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## TURNING OF THE TIDE FALL 2010, Issue 10

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **You are Invited to Join the Paddle for Wild Salmon!**

Last May, Fraser Riverkeeper marched and rallied with over 5,000 others in Victoria, BC. Alexandra Morton had led the [migration](#) from the Ahta River down to Victoria. This migration, which upholds the protection of wild salmon, continues in [October 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> with a paddle](#) -- sure to draw hundreds if not thousands of people chiming in to celebrate wild salmon, an incredible and unique resource to British Columbia. We invite you to join the [Paddle for Wild Salmon](#) and participate, along with Fraser Riverkeeper, in what will surely be a historic gathering to ensure justice for wild salmon. There is plenty of room left, so come on out with your own paddle boat and join the migration, or [sign up](#) to get a spot on a voyager canoe! You can paddle the whole journey or join just one leg. On October 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a [Mass Gathering at Jericho Beach](#) to welcome all the paddlers. On the 25<sup>th</sup> will be a [march and rally in Vancouver](#).

### INTERVENTIONS

#### **Great Summer for Salmon, and the Cohen Commission Moves Forward**

The summer of 2010 saw a miraculous 34 million Fraser sockeye salmon returning to the river, a record since 1934. Last year, we saw just the opposite: only 1.5 million returning after a predicted 10-12 million. We must remember that salmon populations have been dwindling for the last two decades. We continue to fight for this precious resource, which has been an integral part of life and culture in British Columbia as well as a vital part of the natural ecosystems found in BC--including being a prominent staple in the diet of bears, seabirds, wolves, and other marine and land wildlife. Click [here](#) for more about the judicial inquiry, on which Fraser Riverkeeper has standing. The Cohen Commission was established in November of last year in order to investigate and report on the decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River.

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### **Canadian Organic Aquaculture Standard Opposition**

Fraser Riverkeeper joined over 40 organizations from across Canada and the U.S. and submitted a [joint letter](#) opposing the Canada General Standards Board (CGSB) proposed organic standards that allow antibiotic and chemical treatments of farmed fish. The signatories reflect a broad cross section of the scientific, conservation, consumer, and organic communities and represent a collective membership of over one million people. Read the [CGSB Organics Release](#).

### **PROGRAMS**

#### **Launch of Riverwatcher Program**

Fraser Riverkeeper is assembling and activating a vast team of committed river stewards, or Riverwatchers, along the river and across the watershed, to join our full-time Riverkeeper in our pursuit of a clean, healthy river system. Paddlers, fishermen, boaters, and water enthusiasts will be called to action, will wear their Riverwatcher patches, and will become part of a network of eyes and ears for the water. While there can only be one designated Riverkeeper, there are countless individuals who desire to ensure that our waters are safe to swim, drink, and fish. FRK will be handing out Rivewatcher patches during the [Paddle for Wild Salmon](#).

#### **Stand Up for Pacific Salmon (SUPS) Gains Momentum**

Fraser Riverkeeper launched [Stand Up for Pacific Salmon](#) (SUPS) at the [Get Out Migration](#) in May 2010, in Victoria. The SUPS consumer campaign continued with a movie night at the [Mission Film Festival](#) and a letter-writing action at our recent [Jack Johnson concert](#). SUPS aims to educate consumers about the dangers of farmed net-pen Atlantic salmon, and seeks to inform and encourage retailers to stop stocking their shelves with net-pen farmed salmon through a targeted letter-writing campaign to the "big six" retailers: Costco, Safeway, Tesco, Kroger, SuperValu, and Trader Joe's.

#### **Pollution Hotline Expands**

Our pollution hotline is becoming more active, and we want you to help it grow. Whenever you're out on the river, keep a close eye and ear out for pollution, whether it's oil, dredging or dumping, illegal fills, hazmat, stormwater overflows, sewage, or other sources. Give us a call at our toll-free number, 1-888-5-KEEPER (553-3737). Riverkeeper Doug Chapman has a long history in environmental law in Canada and can help for investigatory cases. We can also help direct you to the appropriate office to report dumping and other problems.

### **RECENT EVENTS**

#### **TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup a Great Success**

To celebrate World Rivers Day, Fraser Riverkeeper--the Site Coordinator--and about 50 volunteers [cleaned up Stanley Park's Second Beach](#) and the areas around it on September 25th. Each year, about 75,000 people take action to restore a local

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shoreline on World River's Day. Fraser Riverkeeper collected several bags of trash, and found some interesting pollution, such as a 55-gallon drum, a sleeping bag, fish traps, toys, appliances, condoms, and tent poles. We also collected over 450 cigarette butts.

### **All At Once: Jack Johnson Tour**

Fraser Riverkeeper wishes to thank Jack Johnson for choosing Fraser Riverkeeper as its partnering non-profit organization to [take part](#) in his October 1 concert at Rogers Arena. FRK participated in his [All at Once](#) community action and 2010 *To the Sea* tour to promote environmental action and support sustainable local food systems. At the Village Green, before Johnson went on stage, Fraser Riverkeeper led a [SUPS letter-writing campaign](#). Thanks to everyone who donated to us this summer in the concert ticket raffle, and to Jack Johnson for matching our donations to help support our rights to safely swim, drink, and fish.

### **Mission Film Festival Opening Night Draws Huge Crowd**

Fraser Riverkeeper [maintained a booth](#) at the [Mission Film Festival](#) the weekend of October 1-3, at Heritage Park Center in Mission, BC. The theme of the weekend focused on *Communities in Action*; FRK once again led its SUPS letter-writing campaign to call for a change from net-pen farming to more sustainable closed-containment systems in salmon farming. The film festival inspired the community with over 30 documentaries, sharing over 70 awards among them.

### **NEW PARTNERS**

#### **Janet Helm Partnership Announced**

One of Janet Helm's mottos is that to make a difference, you have to give to others. It was with this idea that she [joined in partnership](#) with Fraser Riverkeeper to donate 2% of her sales of reusable water bottles, carafes and glasses, and rain barrels. We celebrated with Janet at the H2O+ store on Robson Street, September 22.