



First Nations & BC Salmon Farmers

Q: Do salmon farms in BC operate with permission of local First Nations?

A: Yes. Today, 100% of BC farmed salmon is raised in partnership and in agreement with the rightsholder First Nation in whose territory the farms operate. BC salmon farmers only operate where they are welcomed and are committed to meeting the standards set by their First Nations partners in their agreements while continuing to advance their technology and practices to reduce any impact on wild salmon and the environment.

Q: What does a typical agreement between a salmon farming company and First Nation look like?

A: Impact benefit agreements (IBAs) vary by First Nation, relationship, and company, there are six areas of provision typically covered in each: **labour, economic development, community wellbeing, environmental, financial and commercial arrangements.**



Beyond financial compensation, IBAs in the salmon farming sector can include employment, education, and training opportunities for members; first-right-of-refusal for businesses and contractors from the Nation; environmental monitoring and oversight by First Nations Guardians and stewardship programs; regulatory and environmental thresholds set by the Nations; wild salmon revitalization projects; watershed restoration commitments; and support and donations (monetary and in-kinds) to community programs.

<i>Impact Benefits to First Nations</i>	Within FN Communities	Outside FN Communities	Total
Economic Activity	\$46.8M	\$86.8M	\$133.60M
GDP	\$26.8M	\$49.8M	\$76.6M
# Full-Time Jobs	376	698	1,073
Wages	\$21.0M	\$38.9M	\$59.9M





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Q: How else does salmon farming benefit First Nations communities?

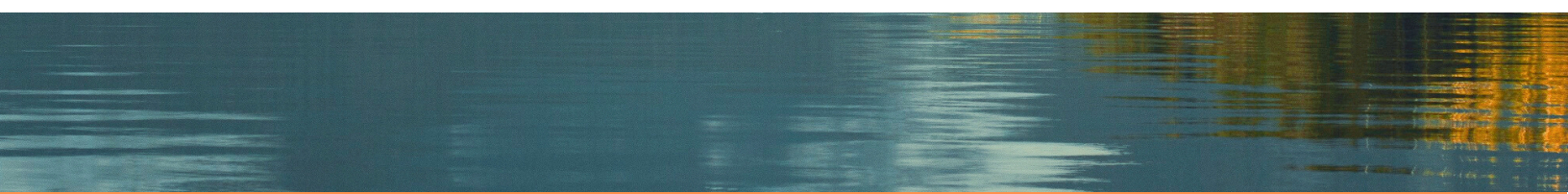
A: The trickle-down effect of hosting salmon farming is immeasurable when it comes to social impacts and conservation. These meaningful employment and economic opportunities have proven to decrease rates of suicide, overdose, and addiction issues in remote Indigenous communities.

Revenue from salmon farming also helps provide housing, social programs, education opportunities, and the growth of stewardship or Guardian programs for First Nations. Salmon farming contributes to wild salmon revitalization programs led by the Nations through monetary contributions, training opportunities and donations of equipment.

Who are the Coalition of First Nations for Finfish Stewardship?

The Coalition of First Nations for Finfish Stewardship is an alliance of coastal First Nations spanning from central/west Vancouver Island north to Klemtu on BC's Central Coast. These Nations host finfish aquaculture in their territories (Atlantic and Chinook salmon) as part of their marine management planning alongside their conservation efforts, wild salmon revitalization projects, and economic diversification targets. Their remote, rural communities' social and economic health are significantly tied to this sector, with an average of 50-60 percent of their revenues coming from salmon farming.

The Coalition united in early 2022 when the rights, title, and self-determination of Nations were ignored by the federal government with the forced closure of 19 salmon farms in Liḡ'ildax[™] territory without consulting the core Rightsholders. To protect First Nations' rights to say yes, no, or maybe to fish farms, the Coalition came together to tell Ottawa to stop closures of fish farms without the consent of the Nations hosting the sector. Today this conversation has evolved to focus on the importance of Indigenous-led science, the application of traditional ecological knowledge, and Guardian/stewardship oversight of salmon farming and other marine operations in their traditional territories.



Want to learn more?

Scan the QR code to check out "Modern Salmon Farming: A Review" for info on:

-  Indigenous Stewardship in Aquaculture
-  Feed Sustainability
-  Protecting Biodiversity
-  Sea Lice Management

and more!



"Modern Salmon Farming: A Review"
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