



CANADIAN WILDLIFE  
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE  
DE LA FAUNE

Your connection to wildlife

# Bulletin

NEWS FROM CWF  
SEPTEMBER + OCTOBER 2013

## *Does Fish Farming Make Sense?*

CWF takes a position on the aquaculture debate: It's time to stop



## Does Fish Farming Make Sense?

The aquaculture industry has been active in Canada since the 1980s. Several species of fish and shellfish are now being raised commercially for consumption across the country. Atlantic salmon, however, is the most important species, both in terms of production volumes and market values. The vast majority of these salmon are raised in the ocean waters of British Columbia (where it is not a native species), New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia.

Atlantic salmon are held and grown in cages that float in the ocean. Essentially, they're open pens. These are usually located in areas where they are protected from storms but have good water flow — often in sheltered bays or near the mouths of rivers.

As with large-scale farming practices of any animal, salmon aquaculture — often called finfish aquaculture — requires maintaining animals in large densities, providing them with food and treating them with pharmaceuticals to maintain their health under these unnatural conditions. Unlike land-based farming, however, diseases, parasites, and food and pharmaceutical waste from finfish aquaculture operations freely flow from the open pens into the surrounding marine environment.

The various effects of aquaculture on the environment are a large concern, particularly the potential negative effects on nearby populations of wild salmon. Many populations of Atlantic salmon in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as well as several Pacific salmon species, are at risk of extinction according to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, so the risks

from open-pen salmon aquaculture are especially important.

To ensure we were evaluating aquaculture with substantiated knowledge, CWF conducted a detailed examination of the scientific literature on the environmental effects of salmon aquaculture. Some studies showed no significant environmental effect, while others did. The logical conclusion is that we can reject the assumption that open-pen finfish aquaculture has no effect on the environment; clearly, it does under some (even well-managed) conditions and in some locations.

If this is incorrect, then at best, we have failed to show adequately that finfish aquaculture does not harm wild salmon populations. But at worst, aquaculture may be destroying our wild salmon populations without our knowledge. In this state of ignorance, it is safe to conclude that we are not acting cautiously by allowing this industry to develop and to expand.

Thus, while recognizing the economic benefits of finfish aquaculture, the Canadian Wildlife Federation and its board of directors want an end to open-pen finfish aquaculture on both coasts of Canada in the next 10 years and, in the meantime, a moratorium on new finfish aquaculture operations. This position is in alignment with the conclusions of many other agencies concerned with the state of wildlife in Canada, including the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the Royal Society of Canada and the federally appointed Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River.

## CWF PROFILE



### Lloyd Lintott PRESIDENT

The Canadian Wildlife Federation has a new president for its board of directors: he's Lloyd Lintott, a longtime board member who's served the federation in various roles over the past 14 years, including terms as secretary, first vice-president and second vice-president.

Originally from Carberry, Man., Lintott is an outdoor enthusiast and conservationist who has been active in youth mentorship and projects to acquire habitat lands. He's also held executive positions with the 14,000-member Manitoba Wildlife Federation.

Lintott now lives on Vancouver Island, where he works as an electrician and enjoys fishing, boating, hiking and camping. He has four daughters, all of whom are outdoor enthusiasts, and his experiences as a parent have influenced his priorities in his new role at CWF. "As a father, I know how important it is to get your young people outside and connected to nature," Lintott says. "During my term, I hope to build on CWF's already impressive experiential wildlife education programs so that we can create the next generation of conservation stewards."

Lintott was officially sworn in as president of the CWF at the federation's 51st annual general meeting, held in Victoria this past June.

## Project Highlights ...your donations in action\*

Projects funded by CWF's Endangered Species Program:

### \$15,000

To researchers at the University of Guelph to help identify host fish key to the reproductive cycle of freshwater mussels known as unionid mussels. The research will also contribute to the development of laboratory and field-based methods for rearing juvenile mussels.

### \$12,800

To the Mersey Tobetic Research Institute to help find seasonal habitats used by Blanding's turtles and eastern ribbonsnakes in Nova Scotia. The program includes monitoring of potential overwintering sites for ribbon snakes, surveys and radio-tracking of Blanding's turtles to document spring habitat and nesting sites in the upper Medway River, and turtle trapping to find new areas hosting the species on the upper Medway.

### \$5,300

To the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation to explore tributaries of the Assiniboine River in search of mapleleaf mussels. If these mussels are found, the program will help develop conservation practices to support the species.

Projects funded by Canadian Wildlife Foundation:

### \$2,500

To the Bring Back the Bluebirds project in Victoria. Led by the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, this project is seeing the transfer of four pairs of western bluebirds from Washington State to B.C.'s Salt Spring Island to re-establish populations in the species' historical range. The program also includes a public education component.

### \$5,000

To the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation to re-establish tern colonies on Grassy Island in Mahone Bay, near Lunenburg, N.S. The project will include measures to attract terns to the island and deter gulls. It will also seek to reduce human impacts on nesting areas through outreach programs targeting boaters and the general public.

### \$2,500

To Centre de la Nature du Mont Saint-Hilaire to establish an environmental education program for youth who live in the Mont Saint-Hilaire region. The program will encourage participants to help restore protected natural areas, foster native plant growth and enhance the area's wetlands and streams.

*\*This is just a selection of recently funded projects. For more information on projects funded by CWF, visit [CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/funded-projects](http://CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/funded-projects).*



## Your Shot

N.J. Wight of Montreal won June's By Popular Vote monthly photo contest with a charming photo of two bears feeding on fish. The theme of the contest was "World of Water." The theme for the September and October contests are "Tremendous Trees" and "Spooky and Endanger-ous," respectively.

Visit [WildPhotoContest.ca](http://WildPhotoContest.ca) for your chance to win a CWF prize package valued at \$100.



## Connect

For more online wildlife news, tips, facts and photos, sign up for CWF's free monthly newsletter, *Wildlife Update*. Visit [CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca](http://CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca) and enter your e-mail address under "Get CWF News." You can also follow the Canadian Wildlife Federation on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



CWF NEWS, PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

# What's Happening



### Princely connections

This past August, CWF partnered with the Duke of Edinburgh Award to offer training in promoting the conservation ethic to young people through participation in the award program's Expedition50 adventure. Held at the Palisades Stewardship Education Centre in Jasper National Park, the expedition brought 50 young Canadians together to participate in a variety of outdoor adventures, featuring paddling, horseback riding and glacier hiking. The CWF component — offered under the CWF facilitator certification process — taught participants about encouraging young people to get outdoors and connect with nature. At the end, participants qualified for the WILD Education facilitator certification (youth level).

Expedition50 is part of 50th anniversary celebrations for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

### It's Party Time

Hinterland Who's Who is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a party at the Gatineau Park Visitor Centre in Chelsea, Que., on Oct. 14. Festivities, which begin at 9 a.m. and run to 4 p.m., include guided tours of a short trail,

face painting, wildlife games and much, much more. For more information, please visit [hww.ca](http://hww.ca).

### Cruise the Amazon

Join garden guru (and CWF Habitat Programs manager) Ken Beattie next spring for a once-in-a-lifetime cruise down the Amazon River. The journey sets sail March 26, starting in Rio de Janeiro, and

ends 21 days later in Miami. Guests will have a unique opportunity to learn about the Earth's extraordinary diversity of plant and animal life. Proceeds from the cruise will support CWF conservation and education activities, including research and outreach activities to protect marine species. See our ad on page 47 for details.