle Herald, 28 October)

[“Fish farm plant with sick workers breached US food safety rules”](#) (Rob Edwards, 28 October)

[“Marine Harvest’s Q3 returns tumble”](#) (Intrafish, 26 October)

[“RIVM: Salmonella outbreak on the return – 76 new cases of infection”](#) (De Telegraaf, 25 October)

Including from [The Canadian Press](#) (28 October) on the Cohen Commission’s final report published to be published tomorrow (31 October):

“Mary Ellen Walling, executive director of the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, said it’s clear pressure must be taken off the wild salmon stocks and farmed salmon can help achieve that goal. “We’re seeing growing demand for salmon in the Canadian marketplace, the U.S. marketplace, the European marketplace, the Asian market,” she said. “It’s very important that we be able to provide that seafood to the world population in a responsible and sustainable way. Walling said about three weeks of testimony focused on aquaculture.”

From [News 1130](#) (28 October):

“Marine biologist **Alexandra Morton** says Justice Bruce Cohen has done a phenomenal job heading up the commission of inquiry. “I’m hoping Justice Cohen will make a very strong statement about aquaculture and about habitat protection.” But she has some concerns, too.

"Why has this report been delayed and delayed, for one. That's concerning for me. Will we actually get a chance to see the report? Will we actually Stephen Harper actually do anything? Probably not." Morton says Cohen has set an impressive precedent, in obtaining the disease records of salmon farms in BC and making them public. "It was groundbreaking, and what I think he has to say is that we have to reduce the exposure of wild salmon to the viruses in these feedlots."

From [The Globe & Mail](#) (29 October):

“Colleen Dane, a representative of the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, said she is anticipating a detailed, complex report – and is hoping it absolves fish farming of blame in the collapse of wild stocks. “I don’t want to guess at what Justice Cohen will recommend,” she stated in an e-mail, “but we certainly heard at the commission that wild salmon stocks are under pressure and that wild and farm-raised fish can and do co-exist.”

Support Alexandra Morton’s testing for salmon diseases – please [donate online here now!](#)

The screenshot shows a GoFundMe page for the "Salmon Disease Testing Fund". The page header includes the GoFundMe logo and navigation links for Help, Sign Up, and Donate. The main title is "Salmon Disease Testing". Below the title is a large image of a woman holding a salmon, with a "Superstore" sign in the background. To the right of the image is a table of donation data. Below the image is a "DONATE!" button. The page also features a "Created by" section for Alexandra Morton, a description of the fund, and social media sharing options for Facebook, Twitter, and Email.

Donor Name	Amount	Date	Payment Method	Transaction ID
John Doe	\$100.00	2018-10-29	Card	123456789
Jane Smith	\$50.00	2018-10-28	Card	987654321
Bob Johnson	\$25.00	2018-10-27	Card	567890123
Alice Brown	\$15.00	2018-10-26	Card	345678901
Charlie White	\$10.00	2018-10-25	Card	234567890
Diana Green	\$5.00	2018-10-24	Card	123456789
Eve Black	\$3.00	2018-10-23	Card	987654321
Frank Blue	\$2.00	2018-10-22	Card	567890123
Grace Yellow	\$1.50	2018-10-21	Card	345678901
Henry Purple	\$1.00	2018-10-20	Card	234567890
Ivy Pink	\$0.50	2018-10-19	Card	123456789
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Leo Green	\$0.05	2018-10-16	Card	345678901
Mia Blue	\$0.02	2018-10-15	Card	234567890
Noah Yellow	\$0.01	2018-10-14	Card	123456789
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Petitioning CEO - Safeway
**COSTCO, Safeway & Loblaws:
 Please stop selling diseased farm salmon!**

Sign this petition
 with 14,018 supporters
 982 NEEDED

First Name
 Last Name
 Email
 Postal Code Spain
 Why is this important to you? Optional

SIGN

Display my signature publicly

By signing, you accept Change.org's terms of service and privacy policy.

Best fishes,

Don

Remember: Global News Updates are now archived and available in full [online here!](#)

Superheroes 4 Salmon, 30 October 2012

Here Comes Cohen: Halloween Horror for Harper?



Here Comes Cohen! Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper is facing a nightmare Halloween tomorrow (31 October) with the [publication](#) of the Cohen Commission's final report into the decline of wild salmon in the Fraser River.



Justice Bruce Cohen will be holding a [press conference](#) in Vancouver tomorrow (Wednesday 31 October) to finally publish a report which has been delayed three times. Cohen's report originally faced a deadline of May 1, 2011, but that deadline was extended to June 30, 2012, Sept. 30, 2012, and then Oct. 29, 2012.



The doors may finally be closing on Norwegian-owned Atlantic salmon farming in British Columbia and a Canadian Government which has promoted the disease-ridden industry instead of protecting wild Pacific salmon.



[Photo: [Justice Bruce Cohen](#) at the public hearing in Lillooet in August 2010 smiling in front of the jail (with the Cohen Commission's Director of Communications [Carla Shore](#) and

Senior Commission Counsel [Brian Wallace](#): For more photos read “[Cohen In Camera – Photo Review of the Salmon Inquiry](#)”]

The stakes are high. If Justice Cohen takes a hard-line approach, the [Cohen Commission’s](#) final report could see British Columbia’s salmon farming industry in the dock for spreading [infectious diseases](#) and the Canadian Government for aiding and abetting in the [cover-up](#).



“[Someone should be going to jail over this](#),” said John Werring of the David Suzuki Foundation in reaction to a secret Government report last year which detailed over 100 positive cases of ISA in farmed Atlantic salmon and wild Pacific salmon. “Never in my over 20 years of doing my work have I seen such duplicity by our government. The closest thing I can relate to is when whistle blowers in the U.S. released documents showing that tobacco companies knew their product harmed people. This document (2004 draft) shows our government has known for years that ISAV has been in the Pacific and they have done nothing except cover it up. Appalling!”



Read more via "[Salmonopoly: Go to Jail, Go Directly to Jail, Do Not Pass Go, Do Not Collect \\$200](#)"

The sordid truth is that the disease-ridden salmon farming is belly up in the waters of British Columbia – as dead as the proverbial doornail, dodo and Monty Python’s parrot (the aptly named ‘Norwegian Blue’).



Greg ‘[The Lion](#)’ McDade, legal counsel for Alexandra Morton, hit the last nail in coffin during his [final oral submission](#) to the Cohen Commission in November 2011 when he said:

“Like the Monty Python sketch, we have a dead parrot.”

`Submissions by Mr. McDade (AQUA)`

`In other words, they're not okay like the Monty Python sketch, we have a dead parrot; we have a dead fish. And they had symptoms of disease, but if they couldn't fit them neatly into a particular disease category, they were given an open diagnosis.`

No amount of rattling the cage will resuscitate the Norwegian Blue.

Monty Python Dead Parrot Sketch

porsche3273



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Read more via "[Norwegian Blues – Monty Python's Dead Farmed Salmon](#)"



Read in full via: <http://www.superheroes4salmon.org/blog/here-comes-cohen-halloween-horror-harper>

The Canadian Press/Vancouver Sun, 29 October 2012

Salmon inquiry final report will be made public on Wednesday in Ottawa

VANCOUVER - A report into the 2009 collapse of the Fraser River sockeye run will be made public this week after an inquiry took two years to study what happened, but a debate about what happens next has already started.

Justice Bruce Cohen, of B.C.'s Supreme Court, handed his report to the federal government Monday, sparking an exchange in the House of Commons between the NDP and Conservatives.

"Canadians want to know, will the government commit today to implement the recommendations in this report?" asked Fin Donnelly, MP for New Westminster-Coquitlam.

Randy Kamp, parliamentary secretary to the minister of fisheries and oceans, did not answer the question directly, saying instead the government recognizes the economic and cultural significance of salmon to the province.

"In fact, that is why we established the Cohen Commission after unexpectedly low returns of sockeye salmon to the Fraser River in 2009," said Kamp.

Donnelly also questioned why the government cut spending on enforcement and science at Fisheries and Oceans and changed the Fisheries Act before Cohen had submitted his findings.

"We put in place the Cohen Commission in order to learn some things," replied Kamp.

"That is why we will be reading it, as I encourage the member to do, when it is tabled in the House of Commons on Wednesday."

The Fisheries Department had earlier refused to say whether or when the report would be made public.

To discuss his findings, Cohen will hold a news conference in Vancouver Wednesday afternoon.

The inquiry examined why millions of sockeye salmon vanished in 2009 from one of British Columbia's most prized fisheries. Just 1.4 million sockeye showed up in B.C.'s rivers and streams in a run that was anticipated to be around 10 million.

The offspring of those salmon are expected to return to the Fraser River during the summer of 2013.

Cohen listened to 160 witnesses and compiled 14,000 pages of transcripts and 2,100 exhibits.

Fisheries advocates are predicting the report will come down hard on the way the Fisheries Department manages the resource.

The inquiry began in August 2010 and ended in December 2011, and during the course of its hearings, the commission tackled some 40 themes, ranging from aboriginal fishing to aquaculture, commercial fishing to disease, habitat management and enforcement to predation.

Cohen's report, which must be submitted in both official languages, originally faced a deadline of May 1, 2011, but that deadline was extended to June 30, 2012, Sept. 30, 2012, and then Oct. 29, 2012.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/national/Salmon+inquiry+final+report+will+made+public+Wednesday+Ottawa/7464908/story.html>

The Globe & Mail, 29 October 2012

Fisheries stakeholders searching for answers on eve of Cohen report's release

MARK HUME



A cutout of a sockeye salmon is raised above the crowd during a demonstration to coincide with the start of the Cohen Commission inquiry into the 2009 decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River, in Vancouver, B.C., on Oct. 25, 2010. (DARRYL DYCK /THE CANADIAN PRESS)

VANCOUVER — After spending \$26-million and hearing from 150 witnesses, a federal judicial inquiry into the collapse of sockeye salmon runs in the Fraser River is about to release its findings.

The report of the Cohen Commission – which was filed with the federal government on Monday and will be made public at a press conference in Vancouver on Wednesday – is supposed to provide British Columbia with a blueprint for managing its most important salmon stocks.

More Related to this Story

- [salmon inquiry](#)Salmon probe shows need for reform, group says
- [FISHERIES](#)Austerity measures threaten to sink salmon biologist jobs
- [Environment](#)One woman's struggle to save B.C.'s wild salmon



Scientists continue to search for clues about a mysterious ailment that has yet to be identified, and which appears linked to staggering death rates among adult salmon.

[Scientists search for clues about salmon deaths in BC](#)

But B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cohen has kept his work under tight wraps, since public hearings were concluded last December, and there have been no indications of which way he might lean on key issues.

What should be done about the disease problems that are increasingly killing salmon in rivers?

What is causing fish to vanish on the high seas?

What impact do salmon farms have on wild stocks?

What science gaps need to be filled urgently?

And how important is it that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has never fully implemented its wild salmon policy ?

Those are some of the major issues the report is expected to deal with, but observers say it is hard to know just where Judge Cohen might go with his analysis, after gathering a mountain of evidence during 18-months of hearings.

One thing is certain: A lot of people will be watching to see what his recommendations are.

“I’m optimistic,” said Ernie Crey, an adviser to the Sto:lo Tribal Council, which represents numerous bands on the Fraser River. “I’m hoping he has a series of recommendation that

help DFO better manage the fish stocks ... and that he provides a strategy to accomplish that end. It's not enough to just say what might have gone wrong.”

Colleen Dane, a representative of the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, said she is anticipating a detailed, complex report – and is hoping it absolves fish farming of blame in the collapse of wild stocks.

“I don't want to guess at what Justice Cohen will recommend,” she stated in an e-mail, “but we certainly heard at the commission that wild salmon stocks are under pressure and that wild and farm-raised fish can and do co-exist.”

John Werring of the Suzuki Foundation said he is anticipating a detailed analysis of what went wrong on the Fraser River, but he wonders what action it will lead to.

“There have been lots of inquiries like this in the past and many have come forward with good recommendations,” he said in an e-mail. “The problem has been with implementation. That's where I see things falling apart.”

Mr. Werring said his fear is that if the report calls on government to increase funding for salmon management, it will just be left to gather dust because the government appears to be going in a different direction.

“It would seem that the current federal government has an obsession with austerity and is reducing staff in order to save money,” he said.

Craig Orr, executive director of Watershed Watch Salmon Society, said he hopes Judge Cohen urges DFO to implement a wild salmon policy that was drafted in 2005, but never fully implemented.

Mr. Orr said that policy, which would make conserving wild salmon and protecting fish habitat DFO's top priority, is “grossly underfunded” and needs \$2.5-million annually, for three years, to start functioning properly.

Otto Langer, a former DFO manager who was part of a Conservation Coalition that participated in the hearings, said the most important thing Judge Cohen can do is to change the culture of “politically directed decision making ” within DFO.

“If we do not rehabilitate DFO we cannot rehabilitate the fishery,” he said.

More Related to this Story

- [Fraser River sockeye may suffer damaged hearts](#)
- [Mark Hume Scientists seek to learn whether fish farms kill fish](#)

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/fisheries-stakeholders-searching-for-answers-on-eve-of-cohen-reports-release/article4747889/>

Cohen Commission, 29 October 2012

Media Alert - Commissioner Bruce Cohen to address media regarding his final report on Fraser River sockeye salmon

VANCOUVER, Oct. 29, 2012 /CNW/ - The Final Report of the Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River was submitted to the government today, October 29, 2012. Commissioner Bruce Cohen will hold a news conference in Vancouver at 12:30 pm on October 31, 2012.

The news conference will be held at:

Location: Point Grey Room, 3rd Floor,
Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel
1128 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

Date: October 31, 2012

Time: 12:30 pm

Copies of the Commissioner's final report will be available to media at the news conference, and on the commission's website at www.cohencommission.ca. Media may attend the news conference in person, or can call in to a conference line. For information on calling in to the news conference, please contact Carla Shore at carla.shore@cohencommission.ca.

The Cohen Commission (www.cohencommission.ca) was established on November 5, 2009 with the appointment of the Honourable Bruce Cohen as Commissioner. Under its Terms of Reference, the commission held hearings to investigate and report on the decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River. Based on his findings, the Commissioner will make recommendations for improving the future sustainability of the sockeye salmon fishery in the Fraser River, including, as required, any changes to the policies, practices and procedures of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in relation to the management of the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery.

SOURCE: Cohen Commission of Inquiry

For further information:

Media Contact:

Carla S. Shore

Communications Director, Cohen Commission of Inquiry

Cell: 604-329-0975

Email: carla.shore@cohencommission.ca

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1060771/media-alert-commissioner-bruce-cohen-to-address-media-regarding-his-final-report-on-fraser-river-sockeye-salmon>

News 1130, 28 October 2012



Report into faltering salmon stocks due out this week

The Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River was launched back in August of 2010

Renee Bernard

VANCOUVER (NEWS1130) - It's been two years in the making, and finally a major report into the decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River will be handed over to the government this week.

The **Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River** was launched back in August of 2010.

An ardent critic of the local fish farming industry has doubts the findings will change the industry.

Marine biologist **Alexandra Morton** says Justice Bruce Cohen has done a phenomenal job heading up the commission of inquiry.

"I'm hoping Justice Cohen will make a very strong statement about aquaculture and about habitat protection."

But she has some concerns, too.

"Why has this report been delayed and delayed, for one. That's concerning for me. Will we actually get a chance to see the report? Will we actually Stephen Harper actually do anything? Probably not."

Morton says Cohen has set an impressive precedent, in obtaining the disease records of salmon farms in BC and making them public.

"It was groundbreaking, and what I think he has to say is that we have to reduce the exposure of wild salmon to the viruses in these feedlots."

The inquiry was launched after only a fraction of the expected number of salmon showed up in BC rivers in 2009.

The commission heard from 160 witnesses, and 2,000 exhibits were submitted.

<http://www.news1130.com/news/local/article/416490--report-into-faltering-salmon-stocks-due-out-this-week>

Global News, 28 October 2012

Report on decline of Fraser River sockeye due tomorrow

The latest report on the decline of the BC Fraser River sockeye fishery doesn't come out until tomorrow, but critics are already blaming the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the poor results.

The BC Fisheries Survival Coalition says it's all due to poor management within the federal department.

The Federal Government called an inquiry into the situation in November 2009, after only about 15 per cent of the expected salmon returned to spawn.

The DFO has declined to comment until the report is actually tabled.

<http://www.globaltvbc.com/report+on+decline+of+fraser+river+sockeye+due+tomorrow/6442742580/story.html>

The Common Sense Canadian, 28 October 2012

Otto Langer Unleashes on Salmon Inquiry, DFO, Harper on Eve of Report

Written by [Otto Langer](#)



Dr. Kriti Miller was a key player in last year's Cohen Inquiry, whose final report is expected this week (photo: JOHN LEHMANN/The Globe and Mail)

On the eve of the expected release of the final report from the Cohen Inquiry into disappearing Fraser River sockeye, retired DFO senior biologist and manager Otto Langer offers his critique of the Commission and his former employer. Langer, the man who [blew the whistle on Stephen Harper's plan to gut the Fisheries Act](#), was also an expert witness at the Inquiry.

I often noted half way through the Cohen Commission hearings into disappearing Fraser River sockeye in Vancouver in 2011 that I would not hold my breath for the Commission to make any real impact on changing DFO and if we do not rehabilitate DFO we cannot rehabilitate the fishery.

DFO and DFO management has to be rehabilitated in that they are a major problem to overcome in resolving many fishery issues. Cohen did not appear to properly address the DFO management problem but if he is astute and reads between the lines he does have to highlight that as a real problem. I doubt if he will.

Was Cohen advised not to be too critical of DFO? Prime Minister Stephen Harper did resist a full public inquiry and I am certain his thinking was – "if I am to have an inquiry it had better not embarrass my government or my ministers." DFO did oppose a public inquiry for years until Harper finally gave into the pressure of MP John Cummins (Cummins personal communications 2010).

The Cohen Commission did have great inherent weaknesses. First of all they overloaded their ranks with lawyers and made a public hearing process into an overly controlled and straight-jacketed legal process and at times appeared even more restrictive than a criminal court case. Cohen noted that he did not want the Inquiry room to be a courthouse but that is indeed how it was run. It was not democratic or transparent and was totally control-oriented - a legal community approach that was not in the public nor fishery best interests!

The Commission set up an expert panel and then dismissed it for all the wrong reasons. They badly needed an unbiased technical advisory panel but resorted to select studies done by often unqualified consultants. They did not consult with the public and often ignored those that had legal standing in these issues.

The basis of engagement was not made clear until we were several months into the Inquiry. I was given legal standing but totally obstructed in any attempt to be a witness. The Cohen Inquiry alone determined what they wanted to hear and selected the witnesses accordingly - it was channeled evidence.

Many hours of exam were wasted on irrelevant issues and then when we got into key material directly related to sockeye survival those with standing were most often restricted to a few minutes of cross examination. That was truly unfortunate. It is well known that it is more time efficient to make your point with your own witness than to overturn misleading testimony when one was restricted to a few minutes of cross-exam. Few trials would be run in such a manner.

The Inquiry staff prepared their own background discussion papers that were often in great need of editing and were not factually correct. To make matters worse they then hired a dozen consultants to do their own 'research' papers vs. having a technical expert advisory panel. Some of these papers were very non-scientific and a few were actually an embarrassment to science and the Inquiry. In one study, the Commission lawyer even attacked their own hired author so as to distance themselves from the terrible work they had done. Despite that, select studies such as that by Dr. Scott Hinch were excellent.

Certain Inquiry staff at times functioned as inexperienced staff and little wonder that some unqualified consultants were hired and taxpayer money was wasted. The public interest could have been better served if Cohen had designed a Northern Gateway Pipeline-type hearing; i.e. more open, democratic and accountable. The Commission even appeared to use some witnesses and asked them to present testimony they did not want to present. For instance Dr. G. Hartman got upset with them and told them to get lost and refused to be a witness. Another witness refused to return to the Inquiry and said spending time in his cabin was more relevant!

I did my best to be a witness to get a number of issues before them but was told they "did not want anyone that was critical of DFO", even though they gave me and ENGOs legal standing and hundreds of thousands of dollars to have legal representation. In one case they wanted one of my studies on Fraser River gravel mining but asked another expert to take my study and rewrite and remove all comments critical of DFO and put his name on it as though he was the author of the study. That was unethical!

A real problem was that at least 70% of the witnesses were from DFO and many were not experts and really presented a smoke-and-mirrors story on how enforcement was done, the

new ecosystems approach, etc. This came from experts like DM Dansereau and DFO and DOE Ottawa 'experts' on enforcement. Why did the Inquiry require Dr. Bombardier from Environment Canada to appear as their enforcement expert when she had no enforcement background and only had been in her job for six months? She was indeed opposed to enforcement as a compliance tool. Often the testimony was misleading and very political in nature.

Considering the above - why should one expect a \$26million high quality and balanced product that will make a big difference in the ocean and river where the fish live? I do not feel Cohen will fully address the DFO and a politically directed decision making process where most management problems are most often born. If Cohen does make some good conclusions and recommendations (and he will), how can that affect or direct what Harper and DFO will do, considering the passing of Bill C-38 in June 2012 and the changes they made since the Inquiry concluded.

We have just learned that we will not have any habitat protection staff and DFO habitat protection offices on the sockeye salmon Fraser River migratory and spawning/rearing areas anywhere on the Fraser River other than 5 junior staff in Kamloops. Staff and offices in Prince George, Blue River, Salmon Arm, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Lillooett, Chilliwack and New Westminster will be eliminated. If Cohen knew that this was about to happen, his report could be different, i.e. some of his evidence is already well out of date. Any significant (permanent) habitat destruction incident on the sockeye system will now be responded to out of Winnipeg or Burlington.

Would Justice Cohen have been happy with that arrangement? Cohen and staff could have done a much better job in hearing more balanced evidence and he is now stuck with the evidence he has heard. Some evidence was very sub-standard, i.e. habitat, ecosystems effects, enforcement, etc. Despite that comment, some of the evidence was complete, such as wild salmon policy, temperature issues, fish farming, etc. However, in that the hearing was overly directed and it was a closed process as dictated by Cohen staff, some of the best evidence was not heard, such as the great political interference in undermining science, terrible DFO hiring practices, overly-centralized directions from Ottawa, management shortcomings, etc.

Finally, Cohen will be hog tied on some issues, such as global warming and temperatures, which are very valid and priority issues. What can he say other than it is an issue and we need more science as government cuts this capability in DFO and elsewhere in government? Cohen will be barking up an empty tree as the Harper (and BC and Alberta) governments do everything to promote more fossil fuel development that will facilitate global warming and undermine long-term salmon survival. Many of the salmon survival issues have to be addressed at the international, federal and BC levels. Under our present system of governance and cooperative problem solving, Cohen will make little impact on this much-needed larger, ecosystem-wide approach to protect and conserve life such as sockeye salmon on this planet.

DFO and the Harper Government really cut Cohen off at the knees and I feel they have treated this Commission with contempt and their actions have left Cohen and his report already a bit on the back shelf. DFO can dismiss much of Cohen in that they can now say that some of his information is out of date and DFO has already directed many changes to re-direct where DFO is going.

I do hope I am wrong in believing that the Cohen report will do little to change DFO and the politics related to protecting our natural world and salmon survival. The politics have created a very tilted playing field and as with many other inquiries tackling this salmon problem, one will probably soon forget about the Cohen Inquiry as we have done with the John Fraser and Justice Williams reports.

We must appreciate that the Cohen Inquiry is the really big Granddaddy inquiry into this issue but can it or will it recommend solutions or see action on its recommendations to solve the really big issues facing sockeye and most fishery issues? A report may be great but it means little if it does not effect change, i.e. implementation is the real challenge!

The power to make those changes is now in the hands of government and that is where we can even have much greater reservations of what can or will happen. DFO will probably pick off the ripe low fruit that will support what they want to do and ignore the rest. Meanwhile, DFO and the Harper government will stubbornly go in their own direction as determined by the rigid control and less than scientific approach as seen in many other similar matters in the past few years. The comments of the 'original author' of the Inquiry, ex Conservative MP and fisheries critic John Cummings should be interesting. He [seemed to give up on it](#) soon after it began. It is odd that we can sometimes build a process from a good idea but it soon gains its own life and goes in another direction and we then feel we have created a monster that will not fulfill the basic needs it was designed to address.

The Inquiry spent millions collecting thousands of documents, and putting them into a digital library which was guarded with great secrecy and unavailable to the public. In that the Inquiry is now over and this is a taxpayer-funded product, it must be arranged for that large and expensive collection be put into a public library. Meanwhile the taxpayer struggles to pay for this multimillion dollar Inquiry into a problem that should address the many fishery problems for future generations so they can enjoy the existence of what is a key part of BC - abundant salmon populations in our healthy rivers.

Otto E. Langer, Fishery Biologist and Aquatic Ecologist

<http://thecanadian.org/item/1789-otto-langer-salmon-inquiry-dfo-stephen-harper-cohen-enquiry-sockeye-commission-report>

The Globe & Mail/The Canadian Press, 28 October 2012

Salmon Inquiry: Probe shows need for reform, group says



KEVEN DREWS

VANCOUVER — Some who took part in the inquiry looking into why millions of sockeye salmon vanished from one of British Columbia's most prized fisheries are already anticipating what the report might say, and many believe the news won't be good for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

After listening to 160 witnesses, compiling 14,000 pages of transcripts and 2,100 exhibits, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cohen must deliver his report to the federal government by Monday, although it remains unclear when, or even if, the document will be made public.

More Related to this Story

[Ties break down between B.C. salmon-farming firm, environmental coalition](#)

[One woman's struggle to save B.C.'s wild salmon](#)

One of the groups that participated in the inquiry is the Watershed Watch Salmon Society. Its executive director, Craig Orr, said he believes the inquiry has proven major reforms are needed in how fisheries and natural resources are managed by the federal government.

“The evidence was really clear that government is going to have quite a report on its hands, and there's going to be a very high expectation that there's going to be some major changes made,” he said.

“The bigger question I think ... is [whether] government is going to have any meaningful reactions to the report, other than the usual deny, delay and distract kind of approach that we seem to get.”

The federal government called the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River and appointed Judge Cohen as commissioner in November, 2009. The bill for the inquiry is expected to be at least \$26-million.

Months earlier, an estimated 1.4-million sockeye showed up in B.C.'s rivers and streams in a run that was projected to be around 10 million. The offspring of those salmon are expected to return to the Fraser River during the summer of 2013.

The inquiry began in August, 2010, and ended in December, 2011. During the course of its hearings, the commission tackled some 40 themes, ranging from aboriginal fishing to aquaculture, commercial fishing to disease, habitat management and enforcement to predation.

Melanie Carkner, a spokeswoman for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, said in an e-mail to The Canadian Press the department wouldn't be commenting or providing interviews on the report until it's tabled.

But Mr. Orr said many are cynical of the process because the federal government announced changes to legislation like the Fisheries Act, Environmental Assessment Act and Navigable Waters Protection Act and even announced a new salmon farm while Judge Cohen was still doing his job.

Members of the West Coast Trollers Area G Association are also skeptical about the process, said Kathy Scarfo, the group's president.

She said her members have been prevented from participating in the Fraser River fishery, even in 2010 when a record run of 25 million sockeye returned to the Fraser River. Ms. Scarfo even questioned whether there's been an actual decline in the sockeye runs because salmon are cyclical.

Nonetheless, Scarfo said members participated because they thought the process was important, but what they saw reflected poorly on the department.

"Everything else within the Department of Fisheries and Oceans stopped during the inquiry because they reallocated all their resources to that inquiry, and it wasn't to try assist the inquiry in finding the solutions but it was basically to block," she said. "I mean so much time was spent with them just blocking access to documents."

Her biggest concern, said Scarfo, is the report will reflect what DFO wants, and that's the rearranging, reorganizing and reallocating of the commercial fishery, not rebuilding stocks.

Phil Eidsvik, who represents the B.C. Fisheries Survival Coalition and Southern Area E Gillnetters Association, said much of the evidence put before the commission showed the problem was the management of the fishery, with some exceptions.

"But as a general rule, the chaos comes from inside DFO, not from the oceans and waters and lakes and rivers."

Eidsvik said while some runs remain in good shape, others aren't, and he said the commission never answered who has been fishing and who hasn't, and what fishery was responsible for any declines.

"That was a source of frustration for us," he said.

Ernie Crey, adviser to the Sto-lo Tribal Council, hopes the report will inform the public and will help DFO better manage future fisheries.

Crey said it will be hard for the department to "side step" or "dodge" Cohen's recommendations, adding the report is relevant because offspring of the 2009 run will be returning in 2013

"Look the sockeye come back every year," he added. "And so the relevance of this report in my view is applicable in each and every summer and each and every summer Fraser River sockeye return."

Mary Ellen Walling, executive director of the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, said it's clear pressure must be taken off the wild salmon stocks and farmed salmon can help achieve that goal.

"We're seeing growing demand for salmon in the Canadian marketplace, the U.S. marketplace, the European marketplace, the Asian market," she said. "It's very important that

we be able to provide that seafood to the world population in a responsible and sustainable way.

Walling said about three weeks of testimony focused on aquaculture.

As for how many salmon will return in 2013, experts say that's a little hard to predict, even when past reruns are taken into consideration.

Mike Lapointe, chief biologist of the Pacific Salmon Commission Secretariat, said it's a little like predicting what the weather will be like next week.

"A safe bet is it will be wet, but how many days will be wet and how much rain," he said in an email response to The Canadian Press.

Lapointe said experts won't have a better idea about those returns until sometime in late August or early September 2013 when officials will have in-season estimates, and those officials won't get estimates from the spawning grounds until December 2013 or even January or February 2014.

"So forecasting is not an exact science by any means, and it is important for the public not to have false confidence," he said.

Cohen's report, which must be submitted in both official languages, originally faced a deadline of May 1, 2011, but that deadline was extended to June 30, 2012, Sept. 30, 2012, and then Oct. 29, 2012.

More Related to this Story

- [Intensive probe to test nearly 8,000 B.C. salmon for disease](#)

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/probe-shows-need-for-reform-group-says/article4717429/>

The Chronicle Herald, 28 October 2012

Uncalled-for attack

Re: "Beware of Facebook science" (Oct. 23 letter). Jon Grant's attack on Alexandra Morton is uncalled for. Of course, pictures of sea lice on store-bought salmon are not "science." Nobody has said that. One can think of this as the ends justifying the means, if that's what it takes to get the attention of the general population.

There is nothing wrong with Dr. Morton's science. She has had many papers published in reputable, peer-reviewed journals, a number co-authored with well-respected scientists. She and people like Inca Milewski (Conservation Council of New Brunswick) do us a great service when their colleagues working for government departments are effectively muzzled.

The deleterious effects of open-pen fish farming have been shown in countless scientific papers, but the salmon feedlot industry and its provincial government partners refuse to acknowledge them.

Some of the science he asks for, that which looks at “aquaculture on a factual basis” is actually provided by colleagues of his at Dalhousie who have worked with long-suffering residents of Port Mouton. He should tell us who funds his science.

Timothy Lambert, Lake Charlotte

Respected scientist

I am writing in response to the Oct. 23 letter from Jon Grant, PhD, “Beware of Facebook science.” Professor Grant should be aware that Alexandra Morton, PhD, was invited to the Maritimes to give the 5th Annual Ransom A. Myers’ Lecture in Science and Society by Dalhousie University. Her topic was “Farmed Salmon vs. Wild: The role of government, scientists and citizens.” This lectureship was no doubt in recognition of her academic credentials and international reputation as a scientist; Dr. Morton’s credentials and background clearly indicate she is far from “a self-appointed saviour whose only goal is disruption.”

As an academic myself, I am well aware of the need for scientists to disclose any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest, particularly in relationships with industry, in our public statements and writings. These disclosures should include the receipt or intention to receive any support from industry, including honoraria, contracts and consulting fees. I hope that Professor Grant took this into consideration in submitting his letter.

Richard MacLachlan, MD, Halifax

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/letters/156045-voice-of-the-people-october-28-2012>

Rob Edwards, 28 October 2012

Fish farm plant with sick workers breached US food safety rules

from [Sunday Herald](#)



A Scottish fish farming plant whose workers complained of a mystery illness has previously been reprimanded by the US [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) for “serious violations” of food safety rules on pesticides in salmon.

A processing plant at Connel in Argyll run by [Scottish Sea Farms](#) was [warned by the FDA in March](#) this year that it was in breach of US federal regulations. “Your firm’s aquaculture farmed salmon appear to be adulterated,” the FDA said, “in that the products have been prepared, packed, or held under conditions whereby they may have been rendered injurious to health.”

The company exports salmon worth £12 million a year to the US, and its Argyll plant was visited by FDA inspectors in September 2011. They were concerned about the way fish were tested for residues of three pesticides used to kill sea lice.

Last week the plant was at the centre of controversy because half its 40 staff had been sick, with [some suggesting](#) that toxic chemicals they were exposed to at work could be to blame. This was denied by Scottish Sea Farms.

But the revelation that the plant had been investigated earlier by the FDA has sparked fierce criticism from an anti-fish farming campaigner. “It’s now official - salmon farming makes people sick,” said [Don Staniford](#) from the [Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture](#).

“I’d rather eat my own vomit than eat Scottish farmed salmon. The ugly truth is that consumers should avoid farmed salmon like the plague. Cheap and nasty farmed salmon leaves a bad taste in the mouth.”

Staniford claimed it must be “stomach-churning” for staff at the Argyll plant to discover that the FDA had warned that its fish could be harmful to health. “Scottish farmed salmon, like cigarettes, should carry a government health warning,” he argued.

[Scottish Sea Farms](#), however, insisted that there was “no connection” between the FDA reprimand and the outbreak of illness. It pointed out that the FDA had concluded in August that the issues it had raised had been “adequately addressed”.

According to Rory Conn, the company's UK sales and commercial manager in Stirling, it now complied with FDA regulatory requirements. "Farmed salmon have been exported to the US by Scottish Sea Farms for many years and these exports continue with the full knowledge and approval of the US authorities," he told the Sunday Herald.

[The company said](#) that 20 staff had made management aware that they were suffering flu symptoms on 11th October 2012. They had been sent home, and advised to consult their doctors.

"Scottish Sea Farms immediately launched an investigation which included requesting a site visit from the local environmental health officer. Following a full internal investigation and an inspection by environmental health, no source for the illness was identified," the company added.

"All chemicals used for cleaning the plant were confirmed to be at acceptable and normal standards," it said. "The members of staff that were ill returned to work over the course of the next few days and processing operations continued as normal."

Scottish Sea Farms is also the supplier of salmon to [Marks and Spencer](#) in the UK. It is branded "Lochmuir salmon", a [fictional location](#) invented by the retailer to aid sales.

M&S described the warning from the FDA as a "minor issue" that had been dealt with. The illness at the Argyll plant was seasonal flu, a company spokeswoman said.

When contacted by the Sunday Herald last week, the [FDA](#) initially said that the warning to Scottish Sea Farms was "still considered open at this time". But an FDA spokeswoman later issued a correction saying that the case was now "closed".

<http://www.robedwards.com/2012/10/fish-farm-plant-with-sick-workers-breached-us-food-safety-rules.html>

Read more via "[Salmon Farming is Sickening: FDA warning for "adulterated" Scottish farmed salmon "injurious to health"](#)"

Intrafish, 26 October 2012



Marine Harvest Canada. (Foto: Marine Harvest)

Marine Harvest's Q3 results tumble

Norwegian salmon giant's quarterly earnings drop by 84%.

IntraFish Media

Published: 26 October 2012 01:18 PM

Updated: 26 October 2012 04:20 PM

Norwegian salmon giant Marine Harvest reported weak third quarter results due to lower prices, further spot price reductions in the Americas and limited benefits from sales contracts, compared to previous quarters.

The Oslo-listed company achieved an operational EBIT of NOK 73 million (€9.8 million/\$12.9 million) in the third quarter of 2012, a sharp drop of 84 percent from NOK 457 million (€61.3 million/\$81 million) in the same period of 2011.

The company reported a loss of NOK 147 million (€19.7 million/\$26.1 million) in the third quarter, compared to a profit of NOK 18 million (€2.4 million/\$3.2 million) year-on-year.

Operational revenues and other income went up slightly by 0.3 percent to NOK 3,647 million (€489 million/\$646.4 million) in the third quarter of 2012, compared to NOK 3,636 (€487.5/\$644.5) in the corresponding period in 2011.

"The results for the third quarter were negatively impacted by low market prices and limited benefit from the sales contract portfolio compared to previous quarters," said Alf-Helge Aarskog, CEO of Marine Harvest in a stock exchange statement on Friday.

Associated Articles

- Marine Harvest Canada gets BAP two-star rating
- Can Norway limit the size of a company's salmon farming operations?
- Marine Harvest to build new smolt facility in 2013
- Marine Harvest earnings drop 85%

Article in full and subscription details via: <http://www.intrafish.com/subscription/>

Read more via "[Marine Harvest's Salmonopoly Loss - Q3 \\$\\$\\$\\$\\$s drop 86%!](#)"

De Telegraaf, 25 October 2012

[Translation via [Google Translate](#)]

RIVM: Salmonella outbreak on the return – 76 new cases of infection

In total now, if known at the RIVM, 1026 people became ill after eating smoked salmon from the company Foppen in Harderwijk.

"The outbreak seems to be in decline," said Aura Timen, head of the National Coordination for Infectious Disease Control, RIVM Thursday. "We are cautiously happy," she added.

The new reports are still traced back to the same party smoked salmon, says Timing. It is in most cases about people who have been ill, but which only now became aware that it was Salmonella Thompson.

To the extent known to the RIVM, the last week no new deaths by the salmonella contamination. The death toll now stands at 3.

The RIVM suspect that the actual number of infections is higher than known among them, because there is no reporting obligation exists for a salmonella infection: these infections may not be reported to the Public Health Service. This makes it difficult to define the precise number of infections to inventory.

http://www.telegraaf.nl/binnenland/13117545/_RIVM_uitbraak_op_zijn_retour_.html

Read more via [“Death Toll Rises to Three - 950 People Infected from Farmed Salmon!”](#)



Global News Archive:

News updates are now archived and available in full – [online here!](#)

Global News Updates include the '[Salmon Wars](#)' raging against filthy feedlots in Canada, Chile, Norway, Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, United States and Australia:

28 October - “Deadline Looms”/“Mystery Illness”/“Mass Sickness”/“Not Defamatory Enough” - [online here](#)

23 October - “Halt Fish Farm Growth”/“Disease Hits Cermaq”/“Like Cancer”/“Is Truth a Tactic?”- [online here](#)

18 October - "Teen Fights Salmon Farms"/"Lawsuit Threat"/"Cermaq Appeal"/"Health Indicators Worsen" - [online here](#)

15 October - "Sicko Salmon"/"Farms & Disease"/"PR Disaster"/"Passionate Pleas" - [online here](#)

3 October - "Salmonella Outbreak"/"Activist Wins"/"Boaties Protest"/"Lynch Mob" - [online here](#)

28 September - "Judgment Day"/"Salmon Sludge Fouls Hearing"/"Students Oppose Farms" - [online here](#)

24 September - "Flotilla Protest"/"Shooting Seals Row"/"Farm Not Welcome" - [online here](#)

11 September - "Dirty Secrets"/"FishyLeaks: Toxic Toilets"/"Disease Risk" - [online here](#)

29 August - "Virus Trackers"/"Compensation Culture"/"Say No to 9 New Salmon Farms" - [online here](#)

8 August - "Legal Strategy"/"Wave of Controversy"/"IHN Virus" - [online here](#)

3 August - "Fatal Virus Detected in BC"/"Fish Farm Quarantined" - [online here](#)

31 July - "IHN Virus Spreads"/"Norway's Olympic Mascot"/"Playing With Fire" - [online here](#)

20 July - "Norwegian Fish Farm Virus Found in BC"/"ISA Confirmed"/"A Fishy Tale" - [online here](#)

17 July - "FishyLeaks"/"ISA in BC"/"Scotland's Secrets" - [online here](#)

13 July - "Aquaculture PR Wars"/"Beware Mother Nature"/"Trouble Brewing" - [online here](#)

11 July - "Salmon Wars Are Here"/"Smoking Gun"/"Canada disease cleanup" - [online here](#)

9 July - "Killer Panda"/"Quarantined Salmon to be Destroyed"/"PR War Waged" - [online here!](#)

6 July - "CFIA quarantines fish farm"/"Parasite found in Norwegian-owned salmon" - [online here!](#)

4 July - "Parasite-ridden salmon sold in BC stores"/"95% of BC salmon is BAP certified" - [online here!](#)

