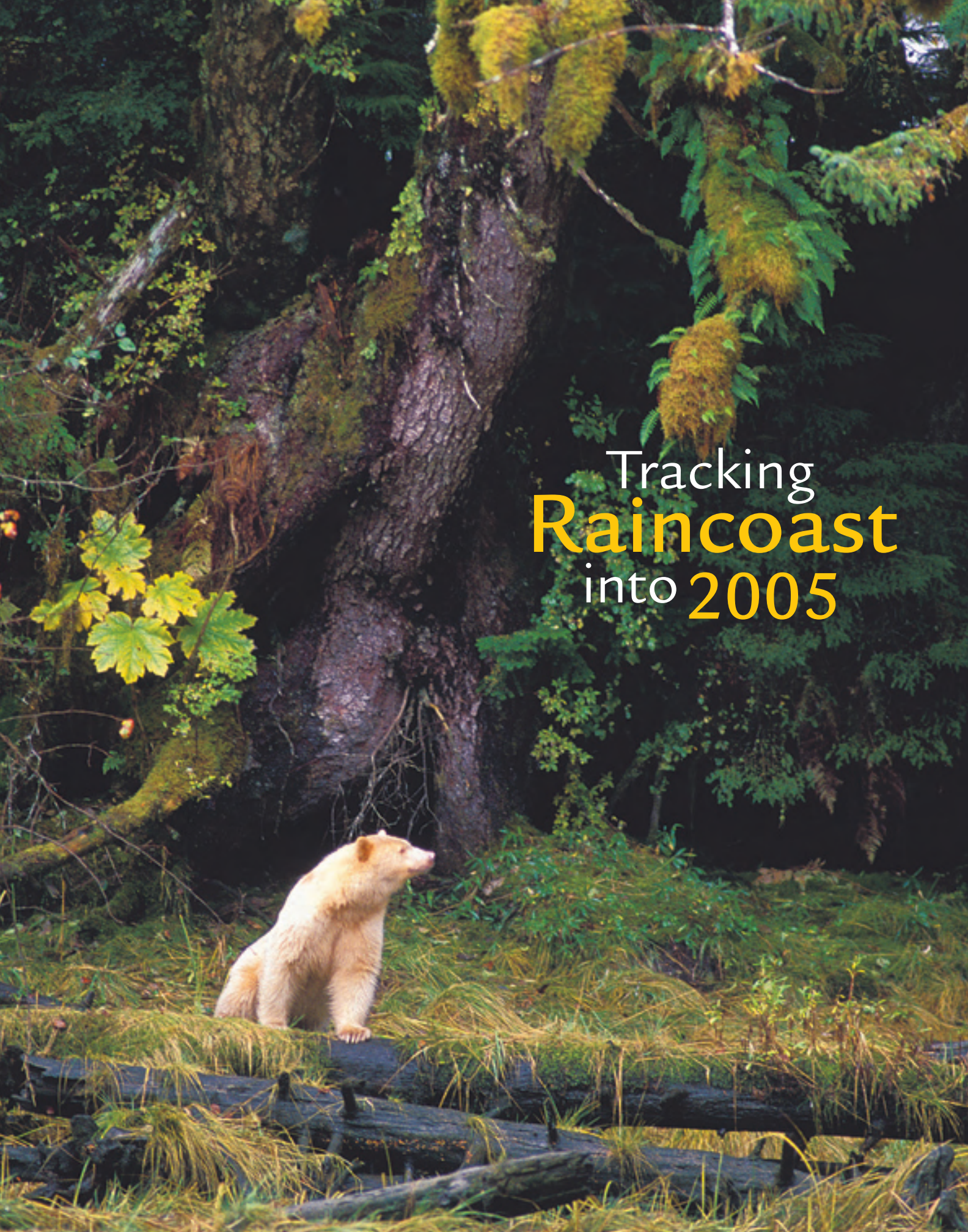

Tracking
Raincoast
into 2005

*Cover*: It is expected that a protected areas proposal for the Spirit bear will be announced by the provincial government in 2005. Whether enough area gets protected to ensure long term survival for the Spirit bear remains to be seen.

*Above*: Sibling grizzlies like these two play fighting on the BC central coast may stay together for the first four years of their life.

# Making Waves

Chris Genovali,
Executive Director

Challenging the status quo. This is at the heart of what Raincoast is about. We are not willing to passively accept the policy dictates of government and industry when it is abundantly clear that they have little or no credible scientific data to back up their actions. We are not content to witness the industrialization and exploitation of the Great Bear Rainforest so that logging, mining and fish farm companies, as well as trophy hunters, can enrich their bottom lines on the backs of bears, wolves and wild salmon.

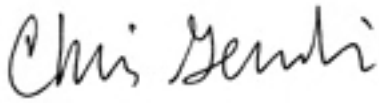
We have spent the last fifteen years documenting, researching and campaigning for this globally unique region – this direct engagement on the ground is precisely why Raincoast will persevere until the Great Bear Rainforest is adequately protected. We witness the beauty and the destruction first hand – nothing can galvanize action and personal commitment more.

How does Raincoast go about making waves? To begin, we base our conservation programs on rigourous, cutting-edge science. For example, we're conducting the first DNA study of rainforest wolves, the first systematic survey of whales and dolphins in BC, the first study of contaminant loads in coastal grizzly bears and the first coast-wide survey of sea lice prevalence on juvenile wild salmon. Throughout our work we partner with First Nations, expert scientists and institutions such as the UCLA Conservation Genetics Lab, the Institute of Ocean Sciences, the University of Victoria and the Heiltsuk Fisheries Program, to name a few.

But it's not enough to just carry out the research. Our findings need to be communicated to the public so they can be applied to conservation and management policies. We call this part of our mandate *informed advocacy,* and we accomplish this through documentary films, award-winning photography and books, presentations, lectures, peer-reviewed scientific papers, reports and media coverage. This year, for instance, our work was featured in a National Geographic documentary entitled *Last Stand of the Great Bear* and Discovery Channel's *Secrets of the Coastal Wolves.*

As you read through this year's *Tracking Raincoast* you will get more in depth information about the previously mentioned projects, as well as the other exciting initiatives we are carrying out. You will also get a sense of the level of expertise and dedication amongst the Raincoast team. I am moved and gratified each and every day by our staff's commitment and professionalism, and feel fortunate to have them as colleagues.

Although Raincoast has grown in size and capacity, our focus has always remained clear – applying the principles of conservation biology and environmental ethics to protect this irreplaceable coastal ecosystem. We invite you to support us in this vital effort.



Vision

To maintain the moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration

# Pioneering Marine Mammal Surveys Underway

In order to manage and protect a group of animals we must begin with two basic pieces of information: we need to know how many animals there are and where they can be found. For many of BC's whale and dolphin species, we do not have adequate answers to these questions. This year, as marine mammals in BC face one of the most significant threats to their well-being since the end of commercial whaling, Raincoast biologists completed the first field season of a three-year research project that will begin to answer these fundamental questions.

The provincial government is currently poised to lift the 34-year old moratorium on oil and gas exploration on BC's coast (*see Oil Free Coast sidebar*). Seismic surveys, the standard method of seabed exploration for the energy industry, produce intense bursts of sound that can be highly dangerous to marine mammals.

Raincoast's study will determine the distribution and abundance of at least six species on our coast: humpback whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins, Dall's porpoises, harbour porpoises, harbour seals and minke whales. It will also determine whether there are "hotspots" of animal density.

For three months this summer, a team of researchers and crew led by Raincoast marine scientist Dr. Rob Williams lived and worked aboard

*Achiever*. From a platform mounted high atop the ship's cockpit, teams of three scoured the horizon for ten to sixteen hours a day for signs of marine mammals. Below decks, an acoustic specialist monitored the hydrophones being dragged 100 metres behind the ship for whale and dolphin vocalizations. Meanwhile, *Achiever's* captain navigated the ship along line transects that crisscrossed the BC coast.

From the BC/Alaskan border on the north coast all the way south to Washington State, the team logged hundreds of sightings – including fin whales, minke whales and humpbacks – as their ship covered more than 4,000 kilometres of trackline.

Equally important to this study are the sightings the team didn't make this year. Researchers saw no blue whales, sperm whales, Pacific right whales or sei whales; species still in the early stages of recovery from the onslaught of commercial whaling. And there were unexpected discoveries, as well. The team spotted a surprising number of salmon sharks, blue sharks and ocean sunfish in the Queen Charlotte Basin-species seen no where else in the study area. This is exactly where the energy industry plans to begin exploring. New information like this will be crucial to protecting species as the threat of oil and gas exploration and extraction in this area looms. ■

Whale researchers aboard *Achiever* also collected plankton samples and recorded information on ocean conditions. This information will help tell us not just where animals are, but why they might be there.

## Read the Diary!

To read a crewperson's account of living and working aboard *Achiever* for two weeks this summer, visit our website (**www.raincoast.org**).

## Oil Free Coast

Thirty-four years ago, a young, upstart Member of Parliament named David Anderson convinced Pierre Trudeau's government to impose a full moratorium on offshore energy exploration on BC's coast. This summer, the same David Anderson was removed from his post as Environment Minister as the provincial and federal governments intensified their efforts to lift the moratorium. By some estimates, oil and gas companies could begin seismic testing as early as the fall of 2005. The impacts of energy exploration promise to be far-reaching and impossible to predict in an ecosystem as delicately balanced as ours. To find out more, please visit **www.oilfreecoast.org**. You can also read transcripts of the public hearings regarding lifting the moratorium at **moratoriumpublicreview.ca**.

# Vision

A broad network of protected areas in the Great Bear Rainforest that safeguard habitat for wolves and their prey.

# Raincoast Wolf Project turns Five

2004 MARKED THE FIFTH YEAR of the Rainforest Wolf Project. This study was founded on two premises: the lack of scientific information about BC's coastal wolf coupled with a concern for its future. Our research aims to create a broad network of protected areas in the Great Bear Rainforest that safeguard habitat for wolves and their prey, based on sound ecological principles.

We've made some fascinating discoveries this first half-decade. Through DNA analysis of hundreds of scat and hair samples, we've determined that BC wolves are the guardians of unusually high genetic diversity when compared with wolves around the world. We've found that coastal wolves consume large quantities of spawning salmon during the fall season and thus play an important role in the transfer of

## Scientific Highlights from 2004

The Rainforest Wolf Project strives to put forward a significant publication record, thereby maintaining the rigour of our research, the credibility of our results and the authority of our recommendations and advocacy. This year, our published work included:

- Peer-reviewed papers accepted in *Journal of Biogeography, Diversity and Distributions, Wild Earth* and a chapter in the book, *Connectivity Conservation*.
- Presentations at four international conferences.
- Completion of a report highlighting the shortcomings of the protected areas proposal put forth by the BC government this summer.

All of these and more can be found on our website at **www.raincoast.org/publications**

## *Ambassadors of the Rainforest*

Wolves and the Raincoasters who study them continue to be effective ambassadors for the plight of the Great Bear Rainforest. Our 2003 documentary *Rainwolves* was nominated for a LEO Award for excellence in British Columbian filmmaking. In mid-October, Ian McAllister, Chris Darimont and Paul Paquet attended the premiere of National Geographic's *Last Stand of the Great Bear* in Washington D.C., which featured the Rainforest Wolf Project. The three were featured members of a panel discussing the future of this region.

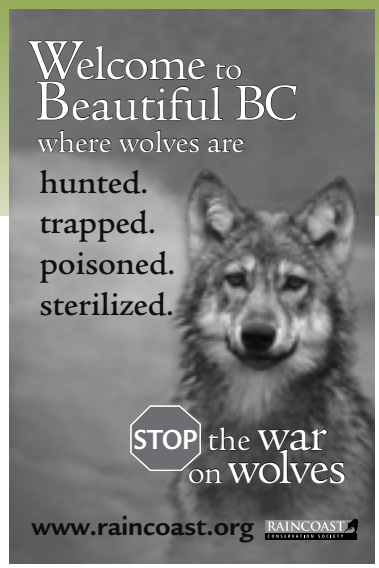
This fall, wolf researchers Chester Starr (Lonewolf) and Chris Darimont were honoured with Animal Action Awards from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). IFAW selected them not only for their outspoken advocacy regarding the humane treatment of wolves but also for their non-invasive approach to fieldwork. They received their accolades alongside fellow BC marine scientist Alexandra Morton and Dr. Jane Goodall, who received a Lifetime Achievement award.

*Right*: Chester Starr and Jane Goodall receive their awards in Ottawa, November 2004.

marine nutrients into the forest. And we also continue to monitor wolf populations throughout the Great Bear Rainforest, including the outermost islands of the archipelago. This is vital information when it comes to land-use and management planning because island populations tend to be very sensitive to disturbances such as logging and hunting.

Over the years, the success of the Rainforest Wolf Project has attracted a unique group of individuals to Raincoast. This trend continued in 2004, as we lured our genetics collaborators from UCLA to the BC coast. They plan to examine gene flow and differentiation among island communities of small mammals and birds. We also continue to work very closely with the University of Victoria, a large group of dedicated volunteers and the local Heiltsuk First Peoples, who have shared so many gifts with us over the years – gifts of knowledge and a love for the land.

The Wolf Project is only now approaching a timescale on which underlying ecological patterns are slowly beginning to emerge. As we build upon our research, the next five years promise to reveal even more secrets about the rainforest's top carnivore. ■




For more than a century, BC's wolves have been persecuted by scientifically unsound and socially unacceptable management practices. For example, today's wolves in the Muskwa-Kechika wilderness are being sterilized in the name of predator control. Raincoast is building a groundswell of support to take on these outdated "wolf management" policies. Please voice your concerns by writing or calling the Honourable Bill Barisoff, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection (phone: 250-387-1187, fax: 250-387-1356, email: wlap.minister@gems9.gov.bc.ca, post: PO Box 9047, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC, V8W 9E2). Or send a letter from our action centre: **www.canadianwolves.net**

Vision

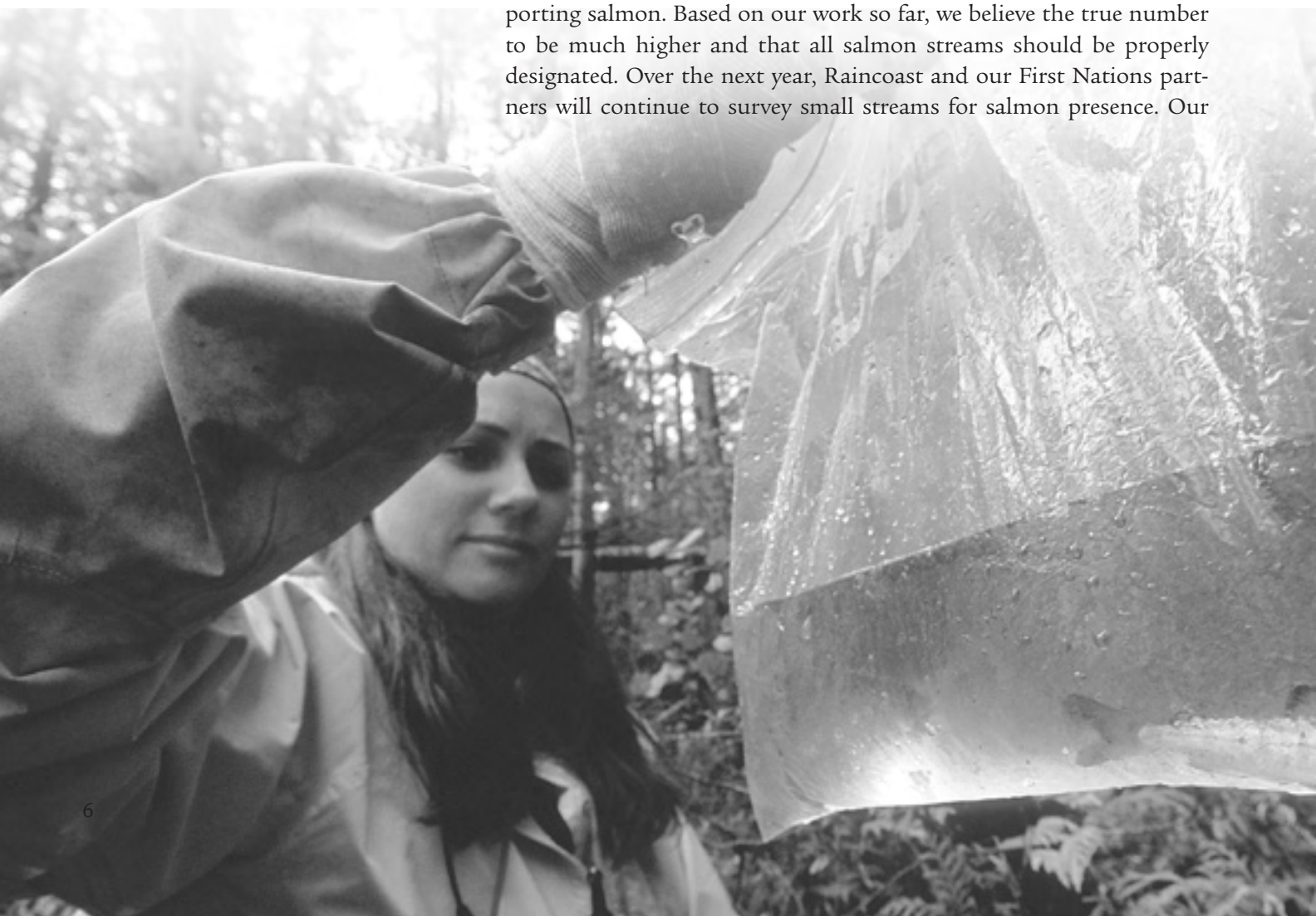
Full protection for salmon producing watersheds in the Great Bear Rainforest and a fisheries policy that restores abundance and diversity to these salmon systems.

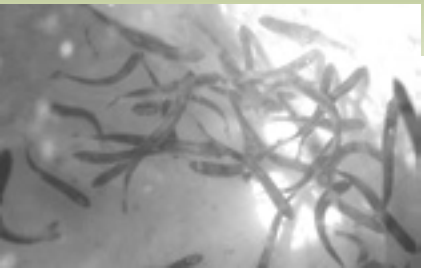
# Wild Salmon Projects Run Coast Wide

As Raincoast researchers head off into the field, whether to study wolves, grizzlies or marine mammals, we are reminded that it is salmon that continue to feed these coastal ecosystems. Even small streams play a role in this relationship, yet many are overlooked.

## *Small streams count*

In 2004, Raincoast and Heiltsuk Fisheries Co-management continued their work surveying small, undocumented coastal salmon streams. Still in its early stages, the project has found more than 75 new salmon-bearing streams. There are over 1,700 primary streams that flow to the ocean in Heiltsuk Traditional Territory alone, and of these, only 12% (206) are classified by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans as supporting salmon. Based on our work so far, we believe the true number to be much higher and that all salmon streams should be properly designated. Over the next year, Raincoast and our First Nations partners will continue to survey small streams for salmon presence. Our





findings will be incorporated into government databases and land use plans so that these habitats receive proper protection.

In addition to our stream assessments, we also collected pink and chum DNA from over 50 streams on the central coast. These samples will help geneticists study how coastal salmon populations are related. Results will contribute to the design of salmon *conservation units*, which will reflect the level at which these fish must be managed and protected.

The federal and provincial governments have clearly shown they are unwilling to do what is necessary to protect wild salmon. Budget cuts to scientific research, escapement monitoring and habitat restoration, token stream-side protection, failure to list endangered salmon runs, and increased funding to aquaculture expansion, all signal a refusal to address key issues facing wild salmon. This is a critical time for wild salmon that requires a major shift in fisheries management policies.

*Below*: Raincoast biologist and Project Co-ordinator Nicola Temple identifies coho fry in a previously undocumented stream. The use of small streams for fish rearing, feeding wildlife and supporting genetic diversity are all reasons for properly identifying and protecting these habitats.

## *Hard core effort in Rivers Inlet*

Over the last few decades, the famed sockeye runs of Rivers Inlet have undergone dramatic declines. By the late 1990's, salmon numbers had plunged from highs of one million returning spawners to less than 3,600. This collapse led to the shooting of 14 starving grizzly bears when they wandered into Owikeeno village (Wuikinuxv) looking for food to replace their wild diet. But what caused this collapse? Was it the sheer number of fish taken each year by commercial fisheries? Or perhaps the drop in local nutrient levels associated with such over-fishing? What about climate change and logging? We believe part of the answer may lie at the bottom of Owikeeno Lake.

This summer, researchers extracted four sediment cores from 750 feet below the surface of the lake. Embedded in the silt, clay and mud are micro-organisms and nitrogen signatures that we hope will provide a record of salmon abundance over the last several hundred years. This research will shed light on the impacts from human activities and inform the effort to rebuild the sockeye runs back to historical levels.


# Vision

An end to the northward expansion of fish farms and conversion of existing farms to closed-containment systems.

## An alternative to open net fish farms

"Closed-tank" technology is a method of separating farmed fish from the surrounding ecosystem. Fish live in tanks that either float on the water or sit on the land. By using this technique, fish farmers can create better growing environments where fish are less stressed and more healthy. Because disease was the main reason for profit loss in both 2002 and 2003, closed-tank technology should provide an attractive alternative.

But the question remains: are closed-tanks economically viable? Raincoast has partnered with other conservation groups to explore this question. You can find Stage One of the report on the Raincoast website **www.raincoast.org**.

## "Salmon Stakes"

Their enterprises range from liquid chemical transportation to organic pork to Wonderbread. They are the five multi-national corporations that control over 80% of salmon farming in B.C., and this report provides an in-depth analysis of their operations. Raincoast's new report, "Salmon Stakes," is an important resource for anyone concerned about wild salmon, government accountability and increasing corporate influence. To read it, follow the link on our homepage (**www.raincoast.org**).

## *Halting northward expansion of fish farms*

In 2004, the first salmon farm near Anger Island on the BC north coast was approved by the provincial and federal governments. And many more applications are on the way.

Now that Vancouver Island is beyond capacity with 121 farms and there are serious problems with disease and sea lice outbreaks, the north coast has become the target area for expansion.

Meanwhile, local opposition in the Skeena region is strong and the Alaskan government maintains its ban on fish farming. Alaskans are already finding escaped Atlantic salmon in their waters, even though the nearest farms are currently hundreds of kilometers to the south. The problems with this industry will not be solved simply by moving fish farming north.

## *Sea lice study infectious*

Year Two was another successful one for the Raincoast Sea Lice Project. Researchers collected juvenile salmon all over the coast, from the Gulf Islands to the Great Bear Rainforest, in an effort to determine the natural sea lice levels in wild salmon before the aquaculture industry moves into the central and north coast.

Over 10,000 smolt samples are currently being analyzed for the presence of sea lice at the University of Victoria. A companion study is also being conducted to get a better sense of the impacts of sea lice on the health of juvenile salmon. We want to know if some salmon species are more vulnerable to sea lice infestations than others.

Results are expected in 2005. This data will give us valuable perspective on the extensive sea lice outbreaks that are being attributed to salmon farms on the BC coast as well as help us understand the natural interactions that take place between juvenile salmon and sea lice. ■

Sea lice researcher Corey Peet with Heiltsuk crew members Josh Carpenter and XXXXXXX. spent seven days on *Achiever* to investigate the presence of sea lice on juvenile salmon in areas without fish farms.

## Ocean Falls hatchery breeds trouble

Despite community opposition, international protests and legal action, Pan Fish's Atlantic salmon hatchery in Ocean Falls is open for business. But it isn't panning out the way Pan Fish promised it would. Their initial claim that the hatchery would create 34 new, local jobs has not materialized; now that the hatchery is operating there are only two employees, and both are flown in from southern communities.

Local opposition grows as promises are broken, and worldwide, consumer aversion to farmed salmon is stronger than ever. We fully support the Heiltsuk First Nation in their zero-tolerance policy on salmon farms.

## Organic Farmed "Scamon"

Despite extensive criticism from both the scientific and environmental community, certification bodies continue to allow farmed salmon to be labeled "organic." While this word suggests healthy products that do not harm the environment, nothing could be further from the truth when it comes to salmon that are farmed in open-net pens.

Open-net pens allow waste, disease, escaped fish and parasites to impact the surrounding ecosystem. Human health concerns, including levels of PCBs and flame retardants, are being ignored as well.

# Bearing Witness

It was early morning. The sun was slowly creeping over the mountains, gradually illuminating the estuary one shade of grey at a time. One by one, my shipmates crept up the companionway of Achiever with their binoculars in hand, leaving the warmth of their bunks to scan the estuary. The smell of decaying salmon was thick, even from our anchorage in the middle of the bay. Hundreds of gulls were feeding on spawned-out fish carcasses on the shore, and dozens of bald eagles were perched in the trees, their white heads like Christmas tree decorations in the pines.

I was very excited to be guiding a group of bear-viewers in that particular valley. It has one of the highest spawning densities of salmon on the entire central coast and I knew that a number of grizzlies had moved into the river system over the last few weeks. Ron, one of the guests, had told me that a grizzly bear sighting would be a dream come true. I was looking forward to helping fulfill that wish. Slowly, quietly, we went ashore and began moving upriver, spooking a cloud of ravens, gulls and eagles into the air.

We had not been walking long when I noticed a patch of devil's club shaking up ahead. I quickly signaled the group to stop. And then, less than forty metres in front of us, a beautiful chocolate brown grizzly bear sauntered out of the bushes and began slapping at the salmon in the water. In no time, he launched a huge fish onto the shore. He then held it down with his front paws and ate the whole thing from head to tail. As the splintering of fish bones echoed

up and down the river, I looked around at the group and smiled at the wonder on each of their faces. Ron's dream was coming true right before our eyes.

Once the bear had finished he walked downriver towards us. He came within thirty metres of the group, stopped and considered us for a few moments, and then casually caught another fish and loped off into the forest to eat in peace.

No one said a word. We were completely stunned by the power and beauty we'd just witnessed. And then a call came in over the radio. Apparently, a group of trophy hunters had just anchored in the bay, and they had licenses to kill grizzlies with crossbows. They demanded we leave the valley within two hours so they could come and "take" a grizzly.

At first, we couldn't believe what we were hearing, but soon our disbelief turned to anger and disgust. The incredible wilderness experience we'd just had in the Great Bear Rainforest suddenly became filled with sadness, all because British Columbia continues to allow this trophy hunt to continue. In two hours, that chocolate brown grizzly bear could be dead.

This is the reality we face every day on the ground in the GBR. This is why we are so committed to protecting these valleys and stopping the gratuitous killing of grizzly bears for sport.

We stayed in that valley until sunset, saving that bear for at least one more day. Sadly, two weeks later, I learned that the same chocolate brown grizzly had been shot and killed at exactly the same feeding spot. — Ian McAllister

Vision

An end to the trophy hunting of grizzly bears and the establishment of large-scale protection for their habitat.

# Hunt with Your Camera

## Bear viewing takes off in the Great Bear Rainforest

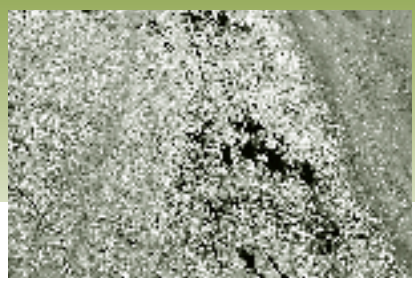
Bear viewing has become an important industry in the Great Bear Rainforest. People from around the world come here to watch grizzlies, black bears and spirit bears in a wilderness setting. Whether it's small, family-run operations like those in Klemtu and Hartley Bay, or larger, eco-lodges like the Koeye River Lodge, bear viewing businesses are helping diversify coastal economies in a sustainable manner. It was not many years ago that the number of bear viewing operators could be counted on one hand. And today, there are too many to count. This is one of many reasons Raincoast is pressuring the provincial government to stop the trophy hunt of bears. For more information on how bear viewing is more economically viable than bear hunting, see our report *Crossroads: Economics, Policy and the Future of Grizzly Bears in British Columbia* **(http://www.raincoast.org/publications/index.htm#crossroads).**

### Grizzly Data Released

In April 2004, the BC Court of Appeal issued a final decision requiring the provincial government to release the numbers and locations of grizzly bears killed each year by trophy hunters. Sierra Legal Defence Fund (SLDF) lawyers argued the case in January on behalf of Raincoast.

Raincoast first requested the information through the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act four years ago, in order to facilitate an independent scientific analysis of the grizzly kill location data. Both the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the BC Guide Outfitters Association have been fighting to keep the data secret ever since.

The province continues to block access to the data in electronic format. A formal complaint has been filed with the Information Commissioner and we are awaiting a resolution.



## EU Bans Grizzly Imports

In another significant development, the European Union (EU) announced in January that it had suspended all imports of grizzly bear hunting trophies from BC. The unanimous decision was based on the failure of the BC government to implement important measures to protect grizzly bear populations. Raincoast and the Environmental Investigation Agency sponsored a report ("Scientific Criteria for Evaluation and Establishment of Grizzly Bear Management Areas in BC") that proved to be a key submission to the EU. The report concluded that the proposed Grizzly Bear Management Areas "are grossly undersized and unlikely to maintain viable grizzly bear populations."

## Contaminant Research: You Are What You Eat

Our current study on contaminants examines another potential concern for coastal grizzly bears: the presence of Persistent Organic Pollutants (such as organochlorine pesticides and flame retardants) as a consequence of their salmon diet. Raincoast teamed up with Dr. Peter Ross at the Institute of Ocean Sciences to examine the presence and pathways of these chemicals in coastal grizzlies. POPs are toxic and act by disrupting an animals reproductive, immunological and endocrine systems. Currently, no information exists on the levels or health risks associated with these chemicals in grizzlies.

# Vision

Full protection of the Spirit Bear conservancy, including the Green, Carter, Alltanhash and Klekane rivers... and an end to trophy hunting of black bears in Spirit bear country

## An Open Letter to Premier Gordon Campbell

Currently, hunting regulations permit the deliberate killing of black bears over the majority of British Columbia, including many parks and other protected areas. We are concerned that this may be the case for the proposed Spirit Bear Sanctuary unless we can observe explicit policy statements from your government that indicate otherwise.

Hunting of black bears in this (and other) areas is problematic for ecological and ethical reasons. Hunters remove an organism provides an important ecological service to the landscape. Specifically, bears capture spawning salmon from streams, consume a portion, and leave the remainder for a diversity of scavengers and decomposers. The nitrogen-rich by-products eventually become fertilizers to nitrogen-limited coastal forests. Moreover, given an increased ecological understanding and relatively enlightened value system, the killing of black bears in the proposed Sanctuary will be viewed as unacceptable by your electorate.

Accordingly, the Raincoast Conservation Society cannot accept a management plan for the proposed Spirit Bear Sanctuary that would permit hunting of black bears, and we respectfully urge you, as Premier, to initiate a progressive and enlightened management plan. This represents an important opportunity for meaningful protection of the environment in coastal BC.

The First Nation communities of Hartley Bay and Klemtu are running successful spirit bear viewing tours. They are employing guides like Marven Robinson (*above*) and Doug Neasloss while also educating people about First Nations culture.

### Contact information for tours

**Klemtu**
Klemtu Tourism **www.klemtutourism.com**
Phone: 250-839-2346 email: info@klemtutourism.com

**Hartley Bay**
Marven Robinson, 250-841-2602

**Bella Bella**
Koeye River Lodge **www.koeyelodge.com**
Phone: 250-957-2567 email: info@koeyelodge.com

**Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC**
**www.bearviewing.ca** email: info@bearviewing.ca

The government continues to allow the trophy hunting of black bears in spirit bear country even though black bears carry the recessive gene that make "spirit bears" white.

Parker Creek, King Island. This large clearcut is in a watershed the BC government's land use plan identified as a "biodiveristy area", because of its important ecological values."

*"The maintenance of large conservation networks requires a degree of sacrifice by humans. We must be willing to give up some areas for other species to survive. This is what saving the rainforest, or saving the desert tortoise, or saving the bears, is all about."*

Dr. Lance Craighead, wildlife scientist

# Great Barely Protected Rainforest?

## Island Evolution

One of the main problems with government sponsored land use plans is that they do not recognize that the BC coast is a complex archipelago of islands. Evolutionary biology teaches us that island populations are extremely vulnerable to disturbance, more so than those on the mainland, and environments can differ dramatically from one island to the next. This impacts the evolution of species.

For example, the initial work on songbirds suggests that island residents have distinct morphological differences compared to mainland populations. Therefore, in order to preserve the unique diversity of life on BC's coast, conservation plans must reflect its island geography.

In July of this year, the provincial government announced a new land use plan for the BC coast. After years of consultation with leaders of industry, First Nations, environmental groups and scientists, the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan (CCLRMP) table recommended that 22% of the BC coast be protected from logging and mining operations, with a further 11% in no-logging status.

One would expect that a modern conservation strategy for a globally rare ecosystem would strongly reflect the findings of the scientific community. However, the CCLRMP strategy falls considerably short of the recommendations provided by the scientists that government consulted on this issue. The science team recommended 44-50% protection as the *minimum* requirement for maintaining biodiversity on the coast.

The CCLRMP is relying on "Ecosystem Based Management" (EBM) to compensate for the low level of protection provided by the plan. However, there is currently great uncertainty as to what EBM entails and whether it can be implemented by logging companies. While this debate drags on, clearcut logging continues in river valleys up and down the coast.

Other inadequacies of the CCLRMP recommendations include:

- 60% of critical grizzly bear habitat will be unprotected
- trophy hunting of grizzlies and wolves throughout most new "protected areas"
- habitat for over 70% of salmon runs will be unprotected
- 79% of the coast will be left open to mining
- 83% of ideal nesting areas for the threatened Northern Goshawk will be unprotected
- 74% of nesting habitat for the endangered Marbled Murrelet will be unprotected
- 73% of mountain goat winter range will be unprotected
- 70% of critical deer winter range will be unprotected

# *Achiever's* First Full Year

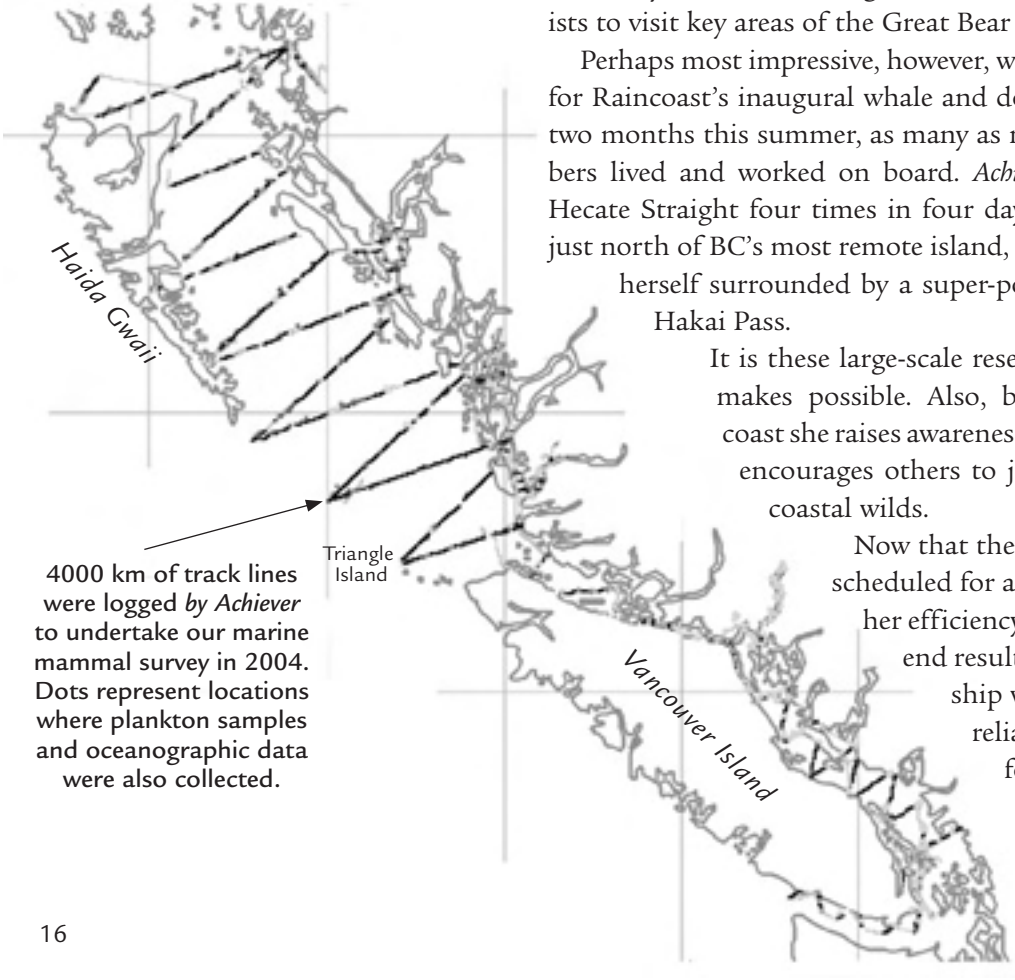
In her first full year of operation, the research vessel *Achiever* made an impressive debut. As the only full-time, non-government funded research ship on the BC coast, *Achiever* operated nearly non-stop from April through to October.

Already she has proven to be indispensable, delivering our wild salmon, sea lice, wolf and grizzly researchers to their study sites throughout the season. Between these journeys she transported First Nations youth for wildlife guide training and took fellow conservationists to visit key areas of the Great Bear Rainforest.

Perhaps most impressive, however, was *Achiever's* role as the platform for Raincoast's inaugural whale and dolphin surveys (see page 2). For two months this summer, as many as nine researchers and crew members lived and worked on board. *Achiever* crossed the unpredictable Hecate Straight four times in four days. She spent a night anchored just north of BC's most remote island, Triangle Island. She even found herself surrounded by a super-pod of 70 orcas in the waters of Hakai Pass.

It is these large-scale research projects that *Achiever* now makes possible. Also, by traveling up and down the coast she raises awareness about Raincoast's mission and encourages others to join our efforts to protect BC's coastal wilds.

Now that the 2004 season is over, *Achiever* is scheduled for an extreme makeover to improve her efficiency, productivity and capacity. The end result will be a Coast Guard-certified ship with much more versatility and reliability that will be easier to care for and longer-lived. ■




4000 km of track lines were logged *by Achiever* to undertake our marine mammal survey in 2004. Dots represent locations where plankton samples and oceanographic data were also collected.

# *Friend of the Raincoast*

profiles an individual
who deserves special recognition
for their perseverence, dedication,
and generosity in helping study
and protect the Great
Bear Rainforest.

## Dr. Paul Paquet

Paul Paquet has always felt a emotional attachment to wildlife. He has dedicated his life to studying top-of-the-food-chain predators, and after more than three decades in the field is now an internationally recognized authority on mammalian carnivores, specifically wolves. He maintains adjunct professorships at a number of Canadian universities, is the author of more than 90 scientific papers and is co-editor of the book Wolves of the World.

Paul first met Ian and Karen McAllister in the late 1990's. He says meeting some of the people behind Raincoast was an important turning point for him.

"Very seldom do you come across people or groups that exhibit the passion necessary to make the changes that are needed in this world. This passion was immediately apparent in Raincoast."

Inspired by this meeting, Paul helped to initiate the Rainforest Wolf Project, the landmark study of the ecology and genetics of BC's coastal wolves. He introduced a young, volunteer field worker named Chris Darimont to Raincoast, and Chris is now our lead biologist on the project.

These days, in addition to being involved in a number of research projects around the world, Paul serves as Raincoast's senior scientific advisor and his contributions are vital to the integrity of our work and the development of our programs. He spends large amounts of time in the field with our researchers, advising them on everything from study design to data collection techniques, and even our advocacy campaigns. Paul recently co-authored Raincoast's critical assessment of the central coast's land-use plans and continues to publish results from the wolf project in peer-reviewed scientific journals. And his philosophical and ethical contributions over the years have been essential to the development of Raincoast's mission.

When asked how he deals with the frustrations that so many conservationists face in their fight to protect the planet, Paul quickly brings the discussion back to the animals who live here. "I do this work because losing a species is something I just can't reconcile to myself," he says.

"There is always hope in struggle, I doubt there is anyone involved with Raincoast who doesn't truly believe that permanent protection of the Great Bear Rainforest is possible."

Paul Paquet lives northeast of Saskatoon with his wife, Anita – who is also a dedicated Raincoast volunteer – and their two dogs and three cats. ■

*"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."* Jane Goodall

# Ways to support Raincoast

**Here is what we need for 2005** *(We would appreciate donated items in good working order)*

**Research Equipment**: lightweight 12-15' canoes and paddles (a high priority!), 14-foot inflatable boats (2), 4 personal flotation devices, small motor boat, marine charts (old or new), mig welder, 75-115 HP 4-stroke outboard engine, 5-10 HP outboard, depth-sounder, new upholstery for *Achiever,* large capacity 12-volt refrigeration system, marine-grade electric 12-volt power-cable, large self-tailing sheet winches (set of 2), power and hand tools, digital camera, mountain bikes and a small motor bike.

*If you have equipment or marine supplies that you think we could use please feel free to contact us.*

**Office**: colour photocopier with 10 trays and collating capabilities, shelves and filing cabinets, laptop computer (PC), easels, folding chairs, DVD player and burner, photocopier for the Bella Bella office.

**Services**: Legal advice, carpentry/furniture building, boat maintenance, boat mechanics, technical support.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities with Raincoast, please contact our Victoria office at 250-655-1229 or email greatbear@raincoast.org.

# Other ways to give

### Monthly giving program

We depend on individual supporters like you to give us the consistent support we need to carry our public education work. The steady, regular nature of monthly giving allows us to plan ahead and respond to environmental issues as they emerge.

Monthly donations can be set up to debit your credit card or bank account. Set up is easy using our new online giving service at www.raincoast.org/support, or by calling Robin at our office at 250-655-1229.

## Investing in *Achiever's* Future

We believe that *Achiever* has proven her worth and it is time to invest in her future. This will require a lot of effort and a fair bit of money. We are asking anyone who would like to help with this to please contact us. You can also donate equipment by checking our Wish List or make a financial contribution by becoming a Raincoast member.

# Images of the Raincoast

Beautiful images of the Great Bear Rainforest reached people far and wide in 2004 – our limited edition framed prints are sold through our online catalogue of hundreds of digital photographs.

Raincoast also has a great selection of wildlife gift cards, videos, T-shirts and signed copies of The Great Bear Rainforest book. If you are interested in seeing or purchasing images or other goodies, please contact our Victoria office at greatbear@raincoast.org or call 250-655-1229. You can also visit the Gallery online at www.raincoast.org/gallery.

All proceeds from the sale of gift cards illustrated by Briony Penn are donated to the Qqs Projects Society.

Newsletter photography: Ian McAllister except Jenny Kingsley (page 1), Rob Williams (top of page 2), Sonja Heinrich (page 3), Chris Darimont (page 4), Theresa Rothenbush (bottom of page 7), Alexandra Morton (page 9).

# How you can help

We need your support to continue our important work. Raincoast has a strong on-the-ground presence in the Great Bear Rainforest and is a driving force for conservation on the BC coast.

**YES! I want to help support Raincoast's work in Canada's Great Bear Rainforest**

**I would like to make a donation of:**

☐ $50 ☐ $75 ☐ $100 ☐ $150 ☐ $250 ☐ Other _____

**Please sign me up for Raincoast's Monthly Donor Program in the amount of:**

☐ $5 ☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ $20 ☐ $50 ☐ Other _____

☐ I have enclosed a signed cheque marked "VOID" for a withdrawal from my bank account

☐ I would like this to be a payment on my credit card

☐ VISA™ ☐ MasterCard™ ☐ American Express™

Card Number: _____ Expiry_____/_____

*For your contribution, you will receive our annual newsletter, email updates on our projects, and brief correspondence.*
***Please note**: Members that have not renewed their membership in two years will be removed from our mailing list.*

Name . . . . . .

Address . . . . . .

Country . . . . . Postal code . . . . . .

Email address . . . . . .

Please make all cheques payable to "Raincoast" and send to:
Raincoast Conservation Society, PO Box 8663, Victoria, BC V8W 3S2
Phone: 250-655-1229 Email: robin@raincoast.org **www.raincoast.org**
VISA or MasterCard accepted through our website at www.raincoast.org/support

## Please contact us if you have moved

Phone: 250-655-1229 Email: greatbear@raincoast.org Fax: 250-655-1339

## Sign up for Notes from the Field!

Keep up-to-date on all of our research and advocacy campaigns with our monthly Notes from the Field email newsletter. Follow the link on our website.

## Raincoast Gift Ideas

☐ Our book, *The Great Bear Rainforest*, by Ian and Karen McAllister and Cameron Young, is a powerful way to introduce family and friends to this area of global renown. $40

☐ *A Grizzly Sport, Rainforest Wolves*, *Islands of the Spirit Bear* and *Rainforest Giants* are now available on one **video**. $20

☐ *Canada's Great Bear Rainforest,* 29 minute video — it's almost like being there! $20

☐ Organic cotton **Raincoast T-shirts** (made by Patagonia) are available in long and short sleeve. Size and colour availability will vary — please inquire before ordering. Short sleeve: $15 Long sleeve: $20

# Thank you for your support of our important work!

### 2004 Staff and Contractors

Chris Genovali
*Executive Director*

Ian McAllister
*Conservation Director*

Stephen Anstee
*Marine Operations Program*

Chris Darimont
*Conservation Biologist, Rainforest Wolf Project*

Brian Falconer
*Marine Operations Program Coordinator*

Robin Husband
*Office Administrator*

Jenny Kingsley
*Aquaculture Analyst*

Heidi Krajewsky
*Marine Operations Program*

Johanna Gordon-Walker
*Field Office Assistant*

Michelle Larstone
*Development Director*

Misty MacDuffee
*Biologist, Wild Salmon Project*

Karen McAllister
*Field Office Coordinator*

John Nelson
*Geneticist, Wild Salmon Program*

Corey Peet
*Research Scientist, Sea Lice Project*

Theresa Rothenbush
*Aquaculture Specialist*

Chester Starr
*Researcher, Rainforest Wolf and Wild Salmon Projects*

Nicola Temple
*Biologist, Wild Salmon Program Coordinator*

Andrew Westoll
*Communications Specialist*

Rob Williams
*Research Scientist, Marine Mammal Project*

MOHAWK wind power

This newsletter is printed on Mohawk Options paper which is 100% post consumer recycled, processed chlorine free, and manufactured with wind power. Mohawk Options is FSC certified. *Savings derived from using 100% post consumer recycled fibre in lieu of virgin fibre*: 7.32 trees not cut down, 21.14 lbs. waterborne waste not created, 3,109.89 gallons of water/wastewater saved. *Savings derived from choosing a paper manufactured with wind power*: 91.14 lbs. of air emissions not generated. The fossil fuel equivalent is 338.91 cu.ft. of natural gas. (ECO-AUDIT SUPPLIED BY MOHAWK PAPER.)

*Welcome to:* Conservation biologist **Faisal Moola** will be joining the Raincoast large carnivore team in 2005. Faisal has studied the effects of habitat loss and fragmentation on species in Canada's boreal and coastal forests. His research findings have appeared in numerous scientific journals. Prior to joining Raincoast, Faisal worked with the David Suzuki Foundation and was a lecturer at Saint Mary's University in Nova Scotia. He holds an MSc in biology and will soon defend his Ph.D. thesis at Dalhousie University. **Jenny Kingsley** joined Raincoast in early 2004 to round out our aquaculture team. She is focused on stopping the expansion of fish farms into the Great Bear Rainforest, including the Ocean Falls hatchery. Jenny has a BSc in biology from the University of Guelph and worked in the Great Bear Rainforest for three seasons as a grizzly bear guide at Knight Inlet Lodge. **Nicola Temple** joined us this year to head up our Wild Salmon program and has quickly proved herself invaluable in the office and in the field. She has an M.Sc. from the University of Victoria, where she studied the biological costs of clipping adipose fins on hatchery salmon. Nicola has taught university laboratories in evolution and diversity, ecology, and ichthyology. She has also been active in public education and science outreach programs. **Andrew Westoll** joined Raincoast in August as our Communications Specialist. He is a writer, editor and journalist with an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from UBC and an undergraduate degree in biology from Queen's University. Prior to becoming a writer, Andrew trained as a field primatologist in the jungles of Surinam, South America, where he studied brown capuchin and squirrel monkeys. (The latter skill set has proved invaluable in his new position!)

**Goodbye to Kate Lansley** who organized our data base and developed our membership for much of 2004.

**We regretfully mark the passing of Armelda Buchanan**. Armelda was a passionate environmental activist who was always willing to give Raincoast her support. She will be fondly remembered and dearly missed.

### Thank you to our field support:

Olive Andrews, Katrina Assonitis, Steve Bachen, Daron Bos, Doug Brown, Martin Campbell, Josh Carpenter, Carlos Carrol, Will Cox, Jenny Christensen, Melissa Duffy, Howard Duncan, Nick Engelmann, Anneli Englund, Stan Falconer, Sonia Heinrich, Hana Hermanek, Joscha Hoffman, John Huegenard, Tim Irvin, Andrew Joanisse, Marty Krokosek, Jean Marc LeGuerrier, Kate Lansley, Dave Lutz, Chad Malloff, Borya Mila, Pete Miles, Alex Morton, Song Horng Neo-Liang, Erin Nyhan, Briony Penn, Debbie Pires, Anita Rocamora, Peter Ross, Sandy and Savvy Sanders, Hayley Shephard, Florian Stein, Roger Temple, Blaire Van Valkenburgh, Jack Van Valkenburgh, Bob Wayne, Charlene Wendt, Chris Williamson, Mike Wilson.

Our list of volunteers and supporters in 2004 fills more than a page. To all of you that volunteered, donated or offered in-kind services: THANK YOU! Our work would not be possible without your support.

### Raincoast has a new home

After months of searching, Raincoast finally has a new roost. Appropriately tucked away in a beautiful forest with the ocean in sight, our new office at Dunsmuir Lodge in Sidney has the perfect mix of charm and functionality. With ample room for our staff and visitors, plus access to the lodge's executive facilities, we hope to hang our hats here for a long time. Please come up the mountain and visit us anytime! Our mailing, phone, fax and email information has remained the same.

Hakai Pass, BC central coast. The Great Bear Rainforest supports one of the richest marine environments on the planet. Salmon farm expansion and offshore oil exploration remain the greatest threats to this fragile ecosystem.


RAINCOAST
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Raincoast Conservation
Society, PO Box 8663
Victoria, BC V8W 3S2
P: 250.655.1229
F: 250.655.1339

Raincoast Field Office
PO Box 26, Bella Bella
BC V0T 1B0

greatbear@raincoast.org
www.raincoast.org