

Beyond reason

Stan Proboszcz, M.Sc.

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All level-headed Canadians know leaving food out while camping isn't smart. Not only will you lose your dinner, but you'll encourage animals to return for easy meals, and by doing so you endanger them and yourself. Provincial and National wilderness parks across Canada provide steel containers in order to prevent wildlife from accessing food and refuse for the good of all--problem solved. The ocean too, is an underwater wilderness filled with a wealth of animals - all looking for a free lunch. Hence, sticking tonnes of tasty free food in some of our most remote wild areas could cause problems, and I think everyone will agree open-net salmon farms have problems.

Recently, concerns have sprung up about wild fish being attracted to farms. However, wild fish aren't the only animals being depleted by farms. My estimation from a couple reports reveals over 5,947 harbour seals and 1,057 sea lions were shot trying to access farms in BC between 1989 and 2008. Possibly even more shocking, in 2008 a humpback whale became entangled in a farm.

It's beyond reason why government allowed the open-net industry into BC waters in the first place. Even more foolish, DFO has plans to increase salmon farming production by 35% from 2008 numbers by the year 2013, which includes a large increase in BC. Science and reason don't support open net-cage farming as a sustainable practice, and as a result BC clearly needs to support the transition of these farms into technologies that separate them from the wilderness.

This transition could only benefit BC's fish and wildlife.

Stan Proboszcz, M.Sc.,

Fisheries Biologist,

Watershed Watch Salmon Society

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