

# Wilderness Tourism Association

BRITISH COLUMBIA | CANADA



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## **Pacific Aquaculture Regulations Inadequate to protect wild salmon Groups call on Fisheries Minister to revise regulations**

**December, 2010 Cumberland, BC** – The BC Wilderness Tourism Association and other concerned wild salmon advocacy groups are calling on the Federal government to revise the new Pacific Aquaculture Regulations to protect wild salmon.

In a letter sent to Minister Gail Shea yesterday, the groups have asked DFO to revise the regulations, which were recently published in the *Canada Gazette* as the Federal government assumed responsibility for aquaculture in British Columbia. The required changes include a significant decrease in the sea lice treatment trigger for sea lice on fish farms, the implementation of a wild salmon monitoring program, and implementing full transparency on monitoring programs and salmon farming operations. See attached letter for full recommendations.

“Stronger measures need to be in place to protect the wild salmon runs,” said Brian Gunn, president of the BC Wilderness Tourism Association. “The finfish aquaculture regulations, in particular the Conditions of License, which are the part of the regulations that address most of the operational issues of fish farming, are inadequate to protect wild salmon. They do not address the impacts that open net cage salmon farms have on the wild salmon stocks. For example, there are no requirements in the current federal regulations for the salmon farming industry to monitor the health of juvenile wild salmon for impacts due to disease and sea lice around farms during their out migration.”

“We desperately need government to stand up and take the protection wild salmon seriously,” said Gunn. “The recommended changes set out in the letter are the minimum actions that are required to protect the most threatened wild salmon stocks through their annual migratory periods. The health and survival of wild salmon, and the people, economies and environment on the west coast that depend on them are counting on the Federal government.”

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For more information please contact Evan Loveless with the BC Wilderness Tourism Association at: [evan@wilderness-tourism.bc.ca](mailto:evan@wilderness-tourism.bc.ca) or 250-336-2862