

## Press Update – 31 October 2012

Watch the Cohen report finally published live on CTV News – [online here!](#)

### [“Watch Live”/“Cohen Report Tracker”/“Flying the Flag”/“Report Released Today”](#)

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

[“Watch Live: Cohen report on sockeye salmon”](#) (CTV News, 31 October)

[“Report on sockeye salmon collapse to be released”](#) (The Canadian Press/CTV News, 31 October)

[“Cohen Inquiry Tracker”](#) (Watershed Watch, 31 October)

[“B.C. sockeye collapse report to be released today”](#) (CBC News, 31 October)

[“Halloween Trick Not Treat - Scary Farmed Salmon!”](#) (Green Around the Gills, 31 October)

[“Government agency to slam Galway Bay fish farm EIS”](#) (Friends of the Irish Environment, 31 October)

[“BIM refutes suggestion it suppressed report”](#) (Galway Independent, 31 October)

[“Flying the Flag for Wild Salmon in Scotland & Ireland”](#) (Wild Salmon First/GAAIA, 31 October)

[“Salmon farms decision delayed”](#) (Marlborough Express, 31 October)

[“Tassal escapes second strike”](#) (Sky News, 31 October)

[“Release of B.C. salmon inquiry report generates debate”](#) (CBC News, 30 October)

[“Salmon farming health responsibilities should not be neglected,' warns Sernapesca”](#) (FIS, 30 October)

[“Staff, farm sites safe following weekend tsunami warning”](#) (BC Salmon Farmers Association, 29 October)

[“Tassal picked to test new ASC standards”](#) (Seafood Source, 26 October)

Including from [CBC News](#) (31 October):

“If we don't make a stand in British Columbia ... 100 years from now, we might have very few salmon runs,” said Otto Langer, a former Department of Fisheries and Oceans biologist.

Industry spokesman Stewart Hawthorn, of the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, thinks the report will find farming is not the issue. “Just going back to what the evidence said, it was quite clear that wild salmon and farmed salmon can co-exist,” Hawthorn said.

Wild salmon advocate Alexandra Morton, an intervener as well as an inquiry witness, said that view is "outrageous." "The collapse of the Fraser sockeye began exactly when those farms went on their migration route," Morton said.

Keep a track on the Cohen report via "[Cohen Inquiry Tracker](#)"

Read more background via "[Here Comes Cohen: Halloween Horror for Harper?](#)"

Elena Edwards, a campaigner for Wild Salmon First, [said](#) (31 October): "May the global voices for wild salmon unite to deliver the message to Norway that Norwegian salmon farms are not welcome and must go!"



"The flag and declaration will be travelling to Scotland and Ireland to support efforts to stop Norwegian owned salmon farms from killing wild salmon," continued Edwards. "The more names on the flag the stronger the message which will be brought to Norway next year. Your voice matters!"

Sign the Declaration and view more details via <http://www.wildsalmonfirst.org/>



From the Director of Aquaculture in Chile in [FIS](#) (30 October) ringing the warning bells on [ISA](#):

"I'm not saying that it will happen, but if we were to have a virus outbreak of infectious salmon anemia (ISA), our ability to respond effectively and promptly would be ensured by working together and continuously coordinating efforts among all the actors in salmon farming and where each one supports their part."

More background via [The New York Times](#) which reported (27 July 2011) that ISA was brought to Chile by Norwegian companies:

The New York Times

## Norwegians Concede a Role in Chilean Salmon Virus

By ALEXEI BARRIONUEVO

Published: July 27, 2011

SÃO PAULO, Brazil — A virus that has killed millions of salmon in [Chile](#) and ravaged the fish farming industry there was probably brought over from [Norway](#), a major salmon producer has acknowledged.



[Enlarge This Image](#)

Victor Ruiz Caballero/Reuters

Workers pack salmon pieces at a plant in Puerto Chacabuco in Chile in 2009.

Cermaq, a state-controlled Norwegian aquaculture company that has become one of the principal exporters of salmon from Chile, has endorsed a scientific study concluding that salmon eggs shipped from Norway to Chile are the “likely reason” for the outbreak of the virus in 2007, according to Lise Bergan, a company spokeswoman.

Read more via [“ISA: Diary of Disease Disaster”](#) and [“Fish Farmageddon: The Infectious Salmon Aquacalypse”](#)

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

gofundme The easy way to raise money online.  [Help](#) [Sign Up](#) [Donate](#)

### Salmon Disease Testing

#### Salmon Disease Testing Fund

Raised: \$36,500.00 Goal: \$100,000.00

Created by Alexandra Morton  
3021 Friends  
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*Last fall we began testing salmon in BC for European viruses spreading worldwide in Atlantic salmon farms, which import millions of eggs into places like BC an... more*

[gofundme.com/SalmonDisea](http://gofundme.com/SalmonDisea) [Like](#) 393  
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Sign a petition calling on supermarkets to stop selling disease-ridden farmed salmon – [sign online here!](#)

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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  
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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,

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

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CTV News, 31 October 2012

Watch [Sockeye salmon report to be released](#)



Dr. Craig Orr with Watershed Watch Salmon Society discusses the upcoming report into the sockeye salmon collapse.

The Canadian Press/CTV News, 31 October 2012

Report on sockeye salmon collapse to be released

VANCOUVER - Members of the public will finally have a better idea today of what caused the collapse of the Fraser River sockeye fishery.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cohen will explain publicly why the fishery failed and deliver a series of recommendations, following his two-year inquiry that heard from 160 witnesses, produced 14,000 pages of transcripts and recorded 2,100 exhibits.

Cohen submitted his [report](#) to the federal government Monday, but it won't be tabled in the House of Commons until later today.

The federal government called the inquiry in November 2009, months after only 1.4 million of an expected 10 million sockeye returned to B.C.'s rivers and streams

The inquiry began in August 2010, ended in December 2011, and tackled themes ranging from aboriginal fishing to [aquaculture](#), commercial fishing to disease, habitat management and enforcement.

The bill for the inquiry is expected to be at least \$26 million, and critics are already suggesting the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will bear the brunt of criticism.

<http://bc.ctvnews.ca/report-on-sockeye-salmon-collapse-to-be-released-1.1018399>

Watershed Watch, 31 October 2012

Cohen Report Tracker



Final Report of the Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River

The much-anticipated Cohen Commission Final Report was released to government on October 29th. It will be made public on Wednesday, October 31st at a media conference held by Justice Bruce Cohen [at 12:30 pm, the Marriot Hotel, 1128 Hastings St. West, in Vancouver.](#)

The report is expected to relay Justice Bruce Cohen's findings and recommendations regarding the causes of decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River. The Report is the result of a \$26 million process involving 18 months of public hearings, 15 technical reports, and mountains of crucial and previously confidential information.

Watershed Watch Salmon Society and the SOS Marine Conservation Foundation present the **Cohen Report Tracker**, which will provide [relevant documents](#), [news items](#) and interpretations of the final Cohen Report and its recommendations.

Watershed Watch Salmon Society's Executive Director, Dr. Craig Orr, and Fisheries Biologist, Stan Proboszcz, attended the Cohen evidentiary hearings, and also compiled the report "[Cohen Inquiry Highlights: Synopsis of Key Evidence from the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Fraser River Sockeye.](#)" They are available to assist with interpreting Cohen Inquiry evidence and the Final Report's recommendations in light of their participation and comprehensive review of the inquiry.

**To arrange an interview please contact:**

Dr. Craig Orr, Executive Director, Watershed Watch Salmon Society – 604-809-2799  
Stan Proboszcz, Fisheries Biologist, Watershed Watch Salmon Society – 604-314-2713

### **Additional Resources:**

[Cohen Aquaculture Daily](#) – updates and media coverage from the Cohen aquaculture hearings

[Cohen Inquiry Highlights: Synopsis of Key Evidence from the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Fraser River Sockeye](#)

[SOS Marine Conservation Foundation President, Eric Hobson's, submission to the Cohen Inquiry](#), December 19, 2011

### **Media Highlights:**

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

Mark Hume, Globe and Mail, October 29, 2012

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.

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.

Read the full article in the [Globe and Mail](#).

### **Read related articles:**

CBC; October 30, 2012; "[Release of B.C. salmon inquiry report generates debate](#)"

Nanaimo Daily News; October 30, 2012; "[White hopes report helps out sockeye run](#)"

Vancouver Sun; October 29, 2012; "[Salmon inquiry final report will be made public Wednesday in Ottawa](#)"

Vancouver Sun; October 29, 2012; "[B.C. salmon inquiry final report will be made public Wednesday](#)"

McLeans; October 29, 2012; "[Fraser River's missing salmon: inquiry's final report will be made public](#)"

Canadian Newswire; October 29, 2012; "[Media Alert – Commissioner Bruce Cohen to address media regarding his final report on Fraser River sockeye salmon](#)"

Watershed Watch and SOS Marine Conservation Foundation Media Advisory; October 29, 2012; "[Cohen Commission Final Report to be Made Public on October 31st – Scientists available to interpret findings of the Cohen Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River](#)"

Vancouver Sun; October 28, 2012; "[Critics blame feds for poor return of sockeye to Fraser River in 2009](#)"

News 1130; October 28, 2012; "[Report into faltering salmon stocks due out this week](#)"

Metro News; October 26, 2012; "[Deadline looms for B.C. sockeye salmon report](#)"  
Vancouver Sun; October 23, 2012; "[Salmon catch provisions extended pending fishery inquiry report](#)"

<http://www.watershed-watch.org/issues/salmon-biodiversity/the-fraser-sockeye-inquiry/cohen-report-tracker/>

CBC News, 31 October 2012

B.C. sockeye collapse report to be released today



*Many hopes are pinned on the findings of Justice Bruce Cohen's inquiry report on the decline of the Fraser River's sockeye salmon fishery. (Jonathan Hayward/Canadian Press)*

The question of what happened to nearly 10 million missing B.C. sockeye salmon might finally be answered today with [the release of a report](#) into the fishery's 2009 collapse. Only 1.4 million of the highly prized salmon returned to spawn that year.

Justice Bruce Cohen, of B.C.'s Supreme Court, has held months of hearings, collected more than three million pages of documents and heard from 179 witnesses in leading the \$25-million inquiry.

Observers are hoping the inquiry report can live up to the anticipation.

"We have to all hope, and we have to hope like hell that it's quite good and it will direct the Harper government to question where they're going," said Otto Langer, a former Department of Fisheries and Oceans biologist.

Langer, who was an intervener in the inquiry, told CBC News he believes Cohen didn't dig deep enough into alleged dysfunction at DFO, made worse, he said, by funding cuts and legislation that gutted habitat protection.

"If we don't make a stand in British Columbia ... 100 years from now, we might have very few salmon runs."

### **Fish farm question**

Cohen is also expected to weigh in on whether B.C.'s controversial fish farms have anything to do with the sockeye's unpredictability and decline since the 1990s.

Industry spokesman Stewart Hawthorn, of the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, thinks the report will find farming is not the issue.

"Just going back to what the evidence said, it was quite clear that wild salmon and farmed salmon can co-exist," Hawthorn said.

Wild salmon advocate Alexandra Morton, an intervener as well as an inquiry witness, said that view is "outrageous."

"The collapse of the Fraser sockeye began exactly when those farms went on their migration route," Morton said.

Although only a fraction of the fish that were forecast showed up in 2009, the 2010 run saw 35 million sockeye, the biggest run since 1913. About 4.5 million returned in 2011 and just 2.3 million in 2012.

The offspring of those few sockeye that made it back in 2009 are now out in the ocean and are due to comprise the run for the summer of 2013.

*With files from the CBC's Curt Petrovich*

Related Stories

[Government email makes waves at salmon inquiry](#)

[Sockeye salmon collapse due to lack of food, study says](#)

[Sockeye salmon adult populations in widespread decline](#)

External Links

[The Cohen Commission website](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2012/10/30/bc-salmon-inquiry-report.html>

Green Around the Gills, 31 October 2012

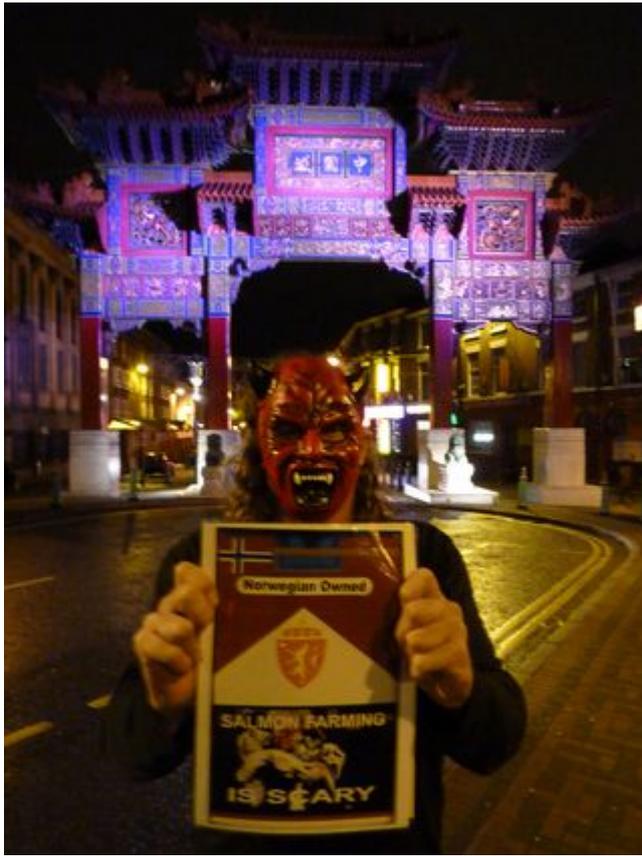
**Halloween Trick Not Treat - Scary Farmed Salmon!**



As the media in Canada prepares to feast on the Cohen Commission's final report due out [later today](#) (12.30pm Pacific Standard Time), protestors in the UK sent out a message to the [Chinese Government](#) that salmon farming is scary!



China's [insatiable appetite](#) is fuelling the expansion of salmon farming in Scotland - putting pressure on the [Scottish marine environment](#). "First minister Alex Salmond crowed that the Scottish fish-farming industry may need to double salmon production to satisfy Chinese demand," wrote Andrew Flitcroft, Editor of Trout & Salmon magazine, last year in [The Observer](#). "The implications of increasing significantly, let alone doubling, farmed salmon production in Scotland are terrifying. Surely it is recklessly irresponsible to contemplate any increase without first rectifying the dire existing problems, particularly the spread of deadly sea lice, caused to juvenile wild salmon and sea trout in the west Highlands and Islands by current production levels. There is little doubt that the situation is set to deteriorate." Read more via "[Scotland's wild salmon face 'calamity' from trade deal with China](#)"



Later this Halloween, Justice Bruce Cohen will publish his [final report](#) on the decline of wild salmon in the Fraser River. It could be one hell of a fright for the Norwegian-owned salmon farming industry and their fiendish friends in the Canadian Government. Watch the Harper House of Horror Show live via [CTV News](#)!



Read more via "[Here Comes Cohen: Halloween Horror for Harper?](#)"

Read article in full via: <http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2012/10/halloween-trick-not-treat-scary-farmed-salmon-.html>

Friends of the Irish Environment, 31 October 2012

## Government agency to slam Galway Bay fish farm EIS

Conclusions ‘not supported by any scientific investigation’

A submission by the Government agency Inland Fisheries Ireland will slam the proposed Galway Bay Fish Farm. The application for the 15,000 ton salmon farm – which would be the biggest in Europe – is being made by the semi-state agency who will then franchise the license to the highest bidder.

The ‘Submission by Inland Fisheries Ireland on the Environmental Impact Statement for a Deep Sea Fish Farm Development in Galway’ is available from the IFI website. It is highly critical of the Environmental Impact Statement [EIS].

The submission alleges that the EIS contains many statements ‘not supported’ by research and that some relevant research is noticeably absent – such as data gathered on wild salmon at the proposed site by the Celtic Voyager.

IFI points out, for example, that ‘no data is provided on the known migration routes of salmonids’ to support BIM’s claim that there is a ‘very low to zero risk of farmed salmon sea lice infecting wild salmon’, that ‘the extensive literature published on interactions of sea trout and salmon lice in Ireland are not referred to or discussed’, and that the sea lice issue is ‘a legitimate concern in this proposal’.

The submission states that in the EIS ‘Presumptions are made and conclusions drawn regarding the potential impact of sea lice from the proposed locations on wild

smolts which are not supported by any scientific investigation.’

It criticises the ‘tenuous mechanism to assist in invasive species control’ which may arise from the importation of smolts on this scale’.

It points out that the overwhelming research showing genetic modification of wild salmon are absent with the two papers referred to actually coming to the ‘opposite conclusion’ of that reported in the EIA. With ‘2.5 million mature salmon present on site annually in autumn an escape would pose a significant threat for interbreeding with the wild salmon stock’.

The submission concludes that ‘A full monitoring system should be put in place and a baseline study undertaken in advance of any farm being established’.  
In an unprecedented move, a special consultation period was set for statutory consultees in advance of the public consultation ‘as directed by the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine to further assist in the public’s assessment of the Environmental Impact Statement’.

However BIM has not included the submission on their website with the other consultees because it was received on 3 October, 2012. The statutory consultation period closed on 2 October, 2012.

IFI states that a delay was caused by the BIM delay in providing extra copies requested by the organisation. A spokesman for Friends of the Irish Environment said that the failure to make the EIS available electronically – as has now been done for the public consultation – is an infringement of the Access to Information on the Environment regulations.

The submission will be made during the current public consultation period, which ends on 12 December, 2012 but BIM claims it is under no obligation to make the submission available with the other statutory consultees as it was received after the deadline.

[Inland Fisheries Ireland submission on its website](http://www.inlandfisheriesireland.ie)

<http://www.friendsoftheirishenvironment.net/index.php?do=friendswork&action=view&id=1006>

Galway Independent, 31 October 2012

BIM refutes suggestion it suppressed report

by Conor Harrington

A war of words has erupted between Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) and the environmental lobby group, Friends of the Irish Environment over the publication of a report that is critical of the proposed Galway Bay organic salmon farm.

In a statement released yesterday, the environmental lobby group, Friends of the Irish Environment, accused BIM, the Irish Sea Fisheries Board, of suppressing a damning report on the Salmon Farm by failing to post it on the board's website.

The report, which was commissioned by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), is critical of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was carried out on Galway Bay, and claims that relevant research was ignored while other statements in the EIS are not supported by research.

“In spite of BIM's statement on its website that it was ‘making all documentation available’, the Inland Fisheries' Submission is not included amongst those from the EPA, the Galway Harbour Company, the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and An Taisce,” read the statement by Friends of the Irish Environment.

However, following a strenuous denial of these allegations by BIM, which called the allegations “spurious”, Friends of the Irish Environment then retracted the allegation that BIM had suppressed the report.

“The critical report on the proposed Galway Bay fish farm submission by Inland Fisheries Ireland was not suppressed by BIM. It was rejected by BIM as being late for the public consultation period,” read the correction issued by Friends of the Irish Environment.

Speaking to the Galway Independent yesterday, a spokesperson for BIM revealed that IFI had, in fact, missed the deadline for submissions for the statutory consultation period, which passed on 2 October, 2012.

The spokesperson said that only submissions received by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine before the deadline would be passed on to BIM.

“BIM certainly did not suppress or ignore or gloss over anything from IFI, because we never received anything. There was an eight-week consultation period that was widely flagged and they had material sent to them directly. We even sent them extra copies,” he said.

However, Friends of the Irish Environment has now said that the reason the IFI report missed the deadline was due to a delay in BIM supplying these additional copies of the Environmental Impact Statement to IFI.

The public consultation period for the Galway Bay Salmon Farm is now underway, and it closes at midnight on 12 December. The IFI submission will now be made as part of the Public Consultation period, according to Friends of the Irish Environment.

<http://galwayindependent.com/stories/item/4542/2012-44/BIM-refutes-suggestion-it-suppressed-report>

Wild Salmon First/GAAIA, 31 October 2012

Flying the Flag for Wild Salmon in Scotland & Ireland



From November 2nd to 30th, Don Staniford of [GAAIA](#) and Elena Edwards of [Wild Salmon First](#) will be touring salmon farms in Scotland and Ireland. The itinerary includes a public hearing on the Isle of Mull (5th) as well as public meetings in Ullapool (12th), Harris (15th) and Bantry Bay (23rd). Protests are planned in Edinburgh (21st) and Dublin (29th) - see below for the itinerary in full.



Communities opposed to salmon farms will be asked to sign a '[Declaration for Wild Salmon](#)' and a 'Stop Norwegian Fish Farms Killing Wild Salmon' flag which will be delivered next year to Norway. Over 70% of salmon farming production in both Ireland and Scotland are controlled by Norwegian multinationals led by the world's #1 salmon farming company Marine Harvest.

Elena Edwards, a campaigner for [Wild Salmon First](#) visiting from Canada, said: "May the global voices for wild salmon unite to deliver the message to Norway that Norwegian salmon farms are not welcome and must go!"



"The flag and declaration will be travelling to Scotland and Ireland to support efforts to stop Norwegian owned salmon farms from killing wild salmon," continued Edwards. "The more names on the flag the stronger the message which will be brought to Norway next year. Your voice matters!"



Read in full via <http://salmonfarmingkills.com/scotland-ireland-tour-november-2012>

Marlborough Express, 31 October 2012

Salmon farms decision delayed

Penny Wardle

Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson has extended the deadline for the final report and decision on whether New Zealand King Salmon can build nine new fish farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

Ms Wilkinson agreed on Monday to extend the deadline for the final report and decision till February 22, as requested by the Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry.

The original deadline was December 30, nine months after King Salmon notified its application on March 31.

An spokeswoman for the authority said the draft report and decision were still due before Christmas. These would be published on the Environmental Protection Authority website and sent to interested parties, who could comment on minor or technical aspects.

A section of the Resource Management Act allowed the minister to grant the extension, she said.

King Salmon chief executive Grant Rosewarne said he understood the draft report and decision would be issued on December 19.

"We fully understand the reason for the extension and were neutral on whether it was granted or not," he said.

"The board needs to consider massive amounts of evidence and transcripts before them."

King Salmon needed more fish to meet its supply contracts and wanted to get developments going as quickly as possible, but understood there was a process that must be followed, Mr Rosewarne said.

The authority has posted news of the extension on its website.

Dates have slipped throughout the King Salmon application, which attracted 1273 submissions.

The authority extended the original deadline and also the date for further submissions and rebuttal evidence.

The hearing, expected to run for four weeks from August 13, ended on October 18 almost eight weeks after starting on August 27.

King Salmon wants to develop eight new salmon farms in Pelorus Sound, Port Gore, Queen Charlotte Sound and Tory Channel in areas where aquaculture is prohibited.

It has also applied to farm salmon at a site in Pelorus Sound, permitted for mussel farming.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7886255/Salmon-farms-decision-delayed>

Sky News, 31 October 2012

## Tassal escapes second strike

Salmon farmer Tassal Group has escaped a 'second strike' on its remuneration report that could have led to a board spill.

At last year's annual general meeting, more than 37 per cent of proxies were voted against adoption of the remuneration report.

At the 2012 annual general meeting on Wednesday, Tassal's remuneration report was endorsed by around 97 per cent of proxies cast.

Tassal chairman Allan McCallum told shareholders that the company had performed positively in the 2011/12 financial year despite a 7.2 per cent fall in net profit to \$28.1 million.

Mr McCallum said Tassal continued to grow despite global economic uncertainty, global salmon oversupply, and an exchange rate that is affecting all domestic industries.

'While the major impact of the collapse in export prices and consequent impact on domestic wholesale prices, coupled with another hot summer were events largely outside of our control, it was pleasing to see that the company was able to react quickly, grow the domestic retail channel, and plan and implement a new harvest strategy to mitigate the impact of summer water temperatures,' he said.

Mr McCallum said one of the company's priorities from fiscal 2013 to fiscal 2015 was to maximise cash flow, having now completed its major spending on infrastructure.

Tassal chief executive Mark Ryan said Tassal needed to boost low per capita consumption of salmon in Australia, and a national marketing campaign in the current financial year was already showing benefits.

The export market remained volatile and Tassal was not forecasting any material sales in the export market.

Mr Ryan said that in the first quarter of fiscal 2013, average fish size was up 12 per cent and more fish would be put into Tassal's expanded farming area at Macquarie Harbour near Strahan in Tasmania, in the 2013 calendar year.

New products would be launched in the second quarter of fiscal 2013.

Shares in Tassal were 1.5 cents higher at \$1.445 at 1449 AEDT on Wednesday.

<http://www.skynews.com.au/businessnews/article.aspx?id=811405>

CBC News, 30 October 2012

Release of B.C. salmon inquiry report generates debate

Cohen Commission looked at collapse of 2009 Fraser River Sockeye run



*Ten million sockeye were predicted, but only about 1.5 million entered the Fraser River in 2009. (Jonathan Hayward/Canadian Press)*

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](#).

### **Cohen to speak in Vancouver**

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.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2012/10/30/bc-cohen-report-salmon.html>

Fisheries Information Service, 30 October 2012



Juan Luis Ansoleaga stresses the importance of setting objective parameters. (Photo: Sernapesca/FIS)

'Salmon farming health responsibilities should not be neglected,' warns Sernapesca



**CHILE**

**Tuesday, October 30, 2012, 04:30 (GMT + 9)**

The director of the [National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service](#) (Sernapesca), Juan Luis Ansoleaga, explained that the salmon industry is in good condition.

However, he warned that the industrial sector and authorities "must not neglect our responsibilities" in the salmon farming health area.

Ansoleaga stressed, "We are concerned about the beginning of the period of warm temperatures."

"For this reason, some diseases affecting salmon can appear or reappear after having been dormant for the winter," said the authority.

These risks recommend more frequent health inspections of the salmon farms and a greater rigour in the information that entrepreneurs of the sector usually deliver to the Service regarding the conditions under which they are operating their farms.

To Ansoleaga, this background "is extremely important because what Sernapesca does is to integrate information and set objective parameters that ultimately, are useful for the activity of the entrepreneurs of the sector," the Service reported in a press release.

"I'm not saying that it will happen, but if we were to have a virus outbreak of infectious salmon anemia (ISA), our ability to respond effectively and promptly would be ensured by working together and continuously coordinating efforts among all the actors in salmon farming and where each one supports their part," continued the national director of Sernapesca.

"As the saying goes, a chain is not stronger than its weakest link. And then what we have to do is a string with all its links robustly built," he said.

Meanwhile, by 29 October the Chilean government intends to propose more than 50 indications in matters relating to the Fisheries Bill in the Senate.

This was announced by the head of the [Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) (Subpesca), Pablo Galilea, and the Economy Minister Pablo Longueira.

A few days ago, the Senate Chamber generally approved the bill, which aims to achieve the sustainability of fisheries resources by a large majority.

The initiative was to be moved to the Fisheries Committee of the Upper House to be analyzed in its particular items.

"We have made every effort to tour the country's fishing coves and explain the contents of this act," Longueira stated.

**Related article:**

- [Fisheries Act generates different positions in government and industry](#)

*By Analia Murias*  
[editorial@fis.com](mailto:editorial@fis.com)  
[www.fis.com](http://www.fis.com)

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=56476&ndb=1&df=0>

BC Salmon Farmers Association, 29 October 2012

Staff, farm sites safe following weekend tsunami warning

Preplanning, rapid communication and proactive measures protected farmers and fish this weekend as BC's salmon farmers responded quickly to a tsunami warning for Vancouver Island's west coast.

Following the 7.7 magnitude earthquake near Haida-Gwaii Saturday, salmon farmers voluntarily rolled out emergency preparedness protocols and moved staff from approximately 20 salmon farm sites located in the waters off the coast of British Columbia to predetermined safe locations.

All staff members are safe and no damage has been reported on any farm sites.

"Ensuring that our staff and farms are safe is of critical importance to our farmers," said Mary Ellen Walling, Executive Director, BC Salmon Farmers Association. "The proactive measures taken this weekend are an example of the high level of care we take to farm responsibly in the ocean."

Removing staff from farms following this notification is part of our farmers' emergency response protocol, which includes planned evacuation routes and procedures, tsunami kits and post-event farm checks.

BC'S salmon farms are engineered to a very high standard to ensure they can withstand significant weather events.

Following this weekend's events, members of the BC Salmon Farmers Association will provide feedback on the notification process and review their own responses as part of their focus to continuously improve procedures.

The BCSFA represents salmon farm companies and those who supply services and supplies to the industry. Salmon-farming provides for 6,000 direct and indirect jobs while contributing \$800-million to the provincial economy each year.

For more information visit [www.salmonfarmers.org](http://www.salmonfarmers.org)

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Seafood Source, 26 October 2012

Tassal picked to test new ASC standards

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) has chosen Australian salmon company Tassal to help test new international performance standards, as part of a final ASC review.

The testing will take place on Tassal's farms in Macquarie Harbor on the west coast of Tasmania.

"We are delighted to welcome Tassal as one of ASC's valued salmon standards pilot partners. Having Tassal on board will bring valuable experience to the process," said ASC CEO Chris Ninnes. "The pilots are an important exercise to ensure the future quality and consistency of the audits against the ASC standards."

The ASC, together with the World Wildlife Fund, initiated and coordinated the standards with input from over 2,000 international stakeholders.

"This will see the highest international standards of responsible aquaculture tested in Australian waters by one of the leaders in the aquaculture industry," said Gilly Llewellyn, WWF-Australia's director of conservation. "This is a progressive move by Tassal and an important first step toward full ASC certification for all its operations in the future. The project will also greatly assist in creating effective ASC standards for responsible aquaculture."

Tassal, in a statement, noted it is the only Australian company being asked to take part in the pilot study.

"Our sustainability focus and the way we have reported our performance has significantly improved over the past 12 months," said Linda Sams, Tassal chief sustainability officer. "It is very gratifying for Tassal to assist with the final stage of this important development work. Not only will Tassal be providing practical feedback to further enhance the ASC's draft audit manuals, we will be able to use the pilot audits to develop an understanding of how our business practices relate to the relevant ASC standard."

<http://www.seafoodsource.com/newsarticledetail.aspx?id=18238>

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### 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:

**30 October - "Here Comes Cohen!"/"Probe Shows Need for Reform"/"Uncalled-for Attack"/"Respected Scientist" - [online here](#)**

**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!](#)**

