

King Harald V  
The Royal Palace  
Drammensveien 1  
N-0010  
Oslo  
Norway

14<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Your Royal Highness,

### **Protecting wild salmon from open net cage salmon farms**

Further to our letter of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006 (re-enclosed here), we appeal to you as the King of Norway to stop the killing of wild fish by Norwegian-owned open net cage salmon farms. We ask that you take time during your visit to Trondheim on 18<sup>th</sup> August when you will be opening the Aqua Nor trade show<sup>1</sup> to watch the new film “Dear Norway – Help Save Canada’s Wild Salmon” produced by Damien Gillis.

Your visit to the Trondheimsfjord area – one of only two fjords in Norway where salmon farming is completely banned under the Laksfjord regulations – represents an opportunity to hear how Norwegian companies are operating to lower standards in other regions. We think it is important that Norwegians understand their impact on temperate coastal countries worldwide – especially in British Columbia where the Norwegian companies Marine Harvest, Cermaq and Grieg control 92% of salmon farming production<sup>2</sup>. We expect a country such as Norway who signed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007<sup>3</sup> and who published a white paper on Corporate Social Responsibility Abroad in 2009<sup>4</sup> to respect the rights of First Nations whose culture depends upon healthy wild salmon populations.

Since our letter to you in 2006, the situation has deteriorated and the weight of scientific evidence linking open net cage salmon farms with declines in wild fish is now overwhelming<sup>5</sup>. Canada’s largest wild salmon runs are failing every year while in neighbouring Alaska where salmon farming is banned they are harvesting record runs. Another film by Damien Gillis – “Aquacultural Revolution: The scientific case for changing salmon farming”<sup>6</sup> – presents the scientific perspective and is recommended viewing in advance of your trip to Trondheim. You may also be interested in watching a sea lice animation recently released by Norges Jeger-og Fiskerforbund<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://blog.norway.com/2009/06/25/hm-king-harald-v-to-open-aqua-nor-2009/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.farmedanddangerous.org/page/abouttheindustry>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/aid/Topics/Sami-policy/international-efforts-in-relation-to-ind/the-un-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indi.html?id=87024>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/press/News/2009/social\\_responsibility\\_abroad.html?id=543620](http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/press/News/2009/social_responsibility_abroad.html?id=543620)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.farmedanddangerous.org/page/scientificcase>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.watershed-watch.org/programs/aquaculture.html>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.njff.no/portal/page/portal/njff/nyhet?element\\_id=39301634&displaypage=TRUE](http://www.njff.no/portal/page/portal/njff/nyhet?element_id=39301634&displaypage=TRUE)



In May this year, the Pure Salmon Campaign brought a delegation of First Nation chiefs, scientists, wilderness tourism, labor union, fishing and environmental leaders from Chile, Canada, Ireland, Scotland and the United States to Norway to bear witness to the problems of Marine Harvest and Cermaq in particular<sup>8</sup>.

You may have read Alexandra Morton's passionate plea published in *Bergens Tidende* in May which ended with:

"It's still not too late to stop the collapse of wild salmon and social decay here in western Canada. But to do so, it will take the efforts of concerned citizens working across borders, to make it clear to the Norwegian government that salmon farms must not destroy the wild salmon arteries flowing into the coast of British Columbia. In today's world such behavior is an act of inexcusable immorality as future generations will need life on earth to survive."<sup>9</sup>

And you may have read about our visit to Preline's closed containment farm in Hardangerfjord<sup>10</sup>. Chief Bob Chamberlin of the Kwicksutaineuk Ah-kwa-mish First Nation, who delivered letters to you in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and visited Norway again this year, said:

"It is difficult to put to words how I felt standing on an operating closed containment fish farm, watching Atlantic salmon swimming inside. It was an amazing circumstance for me to speak with the owner of Preline who has developed the closed containment system, and both of us needing something to give hope for our individual yet intertwined dreams"<sup>11</sup>.

*Bergens Tidende* also featured the Preline closed containment system in an article published in June<sup>12</sup>. Representatives from Preline – together with other closed containment companies – will be in Trondheim for the AquaNor trade show and we encourage you to explore these technologies which can protect wild fish from the spread of sea lice and escapes from salmon farms.

During his visit to Norway in May, Chief Robert Joseph of the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council said:

"The demise of wild salmon is tantamount to genocide because it reflects the demise of our culture, way of life and spirituality. Since the advent of salmon farming in our territories we have seen an apocalyptic decline in the state of our wild salmon stocks in the Broughton Archipelago. And because Norway is the world leader in salmon farming and the Norwegian Government is the leading shareholder in Cermaq we are asking for their moral leadership to bring about best practices and to mitigate environmental

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.puresalmon.org/norway.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.naturvern.no/cgi-bin/naturvern/imaker?id=130954>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.preline.no>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.puresalmon.org/pr\\_29\\_may\\_2009.html](http://www.puresalmon.org/pr_29_may_2009.html)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.bt.no/meninger/kronikk/article864978.ece>

degradation”<sup>13</sup>.

Public opposition to Norwegian-owned salmon farming companies operating in British Columbia is building with negative press coverage of ‘rapacious Norwegians’ in the international media<sup>14</sup> as well as at home in Norway<sup>15</sup>. You may be aware that this issue was raised in the Norwegian Parliament in May this year via a Parliamentary Question tabled by Heikki Holmås MP with a reply from Helga Pedersen, Norway’s Fisheries Minister<sup>16</sup>. Public comments were also made in the Norwegian media by several MPs including Peter Gitmark from Høyre<sup>17</sup>, Ola Borten Moe from Senterpartiet<sup>18</sup> and Heikki Holmås from Sosialistisk Venstreparti<sup>19</sup>.

Cermaq – whose largest shareholder is the Norwegian Government – is now the subject of a complaint filed with the OECD in May by Norges Naturvernforbund and ForUM<sup>20</sup>. In the same month, Norway was criticized by First Nations groups for failing to adhere to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with respect to Cermaq’s operations in Canada<sup>21</sup>. In October 2008, Cermaq’s operations in Canada were criticized for blatantly violating their licences after years of over-production<sup>22</sup>. And *NRK* reported only yesterday that Cermaq was encountering local opposition in Norway with a petition signed by 6,000 people objecting to expansion in Ofotfjorden<sup>23</sup>.

Marine Harvest’s operations in Canada have also been subject of growing controversy and legal action in the B.C. Supreme Court<sup>24</sup>. Grieg’s plans to expand in the Georgia Strait in British Columbia have angered local residents, fishermen and tourist operators alike<sup>25</sup>. And in June, the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform called for the emergency closure of five farms operated by Marine Harvest, Cermaq and Grieg to protect migrating wild salmon<sup>26</sup>. The issue will only continue to heat up at the expense of Norway’s reputation.

Nor is Canada the only region where Norwegian-owned companies are experiencing local opposition. In Ireland, where Marine Harvest control over 50% of production,

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<sup>13</sup> <http://firstnationsnews.com/article/1616/KAFN/KAFN-urge-Cermaq-to-embrace-the-spirit-and-intent-of-the-UN-Declaration-on-the-Rights-of-Indigenous-Peoples.html>

<sup>14</sup> <http://blog.macleans.ca/2009/02/11/something-fishy-in-bc/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.puresalmon.org/norway.html> and <http://www.tv2nyhetene.no/norge-far-skylda-2313887.html> and <http://www.nettavisen.no/okonomi/article2289241.ece>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Sporsmal/Skriftlige-sporsmal-og-svar/Skriftlig-sporsmal/?qid=43601>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.siste.no/Innenriks/politikk/article4343505.ece>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.auraavis.no/article4343688.ece>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.lofot-tidende.no/innenriks/article4345497.ece>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.naturvern.no/cgi-bin/naturvern/imaker?id=131004>

<sup>21</sup> <http://huffstrategy.com/MediaManager/release/KAFN/31-12-69/KAFN-urge-Cermaq-to-embrace-the-spirit-and-intent-of-the-UN-Decla/1616.html>

<sup>22</sup> <http://livingoceans.org/media/news10240801.aspx>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/distrikt/nordland/1.6728910>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.siste.no/Innenriks/article4123034.ece> and <http://www.bladet.no/Innenriks/article4343501.ece> and <http://www.adressa.no/nyheter/okonomi/article911959.ece> and <http://www.tv2nyhetene.no/norge-far-skylda-2313887.html>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.wilderness-tourism.bc.ca/docs/SRDregardingClosedContainmentAquaculture.pdf> and <http://www.georgiastrait.org/?q=node/906>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.livingoceans.org/media/news06160901.aspx>

Salmon Watch recently filed a complaint with the European Commission contending that salmon farms are responsible for the generation of high levels of sea lice infestation in juvenile salmon migrating from rivers to their feeding grounds in the sea<sup>27</sup>. And in the UK where Norwegian-owned companies control in excess of 80% of salmon farming production, the Salmon and Trout Association (whose patron is Prince Charles) have organized a petition calling on the Scottish Government to move salmon farms away from the estuaries of major rivers<sup>28</sup>.

We hope that you agree with John Fredriksen, owner of Marine Harvest, who in July 2007 when he was fishing on the River Alta called for salmon farms to be moved out of the path of wild salmon<sup>29</sup>. In September 2007, over 30 fishing and environmental groups including Norsk Lakseelver, the Norwegian Salmon Association, Granvin Fiskarlag and Nausta Vernegruppa, wrote to Marine Harvest urging them to follow Mr Fredriksen's wise advice<sup>30</sup>.

As both the King of Norway and a wild salmon angler on the River Alta yourself<sup>31</sup>, Your Royal Highness surely has an interest in protecting wild salmon both in Norway and internationally as well as preserving Norway's international reputation. The 2010 Winter Olympics will be held along the shores of the Fraser River where the wild sockeye salmon that run past Norwegian-owned fish farms have been closed to fishing again this year. Yesterday's *Globe & Mail* newspaper in Canada reports that "the Fraser River is experiencing one of the biggest salmon disasters in recent history with more than nine million sockeye vanishing"<sup>32</sup> with *The Straight* newspaper reporting that "fish farms could be a contributing factor"<sup>33</sup>. Today's *Globe & Mail* also featured the issue<sup>34</sup>.

When you meet with Marine Harvest, Cermaq, Grieg, the Norwegian Minister of Fisheries, Helga Pedersen, the Canadian Fisheries Minister, Gail Shea, and Scotland's Minister for the Environment, Roseanna Cunningham, during Aqua Nor we therefore encourage you to ask why Norwegian companies are still being allowed to kill wild fish not just in Norway but also in Canada, Scotland and Ireland. And if you have time to view the new film "Dear Norway – Help Save Canada's Wild Salmon" please come and visit the Pure Salmon Campaign at booth # B-111C at Aqua Nor to arrange a private viewing.

Yours sincerely,

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<sup>27</sup> [http://www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver\\_island\\_central/cowichannewsleader/opinion/47469292.html](http://www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver_island_central/cowichannewsleader/opinion/47469292.html)

<sup>28</sup>

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/environment/display.var.2523900.0.9000\\_back\\_urgent\\_call\\_for\\_salmon\\_farms\\_to\\_be\\_relocated.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/environment/display.var.2523900.0.9000_back_urgent_call_for_salmon_farms_to_be_relocated.php) and <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/9000-sign-petition-in-fight.5522784.jp>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.nettavisen.no/innenriks/article1281033.ece> and [http://www.der-fliegenfischer.de/down/files/block\\_0/Staniford\\_on\\_Fredriksen.pdf](http://www.der-fliegenfischer.de/down/files/block_0/Staniford_on_Fredriksen.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> [http://puresalmon.org/documents/marine\\_harvest\\_ltr\\_070919.pdf](http://puresalmon.org/documents/marine_harvest_ltr_070919.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.aftenposten.no/english/local/article1392806.ece>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/millions-of-missing-fish-signal-crisis-on-the-fraser/article1249976/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.straight.com/article-247610/fish-biologist-links-fish-farms-disappearing-fraser-river-salmon>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/calls-grow-for-international-summit-on-collapse-of-fraser-sockeye-run/article1251330/>



Bob Chamberlin, Chief of the Kwicksutaineuk Ah-kwa-mish First Nation and Chairman of the Musgamagw-Tsawataineuk Tribal Council, Canada

Alexandra Morton, Director of the Salmon Coast Field Station, Canada

David Suzuki, Executive Director of David Suzuki Foundation, Canada

Brian Gunn, President of the Wilderness Tourism Association of British Columbia, Canada

David Lane, Executive Director of the T Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation, Canada

Damien Gillis, Save Our Rivers Society, Canada

Darren Blaney, Homalco First Nation, Canada

Geoff Meggs, Councillor, City of Vancouver, Canada

Valerie Langer, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Canada

Rafe Mair, Official spokesperson for Save Our Rivers Society, Canada

Shannon Ellis, Bella Coola Grizzly Tours, Canada

Steve Lawson, National Coordinator, First Nations Environmental Network, Canada

Des Nobels, Chair of Friends of Wild Salmon, Canada

Blake Covernton, President, Wild BC Salmon, Canada

Michael Price, Raincoast Conservation Foundation, Canada

Evan Loveless, Executive Director of the Wilderness Tourism Association of British Columbia, Canada

Terry Anderson, Canadian Wild Salmon Alliance Society, Canada

Luanne Roth, Marine Director of the Prince Rupert Environmental Society, Canada

Geoff Senichenko, Research Director of the Wilderness Committee, Canada

Craig Orr, Executive Director of the Watershed Watch Salmon Society, Canada



Stan Proboszcz, Fish Biologist, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, Canada

Ruby Berry, Salmon Aquaculture Program Coordinator, Georgia Strait Alliance, Canada

Michelle Young, Salmon Aquaculture Campaigner, Georgia Strait Alliance, Canada

John Volpe, Professor, University of Victoria, Canada

Corey Peet, David Suzuki Foundation, Canada

Lawrence Dill, Professor Emeritus, Simon Fraser University, Canada

Catherine Stewart, Salmon Farming Campaign Manager, Living Oceans, Canada

Kim Petersen, co-editor of Dissident Voice, Canada

Tiffany Hilman, Markets Campaigner, Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform, Canada

Susanne Hare, Tofino citizen, Canada

Mat Lawson, B.C. citizen, Canada

Misty Lawson, B.C. citizen, Canada

Quoashinis Lawson, B.C. citizen, Canada

Oren Lawson, B.C. citizen, Canada

Kevin Bruce, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Canada

Tom Rivest, Great Bear Nature Tours, Canada

Leonard Ellis, Bella Coola Grizzly Tours, Canada

Vegard Heggem, wild salmon conservationist, Norway

Geir Kjensmo, Chairman of the Norwegian Salmon Association, Norway

Sondre Båtstrand, Spokesperson for the Norwegian Green Party, Norway

Frode Strønen, Marine Spokesperson for the Norwegian Green Party, Norway

Lawson Devery, Scottish Field Officer, the Salmon and Trout Association, Scotland

Bruce Sandison, Scottish Sporting Services, Scotland

Colin Kirkpatrick, Environment Committee Chairman, Orkney Trout Fishing Association, Scotland



Brian Fraser, ghillie from Wester Ross, Scotland

Fiona Cameron, Sea Trout Group, Scotland

Frank Buckley, Society for the Protection of Salmon and Sea Trout, Scotland

Andrew Graham-Stewart, Writer on wild salmon conservation issues, Scotland

Jenny Scobie, Rhidorroch Estate, Scotland

Niall Greene, Chair, Salmon Watch Ireland, Ireland

John Mulcahy, Save The Swilly, Ireland

Noel Carr, Secretary, Conaidhm na Slat Iascairi Bradan & Breac Geal (Federation of Irish Salmon & Sea Trout Anglers), Ireland

Bill Bakke, Executive Director, Native Fish Society, United States of America

Anne Mosness, Go Wild Campaign, United States of America

Neil Frazer, Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa, United States of America

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Don Staniford, Global Coordinator, The Pure Salmon Campaign, United States of America

Cc:

Her Majesty The Queen

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

Crown Prince Haakon of Norway

Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway

Helga Pedersen, Fisheries Minister of Norway

Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada

Gail Shea, Fisheries Minister of Canada



Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia

Trevor Swerdfager, Director General, Aquaculture Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Jillian Stirk, Canada's Ambassador to Norway

Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland

Roseanna Cunningham, Minister of the Environment for Scotland

Heikki Holmås, Member of the Norwegian Parliament

Ola Borten Moe, Member of the Norwegian Parliament

Peter Gitmark, Member of the Norwegian Parliament

Hallgeir Langeland, Member of the Norwegian Parliament

For more details on The Pure Salmon Campaign please visit: [www.puresalmon.org](http://www.puresalmon.org)