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In case anyone is interested Bruce....thought I would pass this along.

Yours

June

DFO a complete no show, why?

by Alexandra Morton | Aug 1, 2016 | Uncategorized | 17 comments

Aug 1, 2016 Day 14 on the *Martin Sheen* we set out to ground truth the salmon farmer's and DFO's statements that the farmed Atlantic salmon in Cermaq's Venture Point farm are dying of low dissolved oxygen.

There are two farms side-by-side in Okisollo Channel, the Marine Harvest site *Okisollo* and the Cermaq site, *Venture Point*.

Many fish in the Venture Point farm are lying on the surface with their dorsal fins exposed above the water's surface, unhealthy behaviour. This has been going on for 7 days.

Cermaq says this behaviour is due to a low oxygen event on the night of the 27th five days ago when oxygen levels dipped below 4mg/l. They said this happens in Okisollo Channel in the summer.

What I don't understand is why the fish are still lethargic in the Cermaq farm, barely moving and crowding up against the side of the pens, when the fish in a nearby farm in the same channel seem much more lively with the automatic feeders and net washers going.

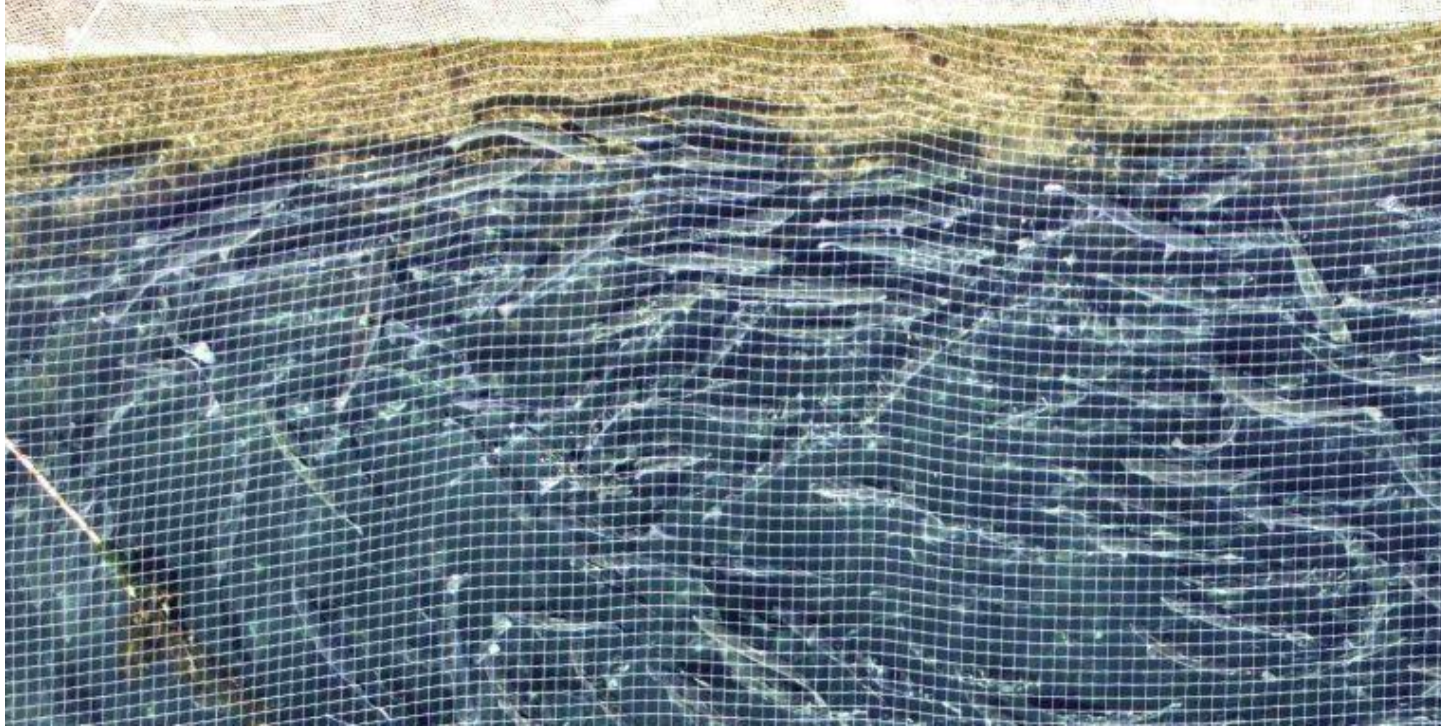
Reading this blog, a local tourism operator went out and bought a dissolved oxygen meter and delivered it to us, a pretty fabulous act of generosity and brilliance! We calibrated it and set out to measure the dissolved oxygen levels at the two farms and surrounding waters.



We found that the oxygen levels in the ocean around both farms are nearly the same about 7.4 mg/l. This level of dissolved oxygen is suitable for salmon.



But while the Okisollo fish are swimming normally.



The behaviour of the Atlantic salmon in the Venture Point farm fits the description for farmed Atlantic salmon suffering from the disease, heart and skeletal muscle inflammation, HSMI, (Garseth et al 2013) a disease that was never been found in BC until preliminary results for HSMI were released by DFO earlier this year. Cermaq's website says DFO found what looks like HSMI this farm, the Venture Point farm, where I am watching fish that behaving in classic HSMI behaviour.

Young wild salmon are leaping around the farms. We did a purse seine and found juvenile sockeye, pink and chum salmon.



The potential threat of HSMI to wild salmon is enormous. A wild salmon with a weak heart is a dead salmon.

To any who think this voyage with the Martin Sheen is a “publicity stunt” think again. My effort to protect wild salmon from farm salmon disease started in 1989 when local fishermen in my community of Echo Bay came to me because the farms were being put in “all the wrong places.”

By this they meant the farms were going into their fishing grounds and the places where wild salmon, prawns and rock cod live. They asked me to write to DFO because I was there raising my children studying whales in close contact with DFO.

I wrote over 10,000 pages of letters to all levels of government and all they had to say to me was “there is no evidence.” So I spent the next ten years publishing [scientific papers](#) the evidence in top scientific journals around the world. Today people dare say that I am speaking “half truths”! Really??? Do they think for one minute that the journal of SCIENCE is going to publish “half-truths”?

Justice Bruce Cohen of the \$37 million Cohen Commission into the collapse of the Fraser sockeye wrote:

“I therefore conclude that the potential harm posed to Fraser River sockeye from salmon farms is serious or irreversible. Disease transfer occurs between wild and farmed fish, and I am satisfied that salmon farms along the sockeye migration route have the potential to introduce exotic diseases and to exacerbate endemic diseases that could have a negative impact on Fraser”

So I am grateful for the Martin Sheen for coming here to BC to help bring this the attention of our government, which is currently risking one of the most valuable wild fisheries left in the world in servitude to European shareholders.



I have sat here beside this farm of dying fish for six days and DFO won't even show up to have a look. That is wrong. They have sent the aircraft SPEED AIR to fly over us on three different dates, but won't check the salmon.

Please consider signing and sharing this [Petition](#) and signing this [Pledge](#)

