



PAUL PAQUET PHOTO

RAINCOAST
CONSERVATION SOCIETY



Tracking Raincoast into 2006



2005: One for the bears



Reading through Raincoast's 2005 "Notes from the Field", I am reminded that our achievements are made possible by the dedicated individuals who carry out our work. "Notes from the Field" are dispatches

sent out from remote research stations or from the rolling deck of a transect vessel. These communications take us to the very heart of the Great Bear Rainforest and to the raw and emotional side of our work.

Each dispatch reminds us of why we care so deeply about the coastal rainforest, the surrounding species-rich marine waters and the diversity of life they support. "Notes from the Field" provides the true stories of the people working on the ground.

In the field, we have become experts in non-invasive methodologies, and we continue to build the most comprehensive genetic database of island and mainland systems of small mammals, wolves, birds and salmon. This critically important work uncovers the ecological and evolutionary history of wildlife in the Great Bear — essential information in protecting its future.

At Raincoast, we are interested in more than researching coastal ecosystems; we work to protect them. Our advocacy is powerful because it is informed by ground-truthed science and, despite logistical challenges, nothing compares to the quality of data and the personal commitment that our fieldwork fosters. Reading through this year's newsletter, you will see how we continue to share the story of the Great Bear with the world.

Our work, and the work of many, many others helped to make 2005 a big year for conservation. For example, significant progress in coastal First Nations' land use plans was made this year. While each plan varies in proposed protection levels and policy issues, each one represents a tremendous amount of work and personal sacrifice by countless people up and down the coast, and these plans are a first and important step in building a conservation vision for the BC coast.

Raincoast is bucking trends on many fronts. We remain focused on delivering environmental protection in one region — the Great Bear Rainforest — and we continue to put more resources into local communities and field science. We expand and diversify our community of supporters, and we continue to accomplish what many onlookers tell us is impossible. This was especially true when we embarked on buying out the commercial trophy hunting rights for the central coast (*see opposite*).

And although I often raise my eyebrows with suspicion when someone talks about a win-win situation (it usually means the environment loses out), I will say that this year, as a result of Raincoast's purchase of the largest guide outfitting tenure on the central coast, bears and wolves have won big.

It's about time.

Stay tuned for 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ian Malcolm".



Raincoast Outfitters Ltd.

The old saying “if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em” has taken on a new meaning at Raincoast. In an unprecedented move, Raincoast has successfully purchased one of the largest exclusive commercial trophy hunting tenures in the province. With the support of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo, Xai’ xais, Wuikinuxv, Gwasala-Nakwaxdaxw and Nuxalk First Nations, a new voice will now be heard when it comes to managing wildlife.

Our new license area covers over 20,000 square kilometres of coastal rainforest (an area more than three times the size of Banff National Park) and runs from Princess Royal Island

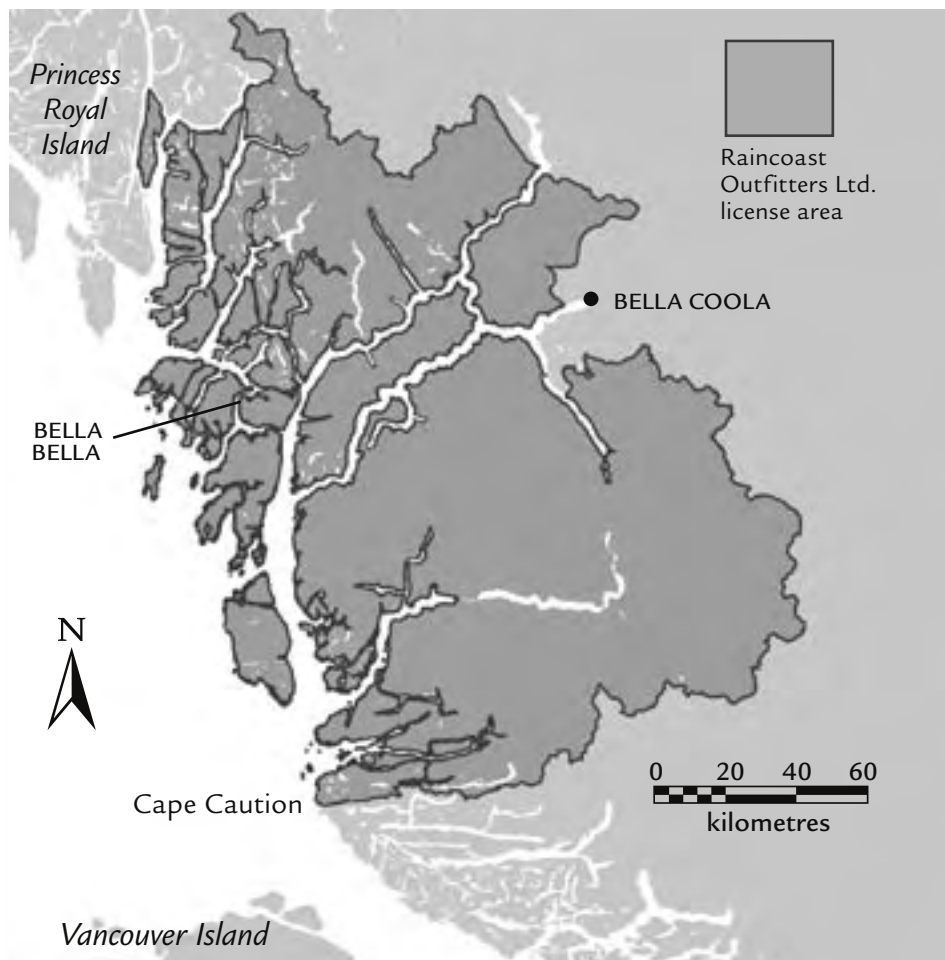
south to Cape Caution and east to Bella Coola (*see map below*). This wildlife-rich region includes much of the productive grizzly, Spirit and black bear habitat of the BC central coast and is the core study area for much of our wolf research.

“This is a historic purchase for wildlife management in BC. Raincoast is now in a position to manage the trophy hunt in a way that respects both First Nations wildlife management goals and the rapidly expanding wildlife viewing sector,” stated Dr. Paul Paquet, senior science advisor for Raincoast.

Our future plans that build on this initiative include assisting with

the development of a Coastal Wildlife Advisory Committee and a full-time guardian program to monitor wildlife and deter poaching.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all those who responded so quickly and gave so generously to this purchase. This project’s success is a testament to how many people care deeply about protecting BC’s coastal wildlife.



Raincoast has successfully purchased one of the largest exclusive commercial trophy hunting tenures in the province.



Wild salmon – the future is now

2006 continues to be a critical time for wild salmon. In 2005, seven years after the release of the first draft, the federal government released its policy on the management of wild Pacific salmon. While the policy states that conservation will be the highest priority for resource management decision-making, the next year will show us how the goals and objectives of the policy actually translate into on-the-ground management of wild salmon. Also in the coming year, the Fisheries Act will be re-opened and updated, which could have serious implications for salmon management if it is weakened in any way. Provincially, new land use plans do not provide adequate protection for salmon habitat and industry regulations are so weak that the majority of small streams are being logged right to the stream bank. On a broader scale, climate change has introduced such environmental uncertainty that management models will need to be radically modified.

For Raincoast, this means that our wild salmon research programs are key to filling data gaps in this time of change. Results from our small stream surveys have been included in the Heiltsuk Land Use Plan and are currently being incorporated into government databases. Over the next year we will work with the State of the Salmon consortium (a collaboration between Ecotrust USA and the Wild Salmon Centre in Oregon) to see how these data will fit into the salmon monitoring strategy they are developing for the entire Pacific Rim. We will continue to document the variation and distribution of salmon in the Great Bear Rainforest and increase our knowledge of salmon diversity on the coast so that we can best advocate for its preservation. Maintaining abundant populations in geographically diverse habitats is likely our only real strategy to protect the future of Pacific salmon.

Throughout 2005, we continued to document salmon presence in small streams throughout the central coast. We have now identified salmon species in over 100 streams that were previously undocumented for salmon presence — and we are still counting!

Following the juveniles

Every spring, millions of finger-sized salmon make their seaward migration through the narrow inlets and channels of the British Columbia coast. Salmon farms are among the many hazards they must face as they move through their near-shore habitat. While much is known about the basic biology of juvenile salmon, little is known about their migration patterns, their habitat requirements during migration, or how these things are affected by the

presence of salmon farms. To begin filling in these knowledge gaps, we conducted a pilot study in Roscoe Inlet, which lies just northeast of the community of Bella Bella. We sampled juvenile salmon as they made their way down the inlet, and we correlated abundance to factors such as salinity, temperature, and current. The results are helping us design a research protocol for mapping the migration routes of juvenile salmon along the entire central coast. The informa-

tion will be valuable for developing marine use plans and building a sound, scientifically based case against open-net cage salmon farm expansion in the Great Bear Rainforest.

To learn more
about this project
visit our website and
read *Notes from the Field*
May 2005

www.raincoast.org



Northern salmon farms approved by government



SHELBY TEMPLE PHOTO



The Skeena River is home to the second largest salmon run in BC and the area around it is attractive to salmon farm companies. Two sites in the area have been approved for development in the last year and a half, and a third deal is pending approval. Eleven more sites have been identified for possible future development. Salmon farming is a hot political issue, and the provincial election early in 2005 saw many coastal communities turn to NDP representatives as a result of the Liberal's pro-fish farming position. In Alaska, only a stone's throw to the North, salmon farming is prohibited.

Raincoast continues to work with the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR) to halt the expansion of open net-cage salmon farms in the Great Bear Rainforest. We have hired a local campaigner, Chris Williamson, to work in Bella Bella. Chris is working with the Heiltsuk Fisheries to develop a program to monitor the environmental impacts of Pan Fish's Ocean Falls hatchery, the largest hatchery of its kind in North America. In addition, Chris will ensure that results from scientific studies, such as the sea lice project and the juvenile salmon migration mapping project, are broadly communicated among coastal communities.

Having a local coordinator in Bella Bella has increased Raincoast's capacity for new and creative projects such as a joint boat patrol effort between the local RCMP detachment and Heiltsuk Fisheries to try and reduce poaching and other marine violations. It also means more outreach can be done within local communities through classroom visits, science camps, and presentations.

Jordan Wilson working on the juvenile salmon migration mapping project. CHRIS WILLIAMSON PHOTO

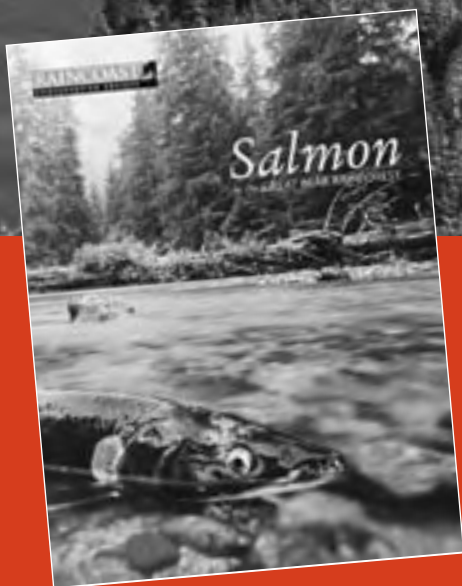
Salmon farms

can artificially enhance the naturally low levels of sea lice found on salmon. They can also transfer sea lice to young salmon migrating nearby. Young pink and chum salmon are very small when they leave their natal rivers in the early spring (length: 3 cm, weight: 0.3 grams), and they are likely vulnerable to enhanced levels of sea lice.

Sea lice: tipping the balance?

Over the past three years, the Raincoast Sea Lice Project has been examining the natural relationship between sea lice and young salmon. The Heiltsuk First Nations' strong stance against salmon farming in their traditional territory creates an opportunity to study this relationship in the absence of salmon farms and to collect baseline data for the area. This unique opportunity has not previously been available anywhere in the world where salmon farms operate. To date, over 22,000 samples of young pink and chum salmon have been collected from areas of the BC coast both with and without salmon farms.

After another field season in 2005, this project is in its final stages of analysis and we will start presenting the results in early 2006. The Heiltsuk Fisheries Program is committed to continuing sea lice monitoring in the Bella Bella area to further strengthen their "no-tolerance" position on salmon farming and we will continue to support this initiative. This study will make a significant contribution to our understanding of how salmon farms impact the natural balance between sea lice and young salmon.



In 2005, Raincoast released *Salmon in the Great Bear Rainforest*, a synopsis of the issues facing wild salmon on the central and north coast of BC. It is available as a pdf on our website, or send an email to nicola@raincoast.org if you would like a paper copy.

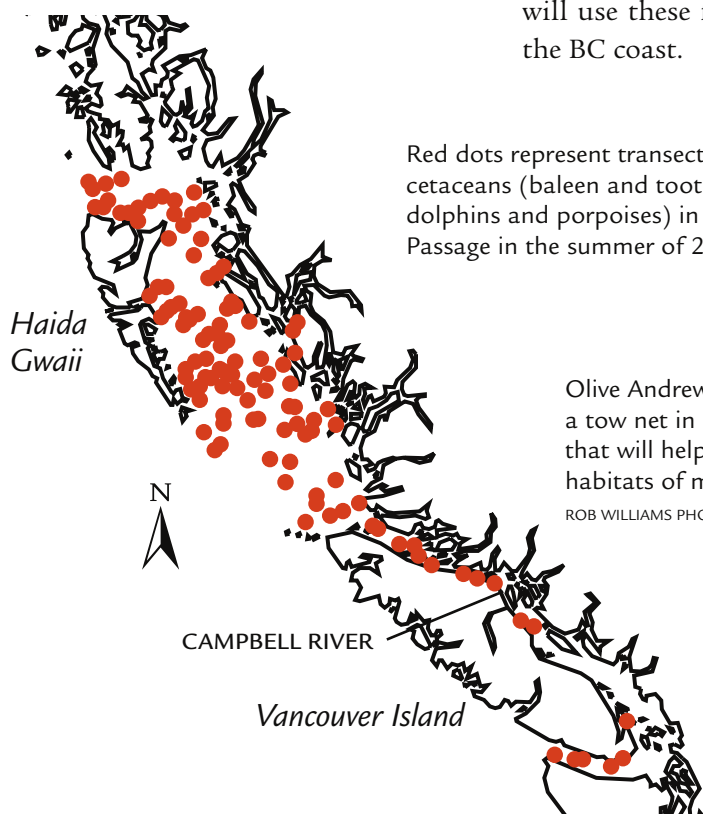


Surveying the sea – the count is on

While BC's resident populations of killer whales are among the world's best-studied whales, scientists have collected comparatively little information on the other cetacean (whale, dolphin and porpoise) species that live in our waters. The summer of 2005 marked the second year of Raincoast's three-year marine mammal line transect survey, the objective of which is to estimate, for the first time, the number of marine mammals feeding in BC's coastal waters in summer months. We have now surveyed thousands of miles of trackline and documented hundreds of sightings of whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, sea lions, sea otters, and other marine species including sea birds.

Although whale populations are recovering since whaling stopped globally in the 1980's, the return of large fin, blue, sei and sperm whales to this coast may be short-lived if offshore oil and gas exploration in the Queen Charlotte Basin is pursued. Our results suggest that this region is a "hot spot" for whales, and this is exactly where the industry plans to look for oil. 'Look' is certainly a misnomer as seismic surveys of the seabed produce some of the loudest human-made sounds on earth. This is bad news for animals that use sound to search for food and navigate. Our goal is to predict which species might be at risk from offshore oil development by determining what numbers of which species are present, and which areas they prefer.

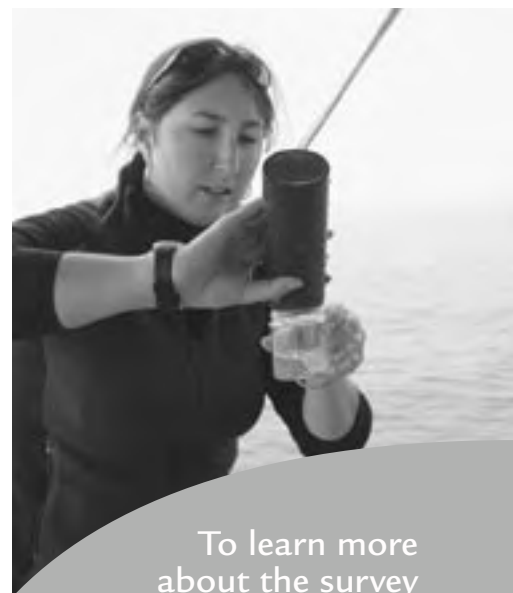
Together with our partners at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, we have begun the preliminary analyses of our data. We hope to have the first estimates of abundance and distribution published in early 2006. We will use these figures to inform the debate on oil and gas exploration on the BC coast.



Red dots represent transect sightings of cetaceans (baleen and toothed whales, dolphins and porpoises) in Canada's Inside Passage in the summer of 2004 and 2005.

Olive Andrews collects plankton from a tow net in Hecate Strait, information that will help us better understand the habitats of marine mammals.

ROB WILLIAMS PHOTO



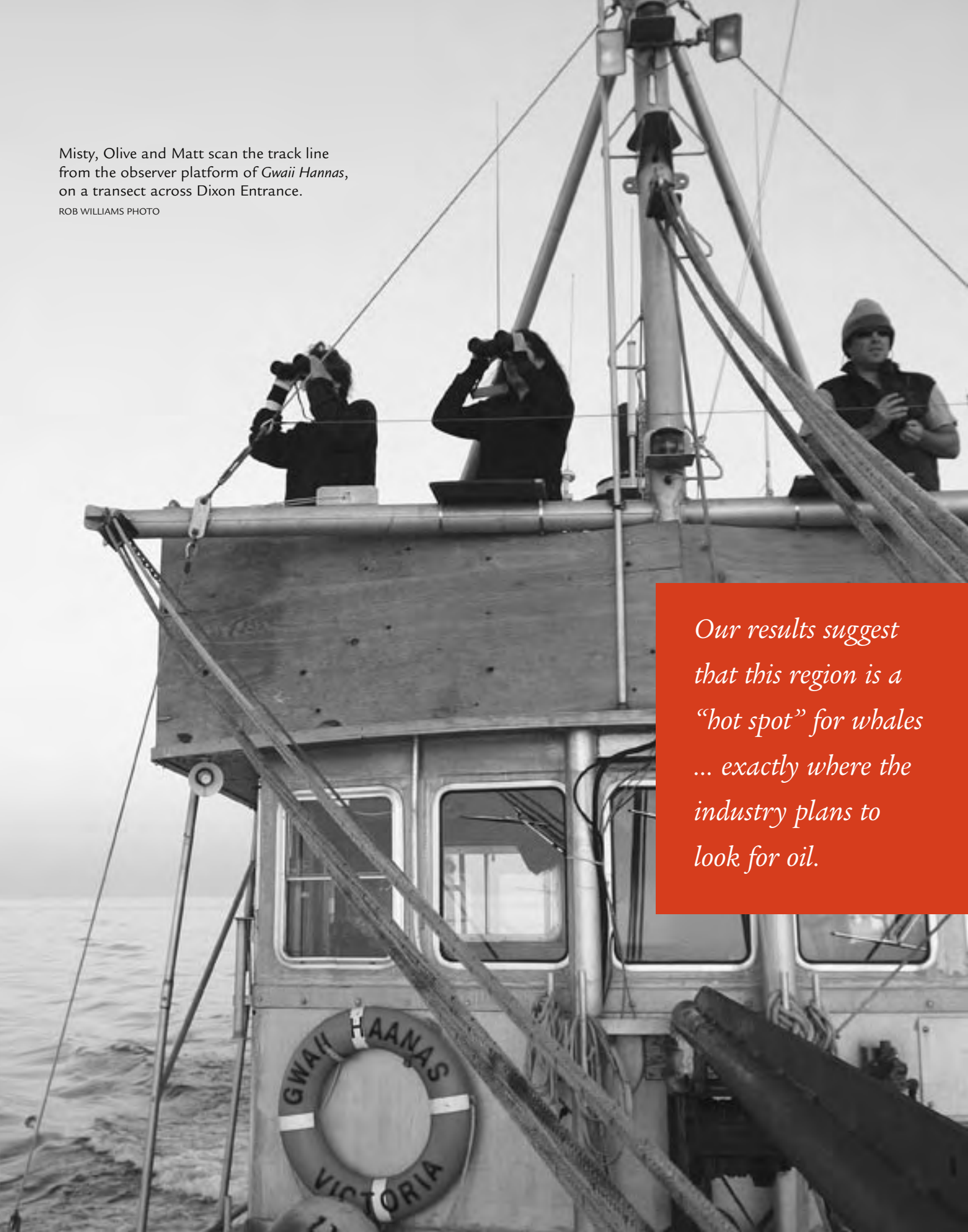
To learn more
about the survey
visit our website and
read *Notes from the Field*
October 2005

www.raincoast.org

Misty, Olive and Matt scan the track line from the observer platform of *Gwaii Hannas*, on a transect across Dixon Entrance.

ROB WILLIAMS PHOTO

Our results suggest that this region is a “hot spot” for whales ... exactly where the industry plans to look for oil.



Rainforest wolves get a check-up

It is hard to believe that the Rainforest Wolf Project is trotting into its seventh year. With a unique union of field ecologists, geneticists and conservationists working with members of local communities, this project is forging a new breed of scientific relationship with wolves. We have never trapped or otherwise harassed these creatures of the wild; we simply follow their footprints as they wind their way through ancient salmon-rich valleys and along bountiful beaches. We then apply non-invasive laboratory techniques to learn about them from the scat they leave behind.

In previous years, we have discovered what areas are important for wolves and their prey for reproduction and feeding. We have also learned a great deal about their diet and how it changes among areas and seasons. Their genetic code is telling us how unique Rainforest Wolves are among wolves still left on this planet. Finally, time spent observing wolves in the field has revealed to us their astonishing sociality. All of this information, collected since 2000, has helped us to create a solid scientific rationale for increasing the level of habitat protection for wolves.



We dedicate this update to the renewed health of Gudrun Pflueger, who has tracked Rainforest wolves and nearly all other wolves on Earth more miles than anyone else.



CHRIS DARIMONT PHOTO



Islands in the sea – a study in evolutionary ecology

This year, we embarked on a mission to fill another large and important scientific gap: knowledge about diseases that may affect coastal carnivores. As we hear in news stories, illnesses, and especially so-called ‘emerging infectious diseases’, can quickly harm human as well as domesticated and wild animal populations. Our concern is that rainforest wolves – in their rapidly changing coastal landscape, which is also a major avian flyway – may be extremely vulnerable to new disease outbreaks. Accordingly, we are launching a broad disease screening that will also employ non-invasive methods. We hope to learn a lot about the natural role of disease on the coast as well as remain vigilant against any emerging threats.

Our research voyage this fall assured us that wolves are still full of healthy surprises. To our amazement we witnessed previously undocumented behaviours: these terrestrial carnivores making full meals of squid and salal berries. (See “A Wolf Idyll” next page.)

Clearly, rainforest wolves have more secrets to share. We look forward as always to bearing witness and sharing our findings with the world.

To learn more
about this project
visit our website and
read *Notes from the Field*
July 2005
www.raincoast.org

NICOLA TEMPLE PHOTO



Raincoast teamed up with the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) again this year to continue a preliminary study on the evolutionary ecology of islands. Islands are everywhere in the Great Bear Rainforest, and the wolf project has opened our eyes to their unique ecology. This project focuses on birds and small mammals, but we will also look at other animals, from tiny insects to large carnivores. Our genetic analyses will help us put together a picture of colonization and migration among islands. Owing to their isolation, islands have been home to the most rapid and catastrophic extinctions in history. As remaining habitat in the Great Bear Rainforest may become more and more fragmented into ‘islands’ in a ‘sea’ of clearcuts, this new project addresses a pressing need to learn more about the effects of isolation on species.



MY RAINCOAST COLLEAGUE Nathan deBruyn and I meandered up the river as the late afternoon sun revealed itself through the broken rain clouds. Suddenly the landscape, previously muted by grey and misty rain, became illuminated with light and brilliant colour. As Nathan and I came to a bend in the river we spied two wolves on the opposite bank, one adult and one pup. Soon after, we saw two more adults farther up the river, one of which was the largest wolf I have ever seen on the coast; he was eating salal berries and kept standing on his hind legs like a bear, trying to reach some choice morsels.

Before long, two more wolves popped up on a small rise to our left. They were pups and were also chowing down on salal berries. Curious about the muffled click of Nathan's camera, one pup came closer and sat attentively on his haunches staring in our direction, trying to figure out what was making such a sound.

We just sat there shaking our heads at the beauty of the scene unfolding before our eyes. The fragile

September sunlight streamed down on the landscape, and fresh rain made everything around us glisten, including the damp fur of the six wolves.

Eventually, the wolves drifted off into the bush and we headed back down the river. On our way, we found several headless salmon — the result of wolf predation. We also came across two seat cushion-sized chunks of a squid upon which the pack had been scavenging. Numerous electric purple scats signaled their salal berry feast.

On the way downstream we saw the first two wolves again. The pup was being dive-bombed by several ravens — they clearly wanted whatever it was he had been



picking at. The raven harassment got to be too much for the pup and the small wolf reluctantly fled, only to become separated from the accompanying adult. The pup started howling as we continued down the river. By the time we reached the river mouth the howling had stopped, the pup apparently reunited with his guardian.

The next day in an adjacent island system we came across a fresh wolf stomach with the intestines fully intact. The stomach was full of undigested salmon. Above the tide line and with no other remnants in sight, it was obvious that a trophy hunter had recently

killed this wolf, gutted his trophy and left the stomach to rot in the elements.

The Great Bear Rainforest agreement does not do enough to protect critical wolf habitat and allows the sport hunting of wolves across the majority of the landscape. It is confounding that wolves, as the apex predators in the Great Bear Rainforest, were left out of the planning processes and land use negotiations for the central and north coasts. Unfortunately, the BC government has shown no inclination to do what is necessary to ensure the protection of coastal wolves or the complex ecosystem that supports them.

— CHRIS GENOVALI



A wolf idyll in the Great Bear Rainforest

Coastal grizzlies can't hide from global pollutants

The findings from the first stage of the grizzly contaminant study were published in the September issue of the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*. Our paper *Persistent Organic Pollutant Exposure in BC Grizzlies: the consequence of divergent diets* is available on our website.
www.raincoast.org

The legacy of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) like DDT, PCBs and organo-chlorine pesticides continues to haunt both industrialized and remote regions of the planet. Despite a ban on producing many of these chemicals in North America, they still persist locally and are used globally. Once released into the atmosphere, they can deposit into the Pacific Ocean where they accumulate through the marine food web. As a result, top predators on marine food chains, like killer whales, can be heavily contaminated. If these salmon-eating predators are at risk, what about *terrestrial* predators that feed on the marine food web? Could coastal grizzly bears be exposed to persistent organic pollutants through their diet of Pacific salmon?

To answer this question, Raincoast teamed up with wildlife toxicologist Dr. Peter Ross at the Institute of Ocean Sciences. The result is a new study being spearheaded by UVic PhD candidate Jennie Christensen. Since mammals are exposed to contaminants through their diet, our first task was to characterize the feeding habits of BC grizzlies. We measured stable isotopes in the hair to understand diet, and then measured contaminants in bear tissue to determine their pollution levels.

Our results clearly show that pollutant concentrations in grizzly bears reflect their consumption of Pacific salmon. In fact, salmon are responsible for most of the contaminants in the grizzlies: the greater the dependence on salmon, the higher the contaminant levels. The good news is that compared to other top marine predators like killer whales, the level of POPs in griz-



zlies is relatively low. However, even low level toxics could spell trouble for bears in sensitive developmental stages.

Of new concern was the presence of an “emergent” pollutant group called PBDEs. These chemicals are used in great quantities as flame retardants in the textile, electronic and auto industries and are largely unregulated in North America. PBDEs can act as hormone mimics in the body and were found in relatively high concentrations in our non salmon-eating interior grizzlies. The concentrations in these grizzlies exceeded those found in Swedish women’s breast milk — levels which led to the ban of two of the three commercial PBDE products in Europe.

Of course, these initial findings have led to more questions about the pathways and effects of PBDEs inside the bear’s body. Along with continuing research, we plan to build public awareness about the need to regulate these chemicals in North America. Stay tuned.

To learn more about this project visit our website and read *Notes from the Field* May 2005
www.raincoast.org



Doug Brown and Western Toad

Guided wildlife viewing

The First Nation communities of Hartley Bay, Klemtu and Bella Bella are running successful wildlife viewing programs. They continue to employ guides like Doug Brown, Marven Robinson and Doug Neasloss. These guides are experts in finding wildlife and they are excellent teachers of First Nations culture and history. For more information contact:

Klemtu Tourism
www.klemtutourism.com

Hartley Bay
www.gitgaat.net

Bella Bella
Koeye River lodge
www.koeyelodge.com

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



National Geographic and PBS released *The Great Bear Rainforest* in 2005 to millions of viewers across North America and Europe.

Land use planning takes a first step in the Great Bear

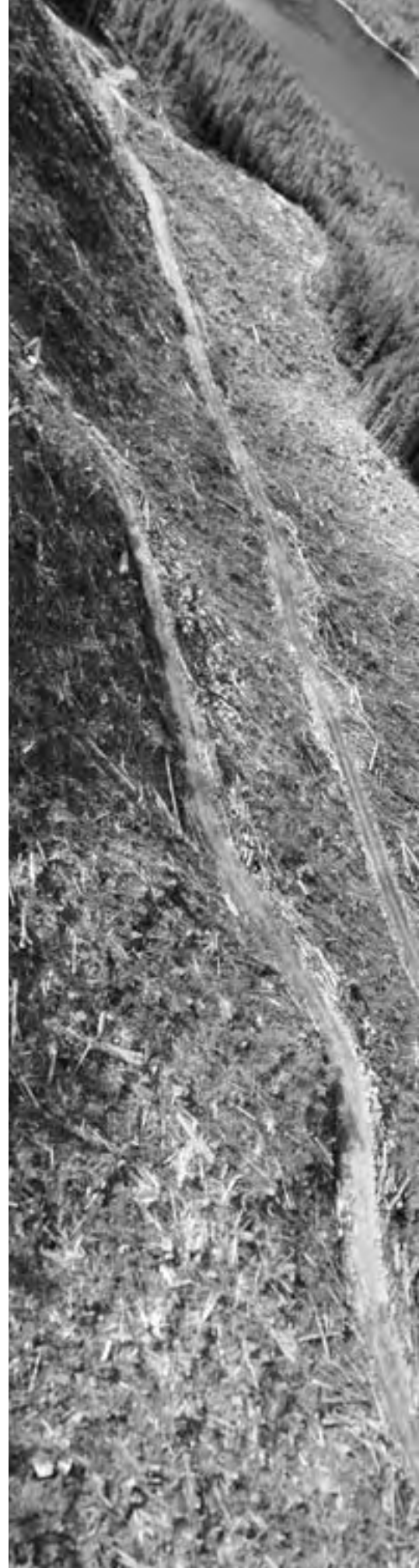
After years of negotiations with various stakeholders, a political agreement to protect key areas in the Great Bear Rainforest has been tentatively reached. This agreement, if legislated by the provincial government, would provide approximately 25% more protection for the Great Bear Rainforest. It would also provide significant financial support for conservation and economic initiatives in First Nation communities and implement an Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approach to logging and other human activities.

While these are significant first steps towards furthering conservation in the Great Bear Rainforest, much work remains to be done. EBM is an unknown and experimental approach to land use planning, and without enough core areas protected, long term survival for coastal wildlife and old growth forest habitat remain at risk. Also, the standards for protected areas have not been strengthened. For example, trophy hunting of carnivores is currently legal across most of the landscape, and mining and road building will also be allowed in some of the proposed protected areas.

The agreement falls short of the conservation recommendations provided by the Coast Information Team (CIT), the committee of expert scientists that advised the negotiating process. The CIT identified 44% protection as the minimum (high risk) requirement for maintaining biodiversity in the Great Bear Rainforest. Even higher levels of protection (as much as 70%) are recommended to ensure that biodiversity values remain at a low risk. Given the uncertainty of future environmental conditions and human impacts, we believe a precautionary approach necessitates additional protection.

Raincoast supports the province moving forward and legislating these protected areas, but there are serious shortfalls confirmed by our research. The agreement fails to protect enough of the habitat for many old growth species, such as Sitka black-tailed deer, coastal wolves and even the Great Bears themselves — Kermodes, black bears and grizzly bears. Protection of aquatic habitat is similarly compromised with 65% of the most productive salmon runs unprotected under this political agreement.

Raincoast urges Premier Campbell to support First Nations land use planning and legislate the proposed protected areas, but he should do so with the knowledge and recognition that lasting protection of the Great Bear will require additional steps and commitment from all parties.





Grizzly protection on a *wayward course*

Wildlife scientists warn that the Great Bear Rainforest agreement will not protect the “Great Bears” of BC’s north coast. In a new study commissioned by Raincoast called *Wayward Course*, Canadian bear biologists Dr. Brian Horejsi and Dr. Barrie Gilbert show that 80% of grizzly bear habitat will still be threatened under the government’s new land use plan for the north coast. Threats include industrial logging, mining and road building.

Other report findings for this region include:

- Only 4 out of 19 protected areas

that are inhabited by grizzlies are suitably large and well connected to other habitat areas to allow this wide-ranging species to persist.

- Half of the protected areas consist of terrain that is largely unsuitable for grizzlies: steep slopes, ice fields, and land fragmented by clearcuts and logging roads.
- Many of the protected areas are completely isolated. Bears attempting to move between these areas will have to use pathways through an unprotected and increasingly industrialized landscape.

European Union says “no”... again

Twice in 2005 the European Union (EU) upheld the ban on the importation of grizzly hunt trophies from BC into EU member countries. These decisions were made despite continued appeals and significant lobbying pressure by our federal and provincial governments to remove the ban.

The EU ban was originally put in place in November of 2001, citing that the grizzly hunt is unsustainable and that insufficient progress has been made toward protecting grizzly bear habitat.

In support of the ban, Raincoast



and its European partners informed the EU that, among other things, the BC government has proposed trophy hunting of grizzlies in all new protected areas established on the central and north coast. The province has also failed to implement the recommendations of its own grizzly bear science panel by not establishing a network of grizzly bear management areas across the province.

Achiever's return

To learn more
about *Achiever* visit
our website and read
Notes from the Field
February 2005

www.raincoast.org



2006 will be a crucial year to get our dedicated research vessel, *Achiever*, back on the water to help us with our exciting projects and responsibilities. The Great Bear Rainforest is as remote as it is beautiful, and with our new role as managers of an enormous guide-outfitting license, *Achiever* helps us to have our eyes and ears on the ground.

Achiever is undergoing an extensive re-fit to make it a Coast Guard certified vessel with the capacity to fulfill our ambitious plans. Its role as a platform for scientific research and field support, monitoring of logging practices and potential poaching activities, training in research and tourism, and providing access to the Great Bear Rainforest for supporters and film crews, has never been more essential.

For sale

Hemisphere Dancer is a 70-foot steel-hulled, aluminum-topped motor vessel. The sale of this boat will support our marine operations program. If you or anyone you know is interested in purchasing this versatile vessel, please contact Brian Falconer at brian@raincoast.org or by calling direct 250-715-6024.

*To get Achiever
back to work in
the spring, we
need your help.*

Our marine resources program needs donations to complete the work that is underway.

For details and information on how to contribute, please contact Brian Falconer at brian@raincoast.org or by calling direct 250-715-6024.

Friends of Raincoast

profiles individuals who
deserve special recognition
for their dedication and
generosity in helping
protect the Great
Bear Rainforest.



Uwe Mummenhoff
and
Michael Mayzel

Photo courtesy of Daymen. Left: Michael Mayzel. Right: Uwe Mummenhoff.

Uwe Mummenhoff and Michael Mayzel understand that there is more to business than business itself. Uwe and Michael have been business partners for 23 years. They are the president/CEO and executive vice-president of Daymen, a Canadian distributor of photographic equipment that owns Lowepro, one of the world's biggest names in protective carrying cases for photographic and electronic equipment. Lowepro gear is available in 94 countries. On top of running a major international company, these men make it their business to contribute time, effort and money to protecting wilderness.

Both men speak with a respect for nature that has motivated them to be involved in various conservation efforts, and this year Raincoast is thankful that they are on the side of wildlife protection in the Great Bear. Uwe considers trophy hunting "a shameful practice that should be outlawed. The only shooting I would like to see in these amazing places on the north-west coast is with cameras." For over 10 years, these two business leaders have been returning annually to the valleys of the Great Bear Rainforest to watch wildlife, take photographs and enjoy the wilderness. These visits, and particularly the opportunities to visit with grizzlies in their home valleys, were a real turning point for them. Michael speaks of the coastal grizzlies he has encountered with great respect. "I am awed by the beauty, power and intelligence of this animal. There is no question that my experiences with bears made me want to turn our conservation efforts towards the B.C. coast." These are the kinds of experiences that can make some of the world's biggest names in camera gear put down their cameras and just "soak it in".

Uwe and Michael demonstrate how linking business and conservation can help "preserve this unique and precious part of our planet. History teaches us that we cannot just take — we need to give back," says Uwe. Their company has the means to show photographers, dealers and other parts of the business community just what is at stake environmentally if we don't act now. In Michael's words, "We're in the fortunate position where our voices can be a little bit louder. We can shake things up a bit, so we do it." Their charity work spans North America and the Amazon, and it ranges from wildlife to children's health.

When asked what we all need to do to ensure conservation of the Great Bear Rainforest, the answer is clear. "Don't take it for granted. It can be destroyed in a heartbeat."

Uwe lives in Vancouver, B.C. and Michael lives in Toronto, Ontario.

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Newsletter photography:
Ian McAllister

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: 11.39 trees not cut down, 32.88 lbs. waterborne waste not created, 4,837.34 gallons of water/wastewater saved. Savings derived from choosing a paper manufactured with wind power: 141.77 lbs. of air emissions not generated. The fossil fuel equivalent is 527.17 cu.ft. of natural gas.

(ECO-AUDIT SUPPLIED BY MOHAWK PAPER.)

We welcomed **Chris Williamson** to Raincoast's wild salmon team in 2005. Chris has a Master of Science in Environmental Biology and Ecology in which he investigated how invading species cause diet shifts in native fishes using stable isotope analyses. Chris has quickly become a part of the community in Bella Bella and has proved himself invaluable as both mechanic and biologist.

Loredana Loy served as development director this year during Michelle Larstone's maternity leave. After holding senior roles in international firms throughout Europe, Loredana decided to relocate to Canada and pursue her passion for conservation.

Goodbye to conservation biologist **Faisal Moola** who performed brilliantly as our large carnivore specialist in 2005 — coastal bears and wolves will miss you Faisal.

Theresa Rothenbush, who contributed three years of hard work to our aquaculture campaign, also left Raincoast in 2005. Theresa has moved on to new and exciting endeavours — keep your eyes open for her newly produced and upcoming films.

We were extremely fortunate to have the help of three very talented and hard-working interns from Patagonia Inc. in 2005. A big thank you to **Maggie Mittler** (on her second tour of duty with Raincoast), **Kristen Ashabugh** and **Heather Recker** for all their great work this past year.

Congratulations to **Ian and Karen McAllister** on the birth of **Lucy McAllister**, **Faisal Moola** and **Sara Wilson** on the birth of **Naveen Sacha Wilson Moola**, and to **Michelle Larstone** and **Taylor Bachrach** on the birth of **Ella Gypsy Bachrach**.

We send our condolences to the family of **Rolf Hussinger** who passed away this year. Rolf will be missed by many.

Field and Office Support

Malina Adams, Jim Allen, Olive Andrews, Kiff Archer, Ellie Archer, Julian Barker, Mike Berry, Eric Boyum, Michael Brooks, Doug Brown, Randy Burke, Rob Cairns, Martin Campbell, Ed Carmack, Julie Carpenter, Randy Carpenter, Chris Cheadle, Brooke Clarkson, Will Cox, Maeghan Culver, Mark De Bruijn, Nathan de Bruyn, Mike de Roos, Judy Durban, Mike Durban, Tom Ellison, Jenny Broom, Don Falconer, Malcolm Falconer, Stan Falconer, Matt Farley, Stephanie Fernandez, Hershel Frimer, Linda Frimer, Dave Gaetz, Johanna Gordon-Walker, Sheila Hagerty, Kevin Hanigan, Gord Harris, Elizabeth Hayes, Munera Hedger, George Hudson, Harvey Humchitt, Cara Hunt, Chuck Hunt, Katharine Hunt, Frances Hunter, Rick Husband, Grant Ingram, Tim Irvin, Teri Hague, Mike Heffring, John Huguenard, Larry Jorgensen, Nicole Koshure, Andrew Kotaska, Yuri Krajewsky, Larry Leacock, Inis LeBlanc, Jean Marc LeGuerrier, Rosalie LeTour, Song Neo Liang, Dave Lutz, Chad Malloff, Michi Main, Sebastien Martinez, Jane McAllister, Karen McAllister, Jeff McConhecyc, Wayne McCrory, George McTaggart, Borja Mila, Alex Morton, Marvin Nehring, John Nelson, Kevin Nolan, Erin Nyhan, Howard Pattison, Briony Penn, Jamie Pepper, Bill Perrett, Marnie Phillips, Deb Pires, Mike Price, Tom Reimchen, Anita Rocamora, Peter Ross, Theresa Rothenbush, Sandy Sanders, Savvy Sanders, Doug Sandilands, Christine Scott, Trish Smyth, Barbara Souther, Shawn Starr, Bert Steven, Gladys Steven, Roger Temple, Len Thomas, Kare Triance, Micheal Uehara, Bon van Hardenberg, Blaire van Valkenburgh, Bridgett von Holdt, Celeste Varley, Andrea Vaudin, Corinna Wainwright, Robert Wayne, Andrew Westoll, Ann White, Troy Whitford, Colin Williamson, Chris Wilson, Jordan Wilson, Neville Winchester, Dean Wyatt.

A special thanks to the crew of the *Canadian Shore*: Larry Olsen, Dave Bell, Lucian Laing, and Melinda Meany

Our list of volunteers and supporters in 2005 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.





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