

# Watershed Watch Salmon Society

## 2007 Annual Report



*Watershed Watch Salmon Society's mission is to catalyze efforts to protect and restore BC's precious wild salmon. Through scientific expertise, strategic alliances, outreach programs, and innovative projects, Watershed Watch is at the forefront in sounding the alarm on threats to salmon, and in prompting action to help them.*

## History

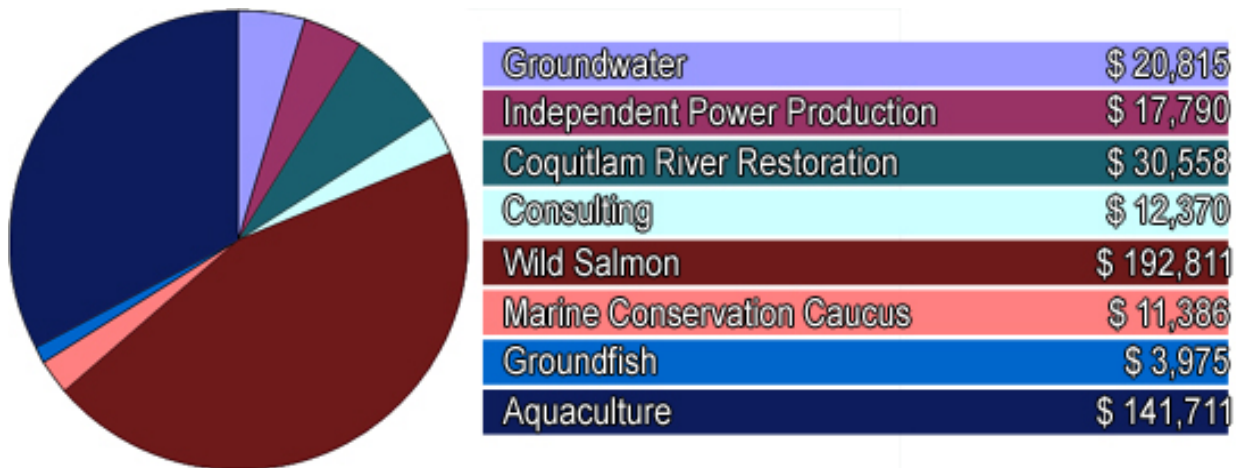
Watershed Watch Salmon Society was formed in 1998 by salmon advocates who had been active as analysts, writers, editors and ecologists for more than a decade. Watershed Watch believes that real changes in attitude and behaviour are based on understanding, and that significant understanding requires a broad and deep appreciation of a wide range of habitat, harvest, and management issues.

Thanks to many years of experience working on these issues and with government agencies, Watershed Watch is uniquely positioned to identify and act on existing and emerging threats to wild salmon.

Canadians know that BC's wild salmon face an uncertain future, and that wild salmon have never been more threatened by pollution, habitat loss, overfishing, and unsustainable aquaculture practices. Wild salmon need help. Make your voice count by joining with Watershed Watch to protect wild salmon.

Please visit our website at [www.watershed-watch.org](http://www.watershed-watch.org) to be added to our contact list and receive our e-newsletter by email.

## Financial Summary

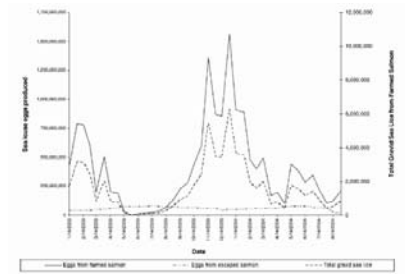


## Protecting Wild Salmon from Aquaculture Threats

As currently practised, salmon aquaculture (fish farming) is a major threat to wild salmon—world-wide. Watershed Watch devotes much of its efforts in BC catalyzing action on this threat, is engaged in major education and outreach programs, and directly negotiates with industry to reduce sea lice impacts. As a founding member of the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform, Watershed Watch also assists various First Nations to understand and minimize salmon farming impacts.

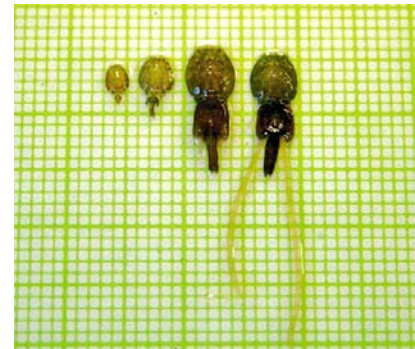
## Billions of Eggs

Watershed Watch's executive director's peer-reviewed paper, *Estimated Sea Louse Egg Production from Marine Harvest Canada Farmed Atlantic Salmon in the Broughton Archipelago, British Columbia, 2003-2004*, published in 2007 in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, provided the first-ever overview of sea lice production on Canadian salmon farms, and showed that billions of sea lice eggs are released annually from Broughton Archipelago farms.



## Supporting Aquaculture Research

As an NSERC Industrial Sponsor of Simon Fraser University Ph.D. candidate Brendan Connors, and as a thesis committee member, Watershed Watch supports important research into interactions involving wild salmon, sea lice and farmed salmon.



## Poster Presentation

The scientific poster *Estimated Sea Louse Egg Production from Farmed Salmon: Implications for Proposed Organic Standards* was presented at the National Organic Standards (NOSB) Organic Aquaculture Symposium in Washington, DC on November 27, 2007.

## Speaking for the Salmon

Watershed Watch helped organize Simon Fraser University's 2007 Speaking for the Salmon workshop *Encouraging Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Salmon Aquaculture* which examined recommendations that could reduce aquaculture impacts on wild salmon stocks.



## Collaborative Research

A considerable amount of effort was invested in 2007 attempting to launch collaborative research with Marine Harvest Canada to examine sources and impacts of sea lice. Proposals were to be examined prior to the 2008 out-migration of juvenile wild salmon.

## Restoring Coquitlam River Sockeye

Salmon need healthy rivers to thrive and survive, and healthy rivers require intact habitat, free passage, and adequate flows of clean water. A five-year cooperative effort with BC Hydro Corporation has produced a promise of more water and millions of dollars for wild salmon. Watershed Watch continues to help direct a \$2 million BC Hydro initiative aimed at restoring extirpated sockeye salmon to the Coquitlam River, and continues to work with First Nations on water flow and other environmental issues. Coquitlam literally means "Red Fish Up the River".

Upriver migrating sockeye have long been known as red fish, or red salmon--in recognition of their prespawning colour.

### ***Salmon Return to the Coquitlam***

For the first time in more than a century, two salmon returned to the Coquitlam River in 2007. These two salmon, both egg-laden females, died below the dam that originally blocked fish from passing. As 2007 wound down, the Coquitlam Salmon Restoration Program was close to agreeing on a program in future years in which any returning sockeye will be trucked past the dam to spawn in Coquitlam Lake—a rare achievement in salmon restoration.



### ***Kwikwetlem Open House***

As an environmental advisor to the Kwikwetlem First Nation, Watershed Watch helped the Kwikwetlem host an open house in April 2007 to let people know about Kwikwetlem history and the extensive work being done to restore the Coquitlam River.



## **Groundwater Management**

Groundwater is an important and often essential part of wild salmon habitat. Yet, groundwater use is almost entirely unregulated in British Columbia, groundwater management rarely considers wild salmon, and British Columbia's water policy focuses mainly on surface water. The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation provided support for a number of Watershed Watch efforts in 2007.

### ***Speaking for the Salmon***

Watershed Watch led the organizing and hosting of Simon Fraser University's *Groundwater and Salmon: Panel Discussion on Groundwater and Groundwater Legislation in BC* in March 2007.

### ***Review of Groundwater Policy***

Randy Christensen of Sierra Legal Defence (now Ecojustice) prepared a Review of British Columbia's Groundwater Regulatory Regime: Current Practices and Options for Watershed Watch.



## Case Studies

Two case studies of municipal groundwater management plans added to background materials for the Speaking for the Salmon panel on groundwater. *The Nicola Water Use Management Plan* and the *Township of Langley Groundwater Management* case studies were prepared by Tanis Douglas for Watershed Watch.

## Groundwater Presentation

Craig Orr travelled to Calgary to present on *Salmon interactions, impacts and implications* at the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation's symposium *Land Use and Watershed Management in Alberta and Beyond*.

## Assessing the Impacts of Run-of-River IPPs

'Run-of-river' hydropower is promoted in British Columbia and elsewhere as an environmentally-friendly solution to humanity's ever-increasing energy demands. The rush to implement large-scale run-of-river projects (sometimes called Independent Power Producer, or, IPP projects) has prompted queries and debate about what these projects portend for people and the environment.

Watershed Watch Salmon Society recognized the need to answer some of the many questions being raised on run-of-river hydroelectric development in British Columbia and with funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, produced two reports. Both include a "Top 10 List of Considerations" to help concerned citizens assess the sustainability of hydro projects (proposed or built) in their communities. Watershed Watch was also invited to speak on these reports at the annual meeting of the Independent Power Producers Association.

## Citizen's Guide

Run-of-River Hydropower in BC: A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Approvals, Impacts, and Sustainability of Independent Power Projects, answers 16 questions on the nature, benefits, and costs of 'green' hydropower.



## Technical Report

The *Citizen's Guide* findings, and the complex and disjointed approval process for run-of-river projects, are more fully described in a second, technical document, *"Green" Hydro Power: Understanding Impacts, Approvals, and Sustainability of Run-of-River Independent Power Projects in British Columbia*.



## Promoting Sustainable Fishing

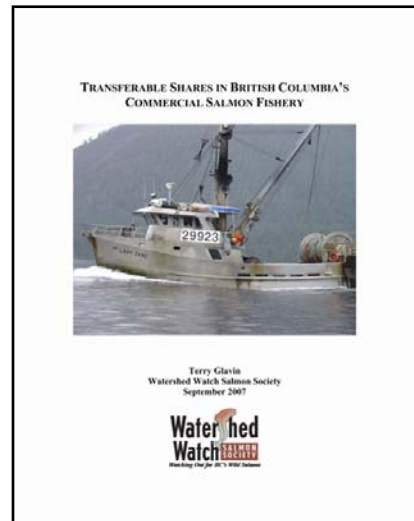
Salmon have long been threatened by unsustainable harvesting practices. Watershed Watch developed extensive expertise in harvest reform and selective harvest techniques through years of intense and detailed association with First Nations and the federal government. Watershed Watch currently promotes sustainable salmon harvesting practices as a conservation sector representative on the federal government's "South Coast Integrated Harvest Planning Committee" and the Fraser River Panel.

### *Transferable Shares*

Watershed Watch's report *Transferable Shares in British Columbia's Commercial Salmon Fishery* (September 2007) encourages debate in industry, in fisheries management circles, and among members of the concerned public, in the hopes of promoting a transition in the West Coast salmon fishery to more sustainable harvesting.

### *Advancing the WSP*

With support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Watershed Watch works to advance the Wild Salmon Policy on several fronts, including sponsoring Simon Fraser University graduate student Doug Braun's investigation on the effects of physical habitat characteristics on sockeye salmon population dynamics.



### *Marine Conservation Caucus*

Watershed Watch serves as both Chair and Secretariat of the Marine Conservation Caucus—an official consultation body of the conservation sector with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. For more information on the MCC, see [www.mccpacific.org](http://www.mccpacific.org).

### *Monitoring and Compliance*

Craig Orr participated as an observer in the October 25, 2007 Fraser River commercial gillnet fishery for chum salmon. The Salmon Fishery Monitoring and Compliance Team formed through the Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum process of DFO has a mission to increase inter-sectoral and public confidence in the fairness, transparency and reliability of monitoring and compliance processes in BC salmon fisheries.

