

Nature's Voice

THE PERIODICAL NEWSLETTER FROM BCnature

TO KNOW NATURE AND TO KEEP IT WORTH KNOWING

BC Nature cautiously optimistic following DFO Minister's fish farm decision



MEDIA RELEASE

The Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, released an important pair of decisions on June 22 concerning the future of open net pen salmon farms in BC waters. BC Nature, an umbrella organization representing more than 6,000 members of more than 50 affiliated naturalist clubs, has had a long-term interest in the health of wild Pacific

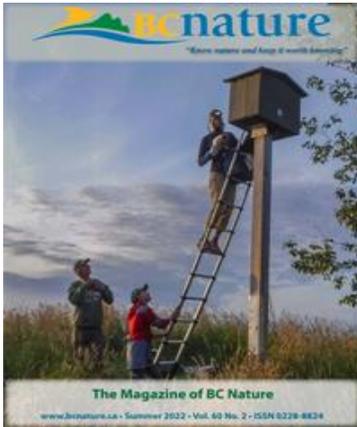
salmon populations impacted by this industry and is cautiously optimistic that the Minister's decision is an important step in getting these farms out of the ocean and onto land, where they belong.

Seventy-nine farms had their licences renewed for a two-year term, instead of the usual six-year term. This will enable one complete grow-out cycle for the fish, but no re-stocking will be allowed until a decision is reached, following consultation with all affected parties concerning the future of BC's aquaculture industry.

Not included in that number are the 19 net pen operations in the Discovery Islands, on the migration route of the critically endangered Fraser River sockeye salmon. These operations were shut down on order of the previous Minister, but the companies challenged this decision in court and won, forcing the Minister to reconsider after adequate consultation. She will now complete this consultation process and make a final decision on these farms in January.

We appreciate that to make her orders immune to further legal challenges, Minister Murray must conduct adequate consultation. We remain hopeful that following this, her final decisions will be to permanently close the Discovery Islands to salmon farms prior to next spring's wild salmon outmigration, close all the remaining farms in 2024, and help the industry transition to fully closed containment by 2025, as promised in the Liberal's election platform. This is absolutely essential to protect wild salmon from parasites and diseases emanating from the farms, and aid in the recovery of BC's wild salmon stocks. The science on this is very clear.

BCnature 2022 Summer Magazine



BCnature Summer 2022 magazine should be in your mailboxes and email inboxes now.

Please email BC Nature if you wish to switch your version to the e-version. We are a membership of @6000 and would really appreciate help in switching over to the e-version. It is our single largest cost center with an annual cost of more than \$35,000.00 for print and postage costs. We currently have 500 of our members on this list and would really like to grow that number! Thank you for considering the switch!

Welcome to Capitol Hill Tree Keepers Society



We wish to welcome our 56th Nature organization to the Federation. The Capitol Hill Tree Keepers Society is a start up club based in North Burnaby. They will be working fervently the Capitol Hill Conservation Area in North Burnaby.

Volunteers will be working on everything from invasive species control, tree planting, education on the flora and fauna in their area to adapting their conservation area from fire risk. If you live in this area and would like to get involved with this organization, please contact:

Welcome!



The Soul of the Fraser

A local documentary producer - NERV Productions takes you on a journey of the Fraser Estuary. The [link](#) in this notice is for the trailer.

Where millions of birds and billions of fish once thrived, now mere thousands struggle to co-exist with the unregulated growth of Metro-Vancouver in British Columbia, Canada. Local filmmakers Brendan Chu and Chris Jenkins explore the Fraser Estuary, the original river delta beneath the urban sprawl of Vancouver.

To solve the mysteries of this forgotten land, they meet with environmental activists, First Nations leaders, and specialized biologists. Led by indigenous wisdom and western studies, the filmmakers witness beautiful animals and mysterious sights. Soon, they see the “death of a thousand cuts” this once beautiful land has suffered through.

A new threat looms over the Fraser Estuary; in the migratory path of the fish and birds. Various concerned experts protest; ex-government workers reveal how environmental management has slipped into the hands of corporations and indigenous representatives describe how their stewardship is ignored by the decision makers of industry.

The filmmakers desire to use this film to bring the soul back to the Fraser; through educating the local public about the ecological history they walk on.

There will be full screening at screenings at **BCIT** on Sept 29, and at the **Beaty Biodiversity Museum at UBC** on Nov 17. Full Youtube screening will be available sometime in late July-August.

Serenading Seabirds With Sounds of Home



Courtesy of Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Although this article is from Oregon's old-growth forests, we have also have Marble Murrelets on our BC Coast. A good read!

Marbled Murrelets are seabirds that nest in a surprising locale: ancient conifer stands in the Pacific Northwest. Scientists are experimenting with a conservation technique known as social attraction—in this case, using audio playback of murrelet sounds—to gauge whether [these endangered alcids can be attracted to prime nesting habitat](#) deep in Oregon's old-growth forests.

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