

500-kilometre walk protests salmon farms

Demonstrators rally to raise awareness of penned fish farms' impact on wild stocks

BY KATIE DEROSA AND JUDITH LAVOIE, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE MAY 10, 2010



Protesters walk down Government Street in Victoria this weekend. Biologist and activist Alexandra Morton started the Get Out Migration walk April 23 at the northern tip of Vancouver Island and ended with 1,000 people at the B.C. legislature Saturday.

Photograph by: Adrian Lam, Canwest News Service, Canwest News Service

Nearly 1,000 people crowded Government Street on Saturday at the end of a 500-kilometre walk to protest fish farms, which participants blame for killing B.C.'s wild salmon.

Surveying the crowd, the largest local rally yet in support of protecting wild salmon runs, biologist and activist Alexandra Morton said it's proof the cause has turned mainstream.

"I was hoping for this," said Morton, who walked from Sointula on the northern tip of Vancouver Island to Victoria in what she called the Get Out Migration campaign. The final leg was from Centennial Square to the legislature Saturday.

"The government is very deaf and they need [to hear from] a lot of people," she said. "We're trying to save something people love and it's amazing it's been so difficult."

Morton noted that despite the growing opposition to fish farms -- which she argues spread sea lice to wild salmon -- "not a single farm has moved."

Self-described lifelong fisherman Bob Cameron, 86, said he had good reason for joining the march.

"We've fished all up and down the island," said Cameron, who was joined by his son Douglas, 58, "and we'd catch a nice big chinook with three or four lice on it. Now, if you can catch one, it's loaded with lice and the fish is almost dead."

Douglas Cameron pointed to the massive salmon depletion seen on the Fraser River last year -- when

