

November 6, 2019

via email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca, jagmeet.singh@parl.gc.ca, elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Jagmeet Singh, M.P., Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
The Honourable Elizabeth May, M.P., Green Party of Canada

Dear Justin Trudeau, Jagmeet Singh and Elizabeth May,

As the dust settles on another federal election, we commend you for your hard fought campaigns and we look forward to all of the elected parliament working together to bring prompt and smart governance to Canada.

We applaud your commitments regarding transitioning British Columbia's open net-pen salmon farming industry from our coastal waters to land-based closed containment. Given the short timelines for achieving this objective, we believe it is paramount that you take immediate and cooperative action to start removing open-net salmon farms from British Columbia's coastal waters as soon as possible.

Canadians deserve a clear and concise commitment from you to move forward with this promise. We ask that the coming mandate letters from the Prime Minister to the Ministers responsible for managing aquaculture in Canada's waters reflect this commitment.

Prime Minister Trudeau, can you confirm to act on this promise to Canadians as soon as possible and instruct your Ministers to follow through with this?

Mr. Singh and Ms. May, can you confirm that you and your elected representatives will work with this new government to follow through on your own stated commitments during this past election campaign to do likewise?

The scientific literature clearly demonstrates that open net-pen salmon farms are a significant threat to wild salmon¹. These salmon farms breed and spread parasites and disease agents in

¹ Morton, A and R. Routledge. 2016. Risk and precaution: salmon farming. Marine Policy 74: 205-212
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X16304390>

coastal waters, which can result in wild salmonid population declines^{2,3}. This year, many regions of B.C. saw disastrously low wild salmon returns⁴. There has never been a more urgent moment to remove open net-pen salmon farms to provide relief to wild salmon. The science is clear and we hope your actions moving forward will show your convictions to stand by this promise to Canadians.

Wild salmon are elemental to who we are as Canadians on this coast. They have nourished our communities, economies, and cultures (especially First Nations people) for thousands of years. Salmon feed our wildlife and fertilize our forests, provide food security in an uncertain world, support thousands of jobs, bring us together around fishing and feasts, and teach us about the cycle of life.

At this pivotal time, wild salmon need protection. Removing open net pen salmon farms as soon as possible will give them a fighting chance. We stand ready as concerned citizens to help you and your government implement just such a plan.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Stan Proboszcz, Science Advisor, Watershed Watch Salmon Society

Karen Wristen, Executive Director, Living Oceans Society

Christianne Wilhelmson, Executive Director, Georgia Strait Alliance

Alexandra Morton, Independent Biologist

Jay Ritchlin, Director General Western Canada, David Suzuki Foundation

Tony Allard, Chairman, Wild Salmon Forever

² Ford, J. and R. Myers. 2008. A global assessment of salmon aquaculture impacts on wild salmonids. PLOS Biology 6: e33. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.0060033>

³ Krkosek et al. 2007. Declining wild salmon populations in relation to parasites from farm salmon. Science 318:1772-1775. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/318/5857/1772>

⁴ Bennet, N. 2019. Disastrous year for B.C. sockeye salmon returns predicted. Business in Vancouver. <https://biv.com/article/2019/08/disastrous-year-sockeye-salmon-returns-predicted>