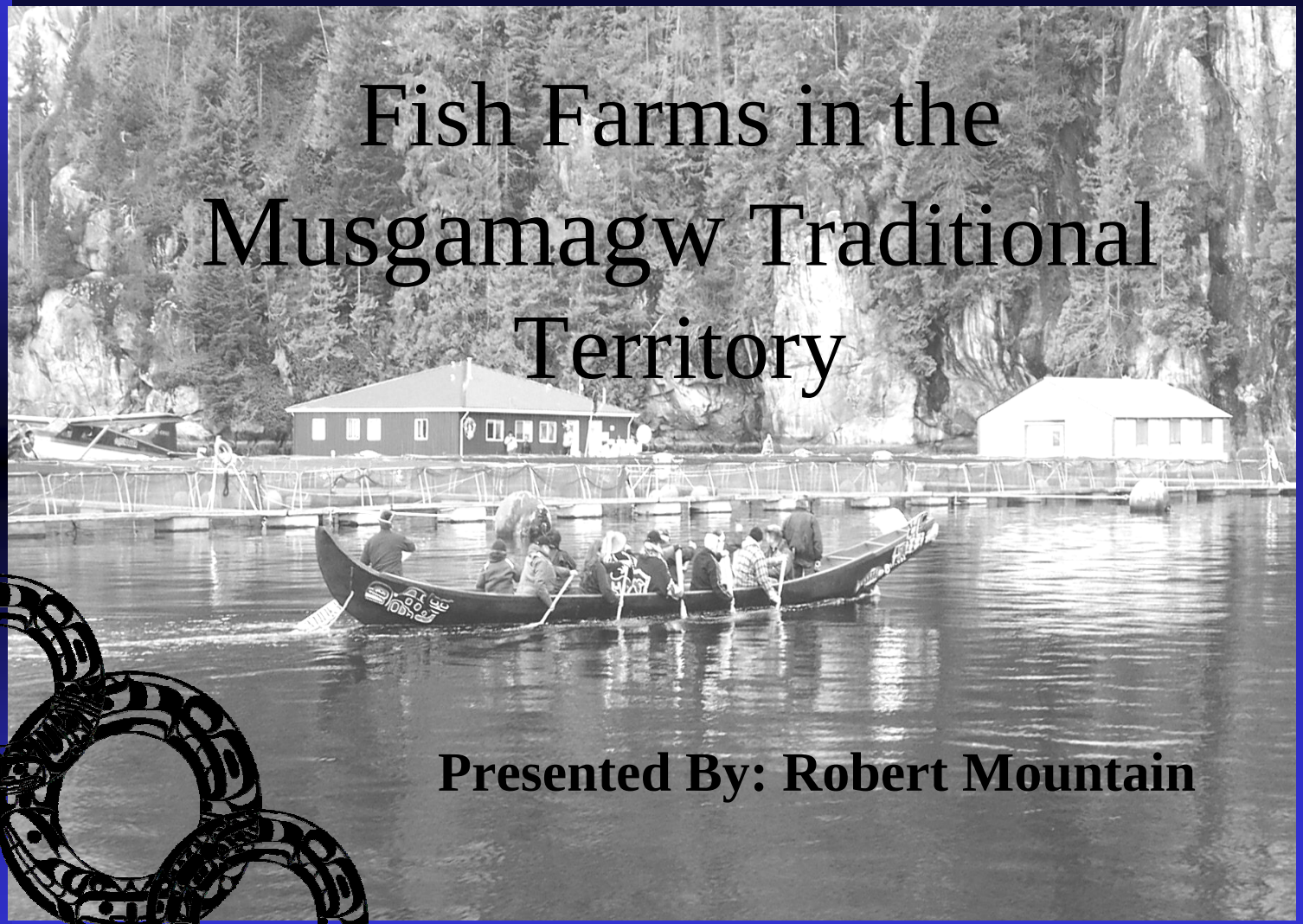
Fish Farms in the Musgamagw Traditional Territory



Presented By: Robert Mountain

Local Steward Coordinator: Robert Mountain

The MTTC has 5 members nations

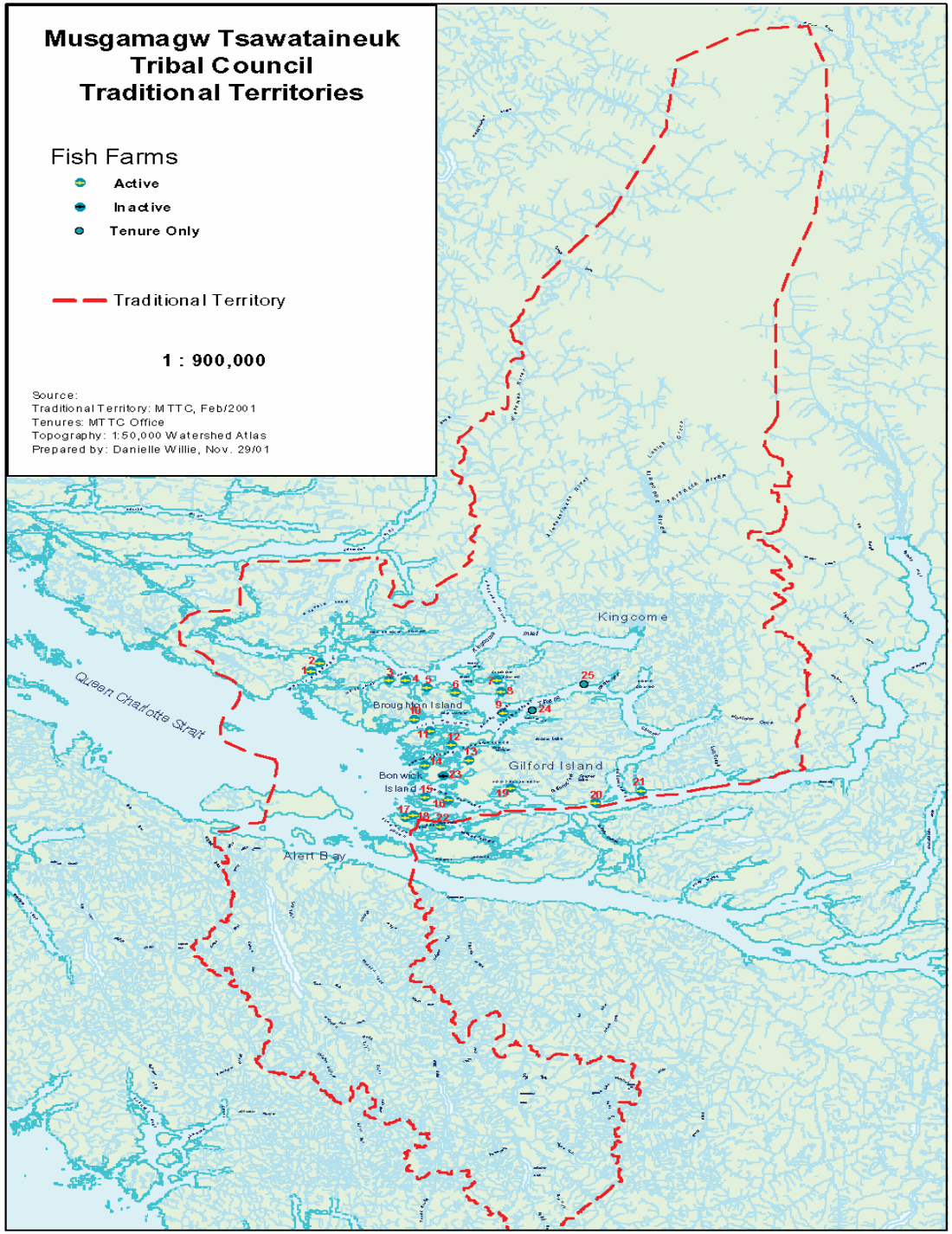
Kwicksutaineuk/Ah-kwaw-ah-mish-Gilford Island

Tsawataineuk- Kingcome Inlet

Gwawaneuk- Hopetown

Namgis- Alert Bay(Nimpkish River),

All working toward the removal and/or transition to closed containment of all fish farms in the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Territory


Musgamagw Tsawataineuk
Tribal Council
Traditional Territories
Fish Farms
Active
Inactive
Tenure Only
Traditional Territory
1 : 900,000
Source:
Traditional Territory: MTTC, Feb/2001
Tenures: MTTC Office
Topography: 1:50,000 Watershed Atlas
Prepared by: Danielle Willie, Nov. 29/01
Kingcome
Queen Charlotte Strait
Broughton Island
Gilford Island
Bonwick
Island
Alert Bay

MTTC is part of the CAAR group:

Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council (MTTC),
David Suzuki Foundation (DSF),

Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS),

Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA),

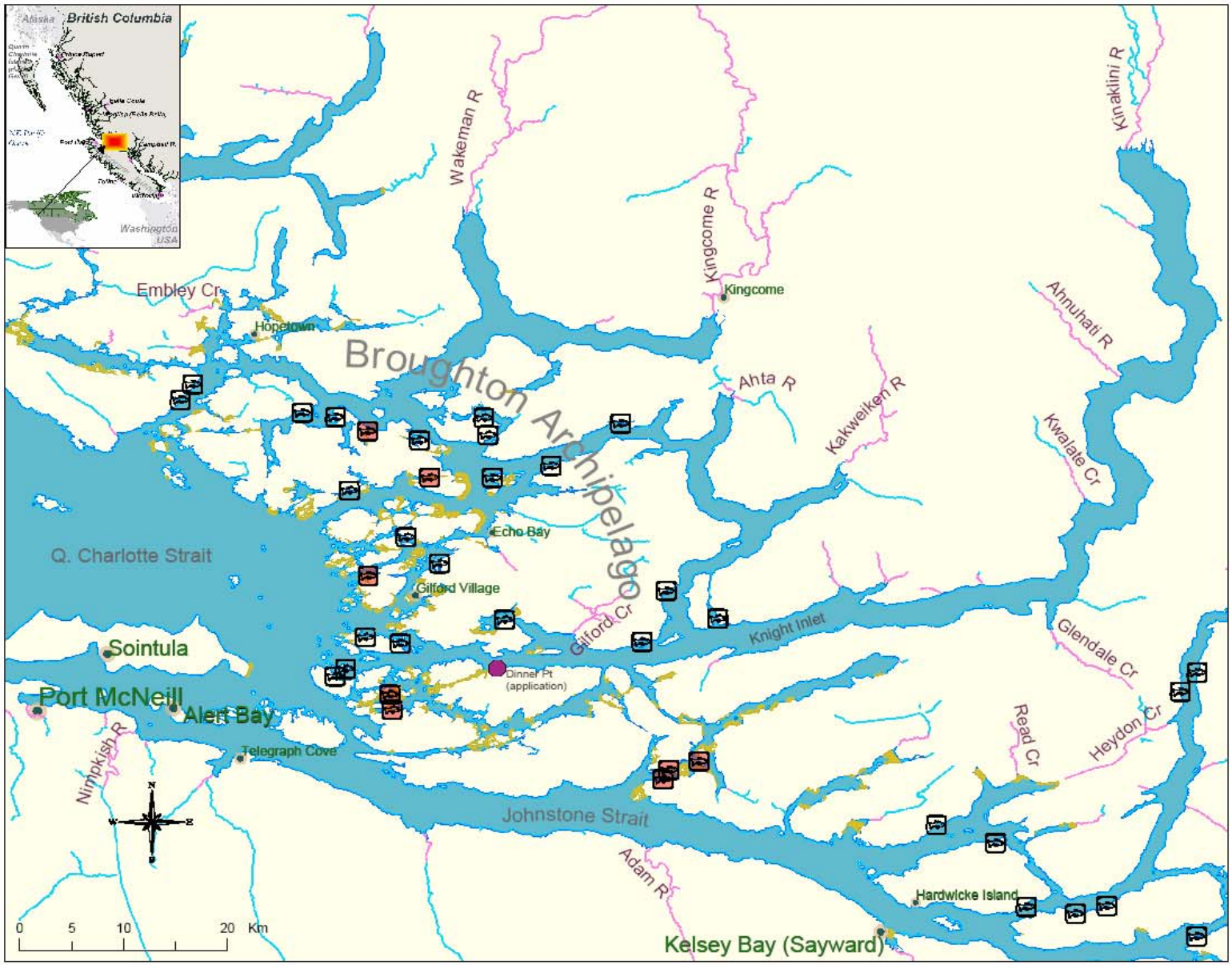
Living Oceans Society (LOS),

Raincoast Conservation Society (RCS),

Raincoast Research (RR),

T Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation (TBSEF),
Watershed Watch Salmon Society (WWSS)

There are now 28 fish farms in the Musgamagw Traditional Territories



Problems that we had right from the start:

- These farms are here illegally,
  - there was never any consultation with any First Nations in our territory to put these farms there, so there is no accommodation either.
  - There was never any CEAA baseline information done for any of the existing sites, except for 2 that are re-locations.

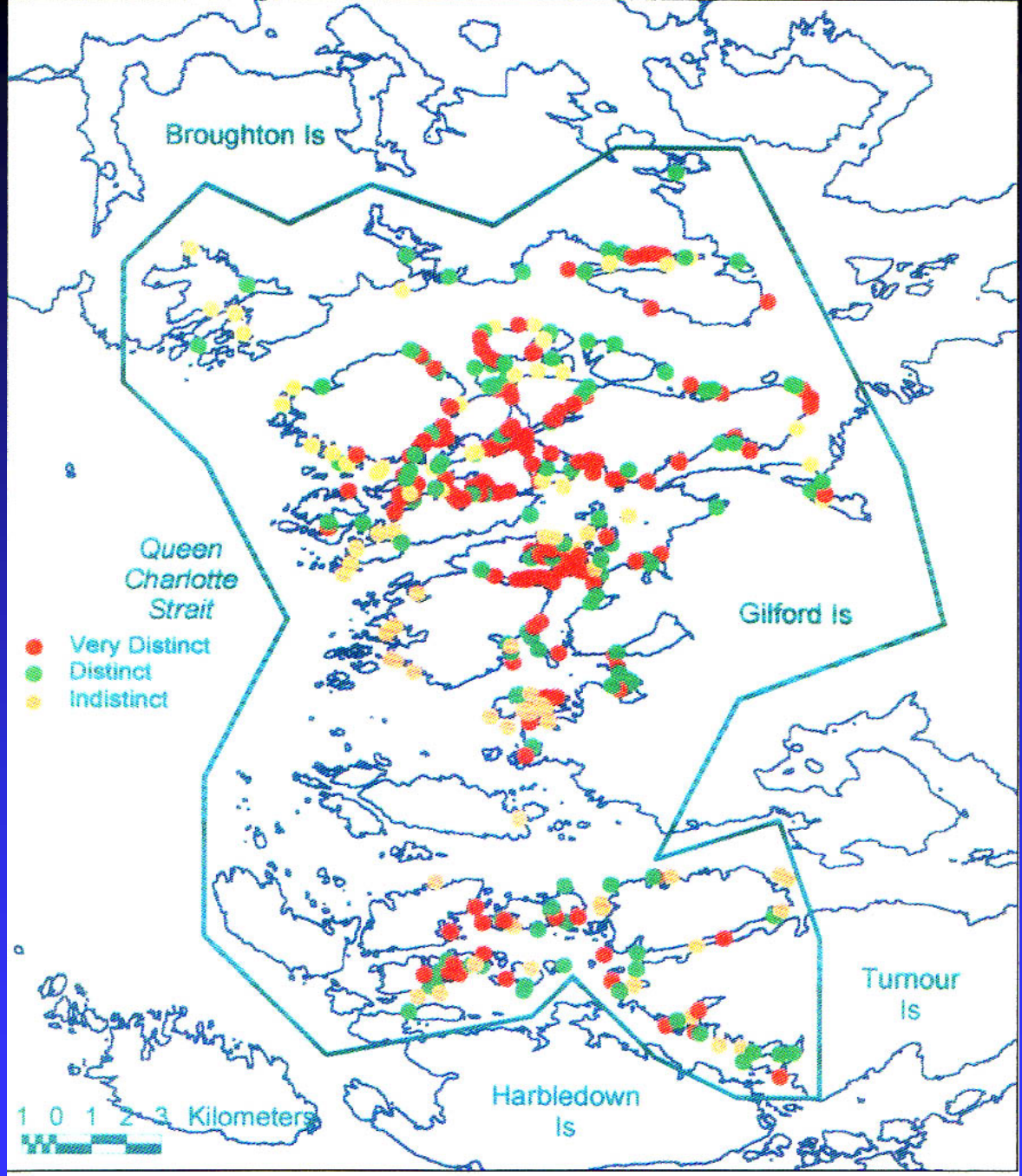


Figure 8 Boundary of AVI survey area and *clam terrace* locations.

Figure 1 Sketch of typical *clam terrace*.

a **boulder ridge** in the lower intertidal zone, apparently comprised of uniformly-sorted cobble/boulder-sized sediment,

a **tidal flat** in the mid-intertidal zone that consists almost entirely of sand-sized shell fragments, and

either **bedrock cliffs** or **large boulder rubble** over bedrock in the upper intertidal zone.

Figure 10. Aerial photo of Location H showing the typical morphology of a *clam terrace*. Note the apron of biogenic sand/mud in the subtidal,

Figure 11 Ground photograph looking across the boulder/cobble ridge of Location H.

SITING CRITERIA NOT SUFFICIENT,Less than 300m away and all the sewage flows onto the beaches, not enough tidal flow to disperse or dissipate.


CLAM SHELLS, DEAD CLAMS, sludge and muck

Another problem, green algae growing all over the clam beds

More dead clams, muck and sludge


DISCOLOURED CLAM. MEAT IS USUALLY CREAMY WHITE OR LIGHT GREY IN COLOR

MORE DISCOLOURED MEAT OF CLAMS

HEALTHY CLAMS, approximately 20kms from any fish farm site.

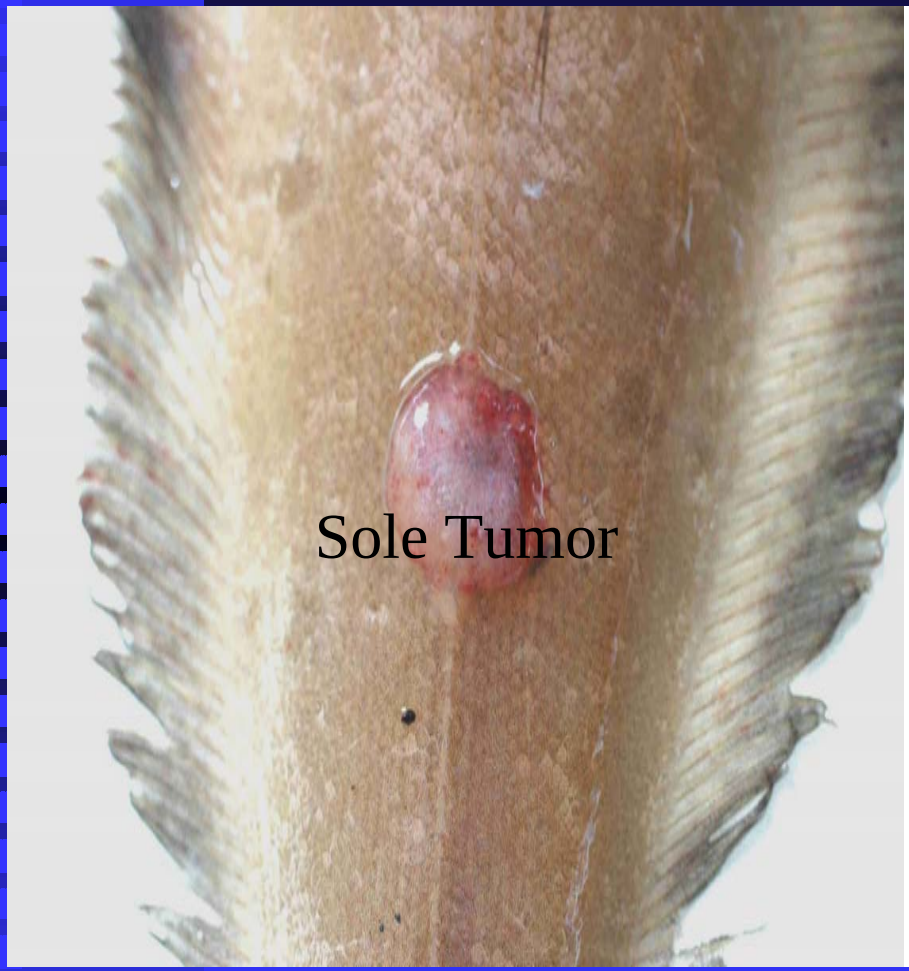
Unhealthy clam

Healthy clam

Strange things on our beaches, unknown, never seen before

Shrimp with ulcer and/or lesions

❖When you fish for ground fish anywhere near a fish farm, they come up full of sea lice and also have ulcers and lesions all over them.



Sole Tumor

Head Tumors

These parasites are always around any type of sewage

Arrow tooth with parasites


Rex copepods
with parasites

Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

Canada

Area 12: Salmon Spawning Streams

Date: January 28, 2004
Scale 1:950,000
Projection: BC Albers, NAD 83
10 0 10 20 Km

Stream Names

1 Shelter Bay Creek
2 Cohoe Creek
3 Kenneth River
4 Tancred Creek
5 Carriden Creek
6 Bughouse Creek
7 Jennis Bay Creek
8 Hand Creek
9 Sutherland River
10 Skeene River
11 Creasy Bay River
12 Marion Creek
13 Hauskin Creek
14 Embley Creek
15 Phyllis Lake Creek
16 Allardyce Creek
17 Nimmo Creek
18 Ellen Cove Creek
19 Mackenzie River
20 Wakeman River
21 Charles Creek
22 Kingcome River
23 Ahta River
24 Ahta Valley Creek
25 McIntosh Creek
26 Simoom Sound Creek
27 Wahkana Bay Creek
28 Viner Sound Creek
29 Scott Cove Creek
30 Shoal Harbour Creek
31 Waldon Creek
32 Health Lagoon Creek
33 Maple Creek
34 Gilford Creek
35 Kakweiken River
36 Mcalister Creek
37 Lull Creek
38 Hoeya Sound Creek
39 Nigger Creek
40 Matsiu Creek
41 Sallie Creek
42 Kwalate Creek
43 Ahnuhati River
44 Sim River
45 Icy River
46 Klinaklini River
47 Franklin River
48 Wahkash Creek
49 Blind Creek
50 Glendale Creek
51 Call Creek
52 Protection Point Creek
53 Cutter Cove Creek
54 Port Harvey Lagoon Creeks
55 Potts Lagoon Creek
56 Cracroft Creek
57 Boughey Creek
58 Robbers Knob Creek
59 Fulmore River
60 Shoal Creek
61 Tuna River
62 Adam River
63 Eve River
64 Naka Creek
65 Tsitika River
66 Kokish River
67 Tsulton River
68 Thiemer Creek
69 Nimpkish River
70 Kilpala River
71 Hyde Creek
72 Mills Creek
73 Cluxewe River
74 Keogh River
75 Quatsese River
76 Quatse River
77 Tsulquate River
78 Songhees Creek
79 Shushartie River
80 Nahwitti River
81 Stranby River
82 Richmond Bay Creek

Open net cage fish farms are harming and infecting our Traditional Foods and the environment.

- Fish farms are floating “hotels” for sea lice and diseases. Sea lice is another big issue as they are killing our wild salmon, this is another huge issue that needs to be studied.

Wild Pink Salmon with at least 30 sea lice on it and died within 10 minutes!

Sea Lice 2002

Sea Lice 2004

Sea Lice 2003

THIS IS THE IMPACT OF OPEN NET PEN FISH FARMS ON OUR RESOURCES

Sea Lice
Pink Salmon Fry

Sea Lice
Pink Salmon Fry

Sea Lice
Pink Salmon Fry

Ulcer / Tumor
Shrimp

Fish Farms

Degraded Health of Shellfish Population

Parasites
Sole

Tumor
Sole

Tumor
Sole

Parasites
Sea Copepod

MUSQUEAM AGWTSAWATAINEUK
TRIBAL COUNCIL

MTTC partnered on a clam study in 2004/05. We took samples of clams, the sediment and also of rockfish from near the farms.
As a result of the rockfish samples there was a mercury contaminant paper peer reviewed. As this was a Health Canada funded study we were limited in what we could look for in contaminants.

Tested in the samples taken were:
Metals: mercury,arsenic,
PCB's, and
Pesticides: DDT, HCH, Heptachlor EPOXIDE

RESULTS WERE: There were contaminants found in most samples but there are not high enough levels and are below CFIA levels.
And it was stated that there was no causal link to the fish farms because we were unable to get any feed , bottom samples and fish samples from the industry people as they would not provide them to us.

What do we do now?

As stated earlier, MTTC was mandated by the members and bands for the removal of all open net cage fish farms from our territories. In the interim MTTC would engage in negotiations with industry for the transition of new technology, preferably closed containment systems. As these systems will eliminate the transmission of disease, parasites, and waste into the environment and protect our resources in our territories.

We need to work with the BC government and the salmon farm industry and come to some kind of compromise and work towards this end goal.

To end all this I'd like to say that the contamination from these farms will affect us all in the long run. We all know about all the salmon gone missing, and our clams and clam beds turning into dead zones. This is why. It is having a great affect on all the resources as you've seen in this presentation.

As First Nations, and the non-native community of this country we all need to stand together and get the government to live up to their responsibility to protect our resources and the environment in our territories. So speak up and email, write, fax your concerns to both the province and the federal governments.

GILAKASLA(Thank you), Robert Mountain