



B.C.'S SALMON FARMERS WELCOME COORDINATED EFFORT TO LEARN ABOUT AND PROTECT WILD SALMON DURING INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON, AND BEYOND

October 11, 2018

CAMPBELL RIVER B.C. - The International Year of the Salmon announced earlier today is a unique opportunity to learn more about the five species of wild salmon of B.C.'s coast, and protect them through concrete action and science.

"As farmers in our ocean we are passionate about wild salmon and have a duty to be part of the solution to the challenges they are facing," said John Paul Fraser, Executive Director of the BC Salmon Farmers Association. "The International Year of Salmon is a unique opportunity to bring together scientists, First Nations, governments, companies, and other interests in Canada and around the world to share ideas and insights and celebrate these important species. B.C.'s salmon farmers are already supporting independent research, wild salmon habitat restoral projects, and hatcheries and are committed to doing even more in support of the International Year of the Salmon."

The BC Salmon Farmers Association was among the first to step up and sponsor a \$1.1-million science expedition researching Pacific salmon in the deep ocean planned for this winter – the Signature Program – organized by Fisheries and Oceans Canada scientist emeritus Dr. Dick Beamish. Seventeen volunteer scientists from Canada and other Pacific countries will board a Russian research vessel and spend several weeks investigating topics such as food availability and ocean temperature and salinity, and catching and testing salmon for disease, diet, size, and health. They will look at genetic signatures to determine where the fish come from and map where fish from different countries and river systems are in the open ocean. While much science has been conducted into salmon when they are in coastal areas or rivers, this will be the first time a comprehensive survey of Pacific Salmon in the open ocean has been conducted. While the project has government support it is a private, independent project dependent upon private funding.

About the BC Salmon Farmers Association:

Farm-raised salmon is B.C.'s highest valued seafood product, the province's top agricultural export, and generates over \$1.5-billion towards the B.C. economy, resulting in over 6,600 jobs.

The BC Salmon Farmers Association represents 56 businesses and organizations throughout the value chain of finfish aquaculture in B.C. Our members account for over 95% of the annual provincial harvest of farm-raised salmon, 100% of the salmon feed produced in B.C., and most of the service and suppliers involved in ensuring that over \$700-million of salmon raised in B.C. gets to domestic and global markets.

For more information visit BCSalmonFarmers.ca

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