

Tracking Raincoast into 2007





At the heart of conservation

In February 2006, with self-congratulatory fanfare, the government of British Columbia announced land use plans for the north and central coasts of Canada's Great Bear Rainforest, the largest intact network of coastal temperate rainforest left on the planet.

While it protects some of the valleys we have fought for since 1990, the "Great Bear Rainforest Agreement" falls considerably short of the conservation strategies provided by the Coast Information Team, the assemblage of scientists that advised the planning and negotiation processes.

Subsequent research conducted by Raincoast scientists indicates that the agreement fails to protect enough habitat for a variety of species, including grizzly bears and wolves. Aquatic habitat would be similarly compromised as approximately 80 per cent of salmon watersheds will not be protected under the agreement.

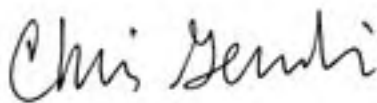
Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) is being relied upon to compensate for the low level of protection, but there is currently far too much uncertainty as to what EBM consists of and how it will be implemented by logging companies.

Designating nearly 70 per cent of the most significant expanse of coastal temperate rainforest on earth as a laboratory for an untested experimental forest management regime and calling it a "safety net" is a risk-filled strategy.

While the theory behind EBM identifies the need for "sustainable" resource use, the concept itself has never been adequately defined or demonstrated successfully in an industrial forestry setting. In fact, despite its adoption by the United States Forest Service (USFS) in the early 1990s, the concept is widely regarded among USFS employees as a flawed approach because it has not delivered on the promise of improved management and conservation of lands and wildlife.

In B.C., the chronic disconnect between science and conservation seems more pronounced than ever. Although ecological literacy and awareness have improved in recent years, the province has yet to heed the persistent warnings of conservation biologists. Government still lacks a fundamental understanding of the functions and processes that underpin natural systems.

At present, there is often no intersection between what politicians and regulators claim is politically feasible and what science is calling mandatory. At Raincoast, we are committed to reversing that trend, and we will continue to work tirelessly to safeguard biodiversity on this magnificent coast.



CHRIS GENOVALI

Executive Director – Raincoast Conservation Society



Great Bear Rainforest STATS

Percentage of:

Land protected under previous governments 9%

Additional land protected under the new agreement 19%

Land designated as mining and tourism zones 5%

Land designated for Ecosystem Based Management 67%

Protection the Coast Information Team recommended would be necessary to ensure that biodiversity values remain at a low risk in perpetuity 70%

Forestry retrospective

Back then....

16 years ago I found myself strapped into the seat of a fixed wing Cessna documenting the coastal temperate rainforest with still and video cameras. Flying the plane was Michael Humphries, a veteran WWII fighter pilot and one of the Raincoast's founding directors. Our mission was to explore every single valley on the British Columbia mainland coast and document the status of its islands and rainforest valleys.

Over 200 valleys were marked on our map and by the end of the season we had flown up and down each and every one, from Bute Inlet to the Alaskan pan-handle – the full extent of the Great Bear Rainforest.

Witnessing so much magnificent intact rainforest wilderness was life changing for both of us, especially as it was a stark contrast to the logging destruction we had observed

over Vancouver Island and B.C.'s south coast.

I remember thinking how fortunate the forests of B.C.'s north coast were to have been mostly spared – and how large the conservation opportunities were for this place.

And now....

In light of the recent rainforest agreements and promises by the government and timber companies to change forest practices, I took to the air again in October 2006. The goal was to visit only recent logging operations and assess how real these changes actually were on the ground.

I could not believe my eyes. Islands like Pooley, Hawkesbury, Fishegg and Banks – once the island jewels of the Great Bear were rapidly being roaded and clearcut. The type of logging practices that I witnessed

were indistinguishable from what Michael and I had observed well over a decade ago. It is still status-quo clearcut logging within a vast network of roads.

This unsustainable rate of cut, in particular the cedar high-grading by helicopter for the raw log export market, will leave very few options for protecting what remains of this world class ecosystem. Coastal communities should be equally alarmed as this kind of destruction will leave very few employment opportunities.

Under the latest agreement not a single protected area in the entire Great Bear Rainforest is large enough to support a wolf pack's home range, and it provides protection for only 20% of the coast's salmon watersheds. Even its very namesake – the grizzly bear – currently receives less than 30% habitat protection.

We have endured 16 years of broken promises from ever changing provincial governments and timber companies. The latest promise is that logging practices will change before the end of this decade. Based on this latest reconnaissance, it is clear that the coast and its many species cannot wait that long.

IAN MCALLISTER
Conservation Director



Photo, left: Johnson River, Rivers Inlet. One of many spectacular salmon/bear river valleys left unprotected and threatened under the Great Bear Rainforest agreement.

Photo, right: Government designated "biodiversity area," Parker Creek, King Island, October, 2006.



**Raincoast
frontline
reporting
LINK**

Raincoast will continue
to document forest
practices from the ground
and from the air.

raincoast.org/frontline

Researching a sea of change

What a difference a year makes. In 2003, we had an idea to design and conduct a systematic survey of marine mammals and seabirds on the B.C. coast. By 2004, we were on the water. By 2005, we had data. Now, in 2006, we have results.

To date, we have collected more than 1,400 sightings of marine animals along more than 5,000km of track-line. In partnership with the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, our analyses are producing preliminary population estimates for several marine animal species. We now know that in the summer months, B.C.'s Inside Passage is home to hundreds of fin whales, more than a thousand humpback whales, thousands of harbour and Dall's porpoises,

and tens of thousands of Pacific white-sided dolphins. Also, we find that some species, such as minke whales, are very rare.

Our next steps include putting all of these numbers and maps into a conservation context. For example, given the locations of our fin whale sightings, we can make predictions about the threat of ship strikes related to increased tanker and cruise ship traffic. Given the variability in the distribution of all marine mammals and seabirds, we can model the species considered at risk in the event of an oil spill or a seismic survey. Ultimately, pulling together our sightings data and our oceanographic samples, we can advocate protection for critical marine mammal and seabird habitat.

Because some species have seasonal variability, next year we will expand our survey coverage to include

the spring and fall. Continuing these surveys over time will give us information about the changes in abundance and distribution from year to year.



Marine mammal survey STATS

Number of ocean kilometers traveled for marine surveys	5,034
Number of marine animal sighting events	1,400



Major threat shipped into the Rainforest

After 35 years, coastal oil moratorium in jeopardy

One of North America's largest energy companies has proposed a twin 1,100 kilometer pipeline between Alberta and Kitimat opening up the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest to oil tanker traffic.

Each day, one pipeline would import up to 150,000 barrels of condensate, a toxic natural gas by-product, and the other would transport up to a million barrels of crude oil.

While significantly increasing Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, this proposal poses a dire threat to our ecologically rich and fragile marine ecosystem. Navigating oil tankers between the narrow channels and countless islands in this area (the exact location where the B.C. ferry *Queen of the North* sank in 2006) will inevitably lead to an oil spill.

Thankfully, the majority of Canadians support maintaining the moratorium on oil tanker traffic, and Raincoast is working in collaboration with coastal communities, the very places that have the most to lose, to ensure that our coast remains oil free.

Raincoast marine mammal LINK

www.raincoast.org/proj-mar-mammals/



The sound of seismic

The BATHOLITHS project is a geological research initiative planning to begin seismic surveys on the central coast in the fall of 2007. Seismic surveys use arrays of powerful, high frequency airguns mounted on ships to blast the ocean floor with sound. Interpretation of the echoes from these blasts provides information about the seabed. These surveys have the potential to deafen whales and dolphins. In this project, related blasting along coastal river valleys (to be measured by acoustic arrays in the ocean) also poses a threat to salmon egg survival as detonations will be conducted in the fall while salmon are spawning and eggs are incubating.

BATHOLITHS has the potential to set a dangerous precedent of on the B.C. coast.

Raincoast is working to stop this invasive research from moving forward.

Photo, below: Doug Jodrell at the helm of *Achiever* during the marine mammal surveys.



Marine surveys take flight

Seabirds are numerous. They are also highly impacted by oil spills, and although their nesting colonies have been widely studied, very little is known about their at-sea distribution. For these reasons, we extended our 2005 pilot study and continued investigating the at-sea distribution of seabirds from Cape Caution to Haida Gwaii and across the marine waters of the Great Bear Rainforest during this past field season. Our results will be used to identify habitat and assess the potential impact of oil and gas activity on this coast.



There is a unique population of Sandhill cranes, sometimes called Birds of Heaven, that inhabits the coastal rainforest of B.C. In May of 2006, Raincoast and members of the Heiltsuk Nation began exploring the estuary, forest and bog habitats that

these mysterious cranes require for nesting. For a bird that has rarely been studied, this is just the beginning.

www.raincoast.org/publications/note-field/june06.html

Seabird survey STATS

Number of seabird sighting events *over 3700*

Total number of birds counted *over 19,000*

Number of bird species identified in this year's surveys *37*

Number of new survey species since last year *12*





Wild salmon program

Strengthening the foundation

Wild salmon species are the foundation of the Great Bear Rainforest ecosystem.

Since 2003, in the name of salmon conservation, research crews have documented 127 new salmonid streams on the central coast, completed 156 transects to track juvenile salmon through near-shore habitat, packaged up over 1,700 samples of mud cored from the bottom of Owikeno Lake, and stared down a microscope

at almost 23,000 juvenile salmon in search of sea lice.

However, we haven't just been busy in the field; we have also been busy making our research accessible. We've made over 54 presentations to communities, schools, universities and special interest groups. We've spent many, many hours in boardrooms with government, industry and other environmental groups to ensure that all of this research informs policy and management

Salmon program STATS

Since 2003...

Number of small streams visited by Raincoast staff, volunteers and crew	841
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Number of previously undocumented salmonid streams in the Great Bear Rainforest documented during the small streams survey	127
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Number of genetics samples collected from salmon carcasses	5,069
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Number of juvenile salmon analyzed for the presence of sea lice	22,973
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Number of industry representatives that sit on the Integrated Harvest Planning Committee, which develops the salmon fishing plans	16
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Number of conservation representatives on that same committee	4
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choices. We've even taken a seat on the committee responsible for setting fishing plans.

The salmon program enters 2007 with a clear vision: *To ensure that adequate numbers of Pacific salmon return to their natal streams throughout their historic ranges.* To achieve this, we will be launching new campaigns to address issues such as climate change, mixed stock fisheries, and habitat loss. We will continue to fill information gaps with our research, and we will build our capacity by fostering new collaborations with universities. We will also continue to bring our research findings to the public and decision makers while remaining the strongest voice for salmon conservation in the Great Bear Rainforest.

Unraveling a mysterious migration

Early spring in the Great Bear Rainforest saw juvenile salmon pouring out of streams by the millions, and Raincoast and Heiltsuk field crews were there to bear witness. Armed with polarized glasses, clip-boards and beach-seines, crews tracked the fish to look for sea lice and to determine their preferred habitat.

Juvenile salmon are very important to the marine ecosystem, yet so little is known about them once they enter the ocean. Marine planning has begun on the central and north coasts that will dictate use and development in near-shore waters, including fishing, aquaculture, oil and gas and shipping.



Information about juvenile salmon is critical to this process.

Our analysis of habitat use and migration routes will be translated into maps (using Geographic Information Systems) and scientific publications that will be available early in 2007.

Wild salmon program
LINK

www.raincoast.org/proj-salmon/



Coastal communities speak out on aquaculture

2006 began with the formation of a provincial government committee, assigned to assess the sustainability of aquaculture in B.C. The 10-member team of elected provincial government representatives (MLAs) was called the Special Committee on Sustainable Aquaculture, and it visited 19 coastal communities during its 5-month tour; salmon farming, once again, became a topic of debate.

As industry giant Pan Fish pressed for a third farm tenure near the Skeena River outside of Prince Rupert, coastal communities sent a strong message to the province demanding that the north and central coasts remain territory for wild salmon only.

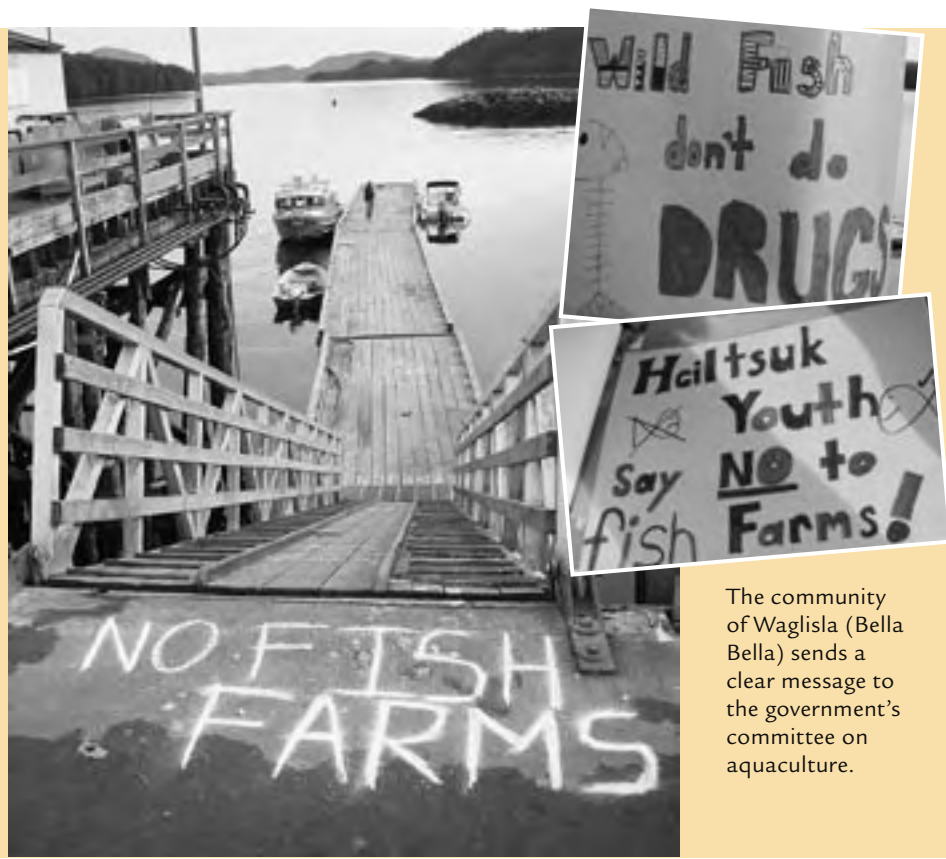
Concurrently, a landmark article published in the reputable journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, articulated the impacts that sea lice from farms continue to have on wild juvenile salmon. This study shows that plumes of sea lice from farms extend as far as 35 km, fatally infecting up to 95% of migrating juveniles. Other notable studies this year found elevated mercury levels in rockfishes inhabiting farm areas and demonstrated that Atlantic salmon continue to escape and successfully reproduce in wild salmon rivers.

Although communities within the Great Bear Rainforest have shown resolve and foresight in keeping the marine environment relatively free of farms, the government committee's recommendations won't be made public until the spring of 2007. In the meantime, we continue to advocate to keep open net cage salmon farms away from the central and north coasts.



Over the last year, we have been analyzing hundreds of sediment samples taken from the bottom of Owikeno Lake at the head of Rivers Inlet, just north of Cape Caution. Several techniques are being used to piece together the history of the famed (but now collapsed) salmon runs in this ecologically important area. Our hope is to construct a picture of historic salmon abundance so that we can address the question of whether salmon ever declined to today's low level prior to commercial fishing in the 20th century. Answering this question will assist in setting future salmon management targets.

Some of the techniques used to tell this story rely on small amounts of elements such as lead, nitrogen and carbon. Changes in these elements over time can be used to indicate changes in the lake's history and infer changes in salmon abundance. Other techniques rely on understanding the dynamics of biological components such as diatoms and zooplankton. These are all very complex relationships, and we are working with a team of experts from Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria skilled in geochemistry and limnology to help unravel the mystery.



The community of Waglisla (Bella Bella) sends a clear message to the government's committee on aquaculture.

Raincoast field station furthers research in the Great Bear Rainforest

It has been non-stop action for Raincoast staff and volunteers since Bert and Gladys Stevens (right) moved out of their home of 35 years in August 2005. Raincoast supporters Andrew Kotaska and Christine Scott (shown here with their sons Jack and Luke), purchased the nine-acre property on Denny Island, across from the village of Bella Bella, to provide Raincoast with a home for its central coast field station.

Over the past year, this property has undergone an inspiring transformation. The work ramped up this spring when the Heiltsuk Nation Junior Boys Basketball Team, along with Raincoast staff and volunteers, hauled out boatload after boatload of scrap metal, batteries and other odds and ends left from the previous owner's boat-building days. Since then, a parade of helpers from many different countries have picked up hammers, saws and paintbrushes, to bring us ever closer to our vision of opening a one-of-a-kind field station in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest.

Now, after a year and a half and uncountable hours of volunteer labour, the transformation is nearly complete. Our reconstructed bunkhouse has eight bunks for visiting researchers, staff or volunteers, a bright new kitchen and a spectacular sunset view. The main house is being converted into three offices, laboratory and storage space. We are building a new dock this winter and plan to continue improving the rainwater collection system, the heating system, and other areas including the greenhouses, smokehouse, and workshop. We hope that the result will make the community proud.



TIMELINE

2005

November First load of wood is barged over from the mill in Bella Bella.

December Ian spends Christmas building a utility shed. Hydro poles installed.

2006

May Raincoast staff and volunteers haul out 35 years of "collectibles". Electricity and wireless internet installed.

June Bunkhouse renovation is in full swing.

July Jake and Johannes build the outhouse. Jake paints the green house.

August Office interior gets a paint job.

September TJ finishes the outside cedar on the bunkhouse, new office desks are completed.

October Commercial foreshore lease for dock construction is granted

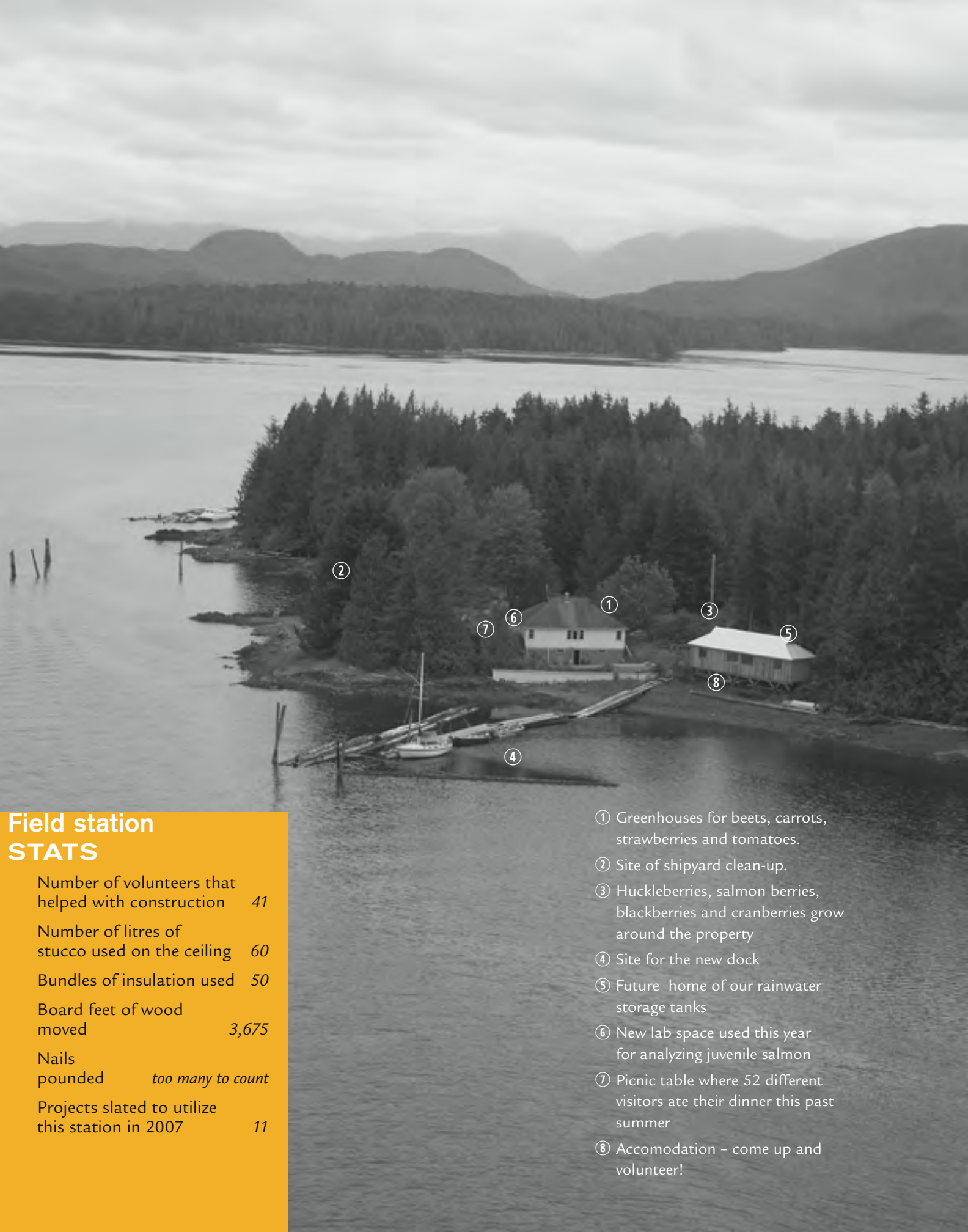
November Winter caretakers move in.

A welcome arrival

In May of 2006, an unexpected gift arrived from Holland in the form of Teunis Jan (TJ) Schouten. TJ intended to volunteer his carpentry skills for six weeks, but, luckily for us, six weeks turned into six months. During his stay, TJ led the transformation of the field station, and he was formally recognized by the Heiltsuk during the Big House opening at the Koeve River for the many weekends he spent there helping to finish its construction. TJ touched us all with his generosity this year, and we are happy to say that he will be back in 2007.



TJ with Lucy McAllister



Field station STATS

Number of volunteers that helped with construction	41
Number of litres of stucco used on the ceiling	60
Bundles of insulation used	50
Board feet of wood moved	3,675
Nails pounded	<i>too many to count</i>
Projects slated to utilize this station in 2007	11

- ① Greenhouses for beets, carrots, strawberries and tomatoes.
- ② Site of shipyard clean-up.
- ③ Huckleberries, salmon berries, blackberries and cranberries grow around the property
- ④ Site for the new dock
- ⑤ Future home of our rainwater storage tanks
- ⑥ New lab space used this year for analyzing juvenile salmon
- ⑦ Picnic table where 52 different visitors ate their dinner this past summer
- ⑧ Accomodation – come up and volunteer!

Health of coastal wolves a top priority for researchers

In 2006, the Rainforest Wolf Project continued its ground-breaking, non-invasive research to acquire ecological and evolutionary information about elusive Rainforest wolves. The most recent research focuses on wildlife diseases.

As human activity increases in coastal B.C., disease ecology may change, and the delicate balance between diseases and their hosts may

Photo, right: 2006 disease project field team following in the footsteps of wild wolves, stopping to carefully collect what they leave behind.

be disrupted, thereby threatening the health of coastal wildlife.

Our aim is to learn what diseases currently exist in the Great Bear Rainforest so we can prevent or monitor the effects of human footprints such as logging and global warming. So far, we have begun analyzing scat samples of coastal wolves, and we have found a number of canine parasites, including *Diphyllbothrium*, a tapeworm reflective of Rainforest wolves' unique fish-eating lifestyle. Our next step will be to find patterns in disease prevalence and distribution because these patterns may relate to disturbance or landscape structure.

Come summer, we will be out on wolf trails again collecting fresh samples. In addition, we hope to examine dogs in coastal communities for diseases such as Canine parvovirus and distemper which can rarely be detected in scat from the field. As dogs and wolves share many common diseases, dogs serve as 'sentinels' of disease in wolves. An added benefit of this work is the potential to provide treatment to dogs in remote communities that have few or no veterinary services.

We look forward to sharing the results of this exciting branch of our research in the future.



Wolf project STATS

Number of person-field hours on this project for 2005 and 2006 2,704

Number of fecal samples collected for disease analysis nearly 1,000

Number of parasites counted 1,827



In good company

Among several new publications this year, the wolf project had a paper about wolf deer interactions accepted in the *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, where Darwin published much of his influential work on natural selection.

Raincoast's wolf research is featured in *Wolf Girl*, a German documentary that will be broadcast around Europe in 2007. The documentary features wolf team member Gudrun Pflueger shown at right with fellow researcher Chester Starr.

Wolf project
LINK

www.raincoast.org/proj-wolves/



POPular trends in hibernation and diet

The first phase of our grizzly contaminant study identified a link between salmon-eating grizzly bears and elevated levels of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

POPs are bio-accumulative toxins that can act as hormone mimics in the body. These chemicals are stored in fat, and the second stage of our research examined whether hibernation might concentrate the chemicals in the body as the fat reserves burned off. Such an effect might present a heightened health risk during hibernation, as hibernation coincides with the development, birth and nursing of cubs. The results of this study will be published in the next few months.

Grizzly bears in the Great Bear Rainforest are exposed to POPs through a varied diet of salmon, shellfish, berries, apples and estuary vegetation. By analyzing these foods, we can understand where the grizzlies' contaminants are specifically coming from. This identifies environmental threats, and provides the information necessary to request restrictions on the manufacture and use of these compounds on a national and international scale.

POP Culture

While our first study documented the presence of legacy POPs in grizzly bears (such as PCBs and DDT), it also documented the presence of new POP chemicals known as the flame-retardant PBDEs. PBDE lev-

POP study LINK

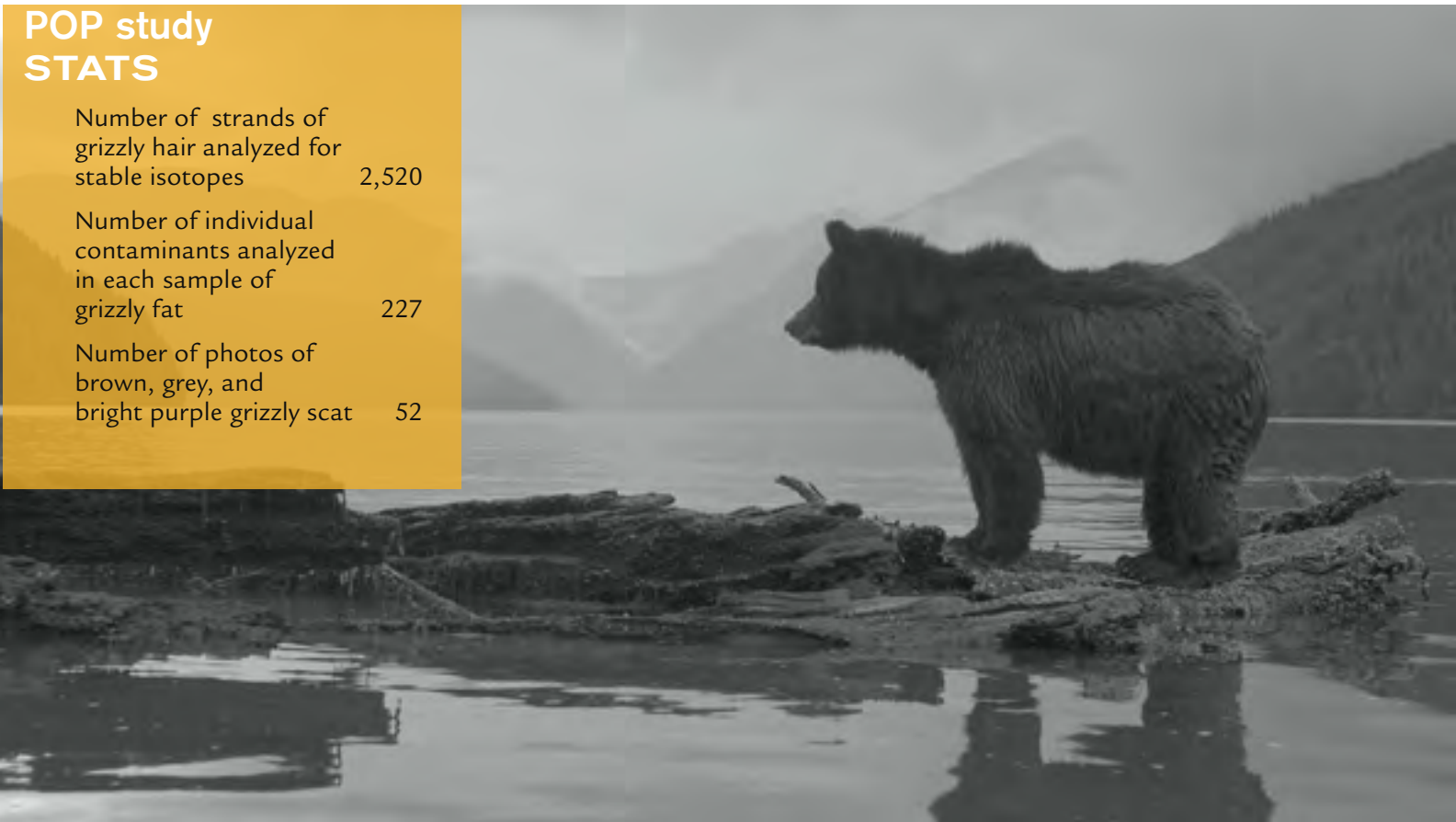
www.raincoast.org/proj-grizzlies/

els are currently doubling in the B.C. environment every four years. While some forms of PBDEs have been voluntarily discontinued, sales and use of decaBDE are increasing exponentially in the U.S.

Environment Canada is currently considering a ban on the voluntarily discontinued PBDEs. Unfortunately, the proposed ban will not apply to the only remaining PBDE actually on the market, decaBDE. Furthermore, decaBDE breaks down into the discontinued forms which effectively negates any ban on these substances.

POP study STATS

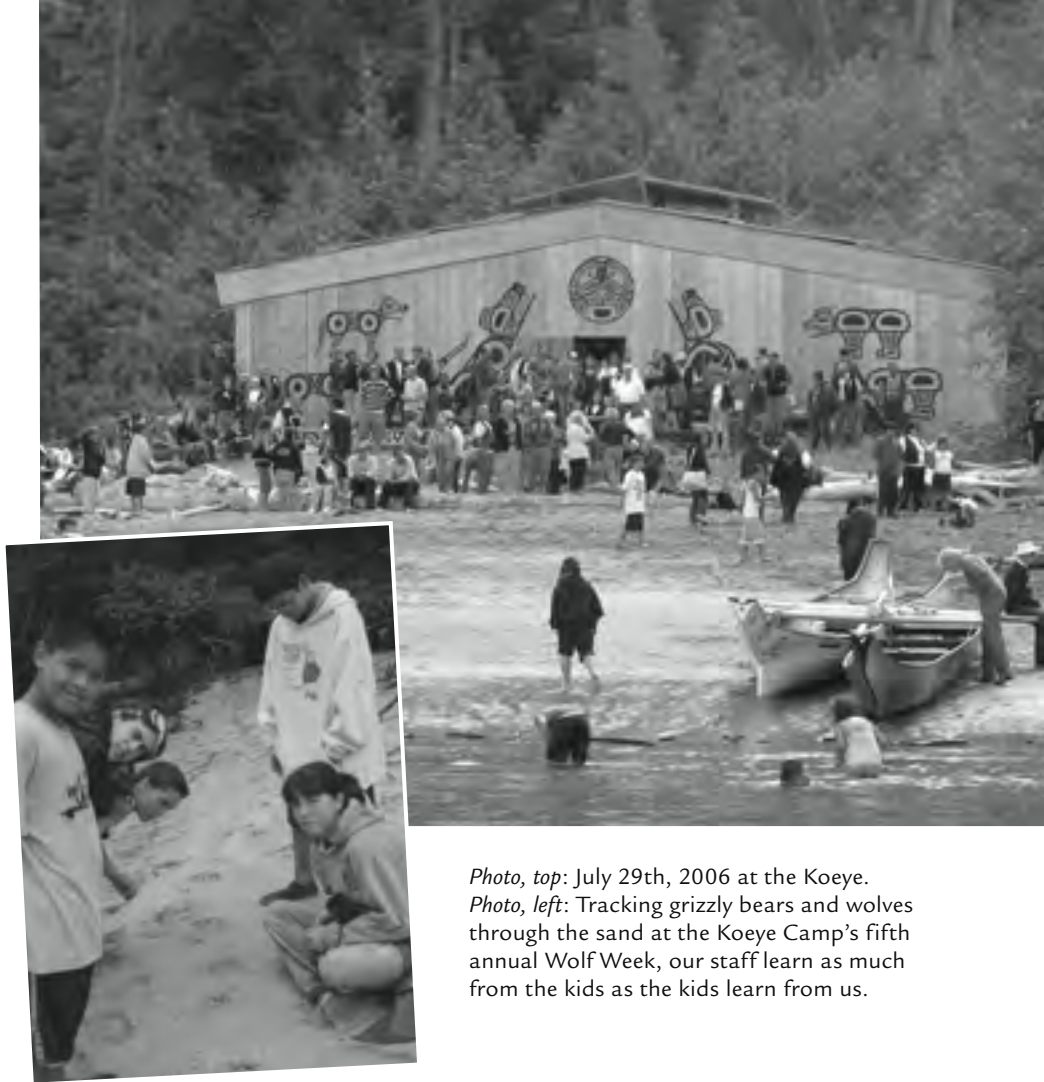
Number of strands of grizzly hair analyzed for stable isotopes	2,520
Number of individual contaminants analyzed in each sample of grizzly fat	227
Number of photos of brown, grey, and bright purple grizzly scat	52



Koeye opens its Big House doors

On July 29th, 2006, hundreds of people traveled by boat to the Koeye River to witness the opening of the beautiful cedar Big House adorned with red and black wolves and grizzly bears painted by Heiltsuk artist, Martin Campbell. The house will be used to teach the youth at Koeye about the songs, dances and ceremonies of the coastal people from this area, and it will be available for community gatherings.

The Koeye is located 35 miles south of Bella Bella and is home to the Qqs Projects Society youth camps.



Photo, top: July 29th, 2006 at the Koeye.
Photo, left: Tracking grizzly bears and wolves through the sand at the Koeye Camp's fifth annual Wolf Week, our staff learn as much from the kids as the kids learn from us.

A year of sanctuary

Thanks to an unbelievable outpouring of support in 2005, we are very happy to report that in 2006, for the first time in a century, the Great Bears and other large carnivores of the central coast's remote river valleys lived through a full year without being hunted commercially.

In the spring, there were no hunters paying to take a trophy home from the sedge-filled estuaries, and in the fall, they weren't hiding in a tree platform above a bear's favourite fishing spot. Also, there was less hunting pressure on black bears that carry the Spirit Bear gene.

Our purchase of this commercial tenure is a first for the coast, and Raincoast Outfitters is committed to continuing our campaign to end all trophy hunting of large carnivores on the coast, and to helping coastal communities develop sustainable economic alternatives such as eco-tourism.

We are grateful to all of you who helped to make this dream a reality.



A star is re-born



Shelter Island Marina on the Fraser River was a hive of excited activity on July 15th, 2006 when we launched a completely re-fit version of our research vessel, *Achiever*. Since then, our 66-foot, steel-hulled machine has barely rested. Final Coast Guard inspections finished just in time for *Achiever* to load up and travel to the Koeve River on the central coast to represent Raincoast at an historic Big House opening.

After that, she completed three weeks of intense marine surveys which included several crossings of Hecate Strait and transects up to 160 miles offshore. In the words of Marine Operations Coordinator and Skipper Brian Falconer, "*Achiever* operated flawlessly and, consider-

ing the scale of the refit, this is a huge testament to the work of all the tradespeople. I am absolutely thrilled with her performance."

The rest of the summer was packed with wolf research, charters and a survey of the area proposed for seismic testing in the fall of 2007 (please see "Sound of Seismic" in the marine section).

So far, the return of our vessel is exceeding our expectations and greatly expanding our potential to research, monitor and protect the rainforest.

Achiever will spend this winter at Protection Island near Nanaimo preparing for a busy season in 2007.

Thank you to everyone who stood by us during this ambitious project.



Friends of Raincoast

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



Ruth Masters

Ruth supports our purchase of the guide outfitter license as a progressive step to protect coastal grizzly bears. “Knowing that one less bear will be shot by a trophy hunter makes for a happy day.”

Photo: Ruth with Callum McAllister

I first met Ruth Masters in 1990 at a blockade in Vancouver Island’s Tsitika Valley; a place where clearcut logging had begun just above Robson’s Bight, a famous killer whale rubbing beach. Right away, this small, strong, no-nonsense woman set to work building a much-needed outhouse at the protester’s camp. No task is too great or too small for Ruth.

Shortly after that protest, Raincoast was founded, and to this day I think of Ruth as an eco-muse. She laid the groundwork for my burgeoning activism. She taught me that there is no excuse to do nothing, whether you win the ultimate battle or not.

Whenever the burden of our work in the Great Bear Rainforest seems particularly heavy, I pull out one of Ruth’s letters for inspiration, and I often think back to a journey we took together to the Koeve River a few years ago. As I watched her wander the beach in that place where it all started for Raincoast, I was reminded of her most important lesson: to take the time to enjoy the landscape that we fight for.

Growing up in the Comox Valley, Ruth became an avid outdoorswoman, skiing, hiking and paddling in her beloved backyard. In the fifties, Ruth joined author Roderick Haig-Brown and others in the fight to stop Buttle Lake in Strathcona Park from being flooded. The dam went ahead, but B.C. Hydro was forced to clear out the timber, keeping the lake clean enough to provide drinking water for Campbell River today.

Now in her eighties, Ruth has a lengthy list of blockades and actions under her belt (Clayoquot and Walbran, to name just two). She refers to her skirmishes as “civil obedience, not disobedience. When people in power fail and mess up, those of us who care about the future have not only a right, but a duty, to rush in and save what we can.”

Ruth is a renowned painter of “big, rude signs”, and everyone who knows her will tell you that one of her greatest talents is boosting morale. She whips out her harmonica at opportune moments and presents large, engraved “Hero Spoons” to deserving conservationists.

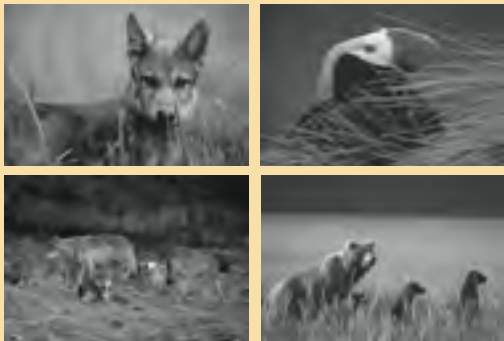
Nowadays, Ruth sticks closer to home, where she keeps busy collecting fish scraps and road kill for the local Wildlife Recovery Centre. She recently donated 18 acres located alongside the Puntledge River to the Regional District and set up a land covenant to preserve this area as a wildlife corridor.

“There’s a lot more to do before I go upstairs,” Ruth tells me, “but it’s all worth doing – it would be worse if we had done nothing.” When asked for a final bit of advice, she offered me two words only, “Eternal vigilance.”

KAREN MCALLISTER

Ruth Masters lives in Courtenay, B.C., and she has supported Raincoast since its inception.

Ways to support Raincoast



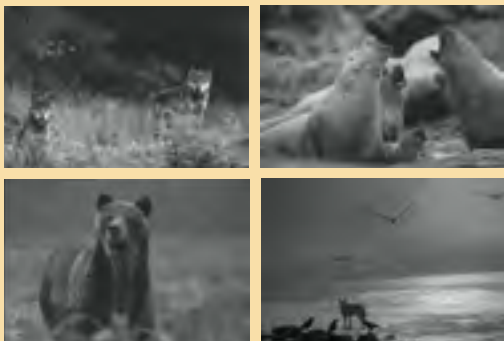
New on-line gallery www.raincoast.org/lightbox

Raincoast has a new on-line image gallery featuring beautiful photos of the Great Bear Rainforest.

This website offers:

- new prices
- new images
- unframed, framed and canvas prints
- easy, direct ordering and shipping within Canada and the U.S.

Proceeds go directly to our efforts to protect the Great Bear Rainforest. Please help us to spread the word, and visit us at www.raincoast.org/lightbox



Get involved

A great deal of our work is made possible by the generous and talented individuals who donate their time, passion and positive energy to Raincoast. Please refer to our webpage <http://www.raincoast.org/about/volunteers.php> for a list of volunteer postings.

Support for the Great Bear Rainforest continues to go global — Raincoast now has members from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Japan, Uganda, New Zealand and Norway!



Join us in our mission by becoming a monthly donor

We are honoured by the dedicated support we receive from our loyal monthly donors. The steady, regular nature of monthly giving is critical for effective planning and quick responses to emerging issues.

Monthly donations are simple and secure. Please phone the office for more information on how to sign up.

A well balanced deal — Thrifty's Smile Card program

Since its inception last year, this program has generated an average of \$500-\$600 per month. These funds go directly towards keeping our office up and running, and we are very grateful to all of you who have made this program such a success!

For more information about this program, please call us at 250-655-1229.



Raincoast's wish list for 2007

- Water pump (emergency fire pump)
- Photocopier
- Fold-out couch
- Vacuum cleaner
- Bedside lamps (to hang on wall)
- 24" gas cooking range
- Chainsaw
- Canoes/paddles
- Laptop computers
- External hard drives, sound cards, USB hubs
- Binoculars
- GPS units
- Plankton net
- Microscopes
- Shark expertise

(We would appreciate donated items in good working order)

A warm welcome to former members of Wolf Awareness Inc. Thank you for continuing to help wolves by supporting the Rainforest Wolf Project. We're glad to have you in the pack!

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 B.C. coast.

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

I would like to make a donation of:

☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other _____

To sign up for the Monthly Donor Program, please give our office a call.

For your contribution, you will receive our annual newsletter, monthly e-mail updates via "Notes from the Field" and brief correspondence.

Name

Address

Country Postal code

Email address

Please make all cheques payable to "Raincoast Conservation Society" and send to:

Raincoast Conservation Society, PO Box 8663, Victoria, BC V8W 3S2

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

VISA, MasterCard or American Express accepted through our website. Visit www.raincoast.org

Please note: Raincoast Conservation Society is a registered non-profit society. However, as your donation supports advocacy, we cannot offer a tax receipt for your contribution. If you have any questions regarding this matter or are interested in other ways to donate, please phone our office at 250-655-1229.

Please contact us if you have moved Phone: 250-655-1229 Email: greatbear@raincoast.org Fax: 250-655-1339

Looking for unique gift ideas?

The Great Bear Rainforest; Canada's Forgotten Coast. This beautiful book, by Ian and Karen McAllister and Cameron Young, is a powerful way to introduce family and friends to this area of global renown. All proceeds from the sales of these books support our advocacy campaigns. Hard cover editions available for only \$45. Please phone the office for shipping details and to place your order via credit card.



Conservation, a gift that lasts forever.

Consider purchasing a basic membership (\$35) for a friend or family member. They will receive a brief correspondence acknowledging your gift, a screensaver of images from the Raincoast gallery, and a copy of our annual publication "Tracking Raincoast."

Thank you for your support of our important work!

2006 Staff and Contractors

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Conservation Director

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Rainforest Wolf Project*

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Newsletter photography: Ian McAllister, Brian Falconer, Sonja Heinrich, Karen McAllister, Heather Recker, Nicola Temple, Shelby Temple, Leo Vicari, Chris Williamson

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:* 7.57 trees preserved for the future, 21.87 lbs waterborne waste not created, 3,217 gallons of water/wastewater saved. *Savings from the use of emission-free wind-generated electricity:* 384 lbs of air emissions not generated; 867 barrels of crude oil not used. These savings are equivalent to not driving 395 miles or planting 25 trees. (ECO-AUDIT SUPPLIED BY MOHAWK PAPER.)

In 2006...

We welcomed **Heather Recker** as our Projects Administrator and Outreach Coordinator. Heather came back to Raincoast after an internship with us in 2005, and her background in environmental programs and activism with Patagonia and other organizations is a wonderful asset.

Michael Price joined the Wild Salmon Team as our aquaculture campaigner in June. Mike brings with him broad ecological knowledge gained from teaching and from working in the field with salmon, birds, bears and other creatures. Mike's varied experience and knowledge is a welcome addition to Raincoast.

Jenny Kingsley is back at Raincoast and has teamed up with **Michelle Larstone** to take on development and communications. We are thrilled to have Michelle with us, working from her new home in Telkwa, B.C., and Jenny has found her niche in this new role that combines biology, writing, and facilitation.

The Rainforest Wolf Project welcomed MSc. student **Heather Bryan** and her supervisor **Dr. Judit Smits** at the University of Saskatchewan's Veterinary College, Department of Pathology. This partnership is broadening the horizons of this long running project.

We said so long to **Corey Peet** who began working at the Center for the Future of the Oceans at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. He will continue to work on aquaculture issues as their Aquaculture Research Analyst for the Seafood Watch Program.

Chris Williamson became the principal investigator for our juvenile salmon migration mapping project this year. He was also an important contact for the Bella Bella community and an irreplaceable part of the Bella Bella field operations. His incredible range of abilities will be greatly missed as he is moving on to pursue a teaching career.

Congratulations to **Jennie Christensen** and **Cliff Chourmouzis**, **Michael Price** and **Clare Aries**, and **Chris Williamson** and **Kara Triance** – all of whom were either engaged or married this year.

Congratulations also to past *Achiever* Captain, supporter and volunteer, **Erin Nyhan** on the birth of her baby girl, **Tara-Joan (TJ)**.

Field and Office Support

Jean Barbeau Allan, Jim Allan, Shelley Alexander, Olive Andrews, Stephen Anstee, Clare Aries, Don Arney, Erin Ashe, Leslie Ashton, Kimberly Baker, Pablo Blood, Michael Brooks, Randy Burke, Martin Campbell, Randy Carpenter, Christopher Clark, Mitch Clifton, Nathan deBruyn, Mike de Roos, William Dolan, Colin Ewart, Don Falconer, Malcolm Falconer, Marsha Freeny, Patrick Freeny, Hershel Frimer, Bonnie Glambeck, Carla Grimson, Maëlle Gouix, Ronan Gunn, Teri Hague, Mike Heffring, Heiltsuk Nation Junior Boys Basketball Team, Sonja Heinrich, Chad and Susanna Henderson, Hana Hermanek, Greg Higgs, Jan and Thomas Hoffman, Caro Höschle, Jessie Housty, Marge Housty, William Housty, George Hudson, John Huegenard, Ellen Humchitt, Harvey Humchitt, Elaine Humphrey, Cara Hunt, Frances Hunter, Rick Husband, Yoann Icart, Johannes Jacobsen, Doug Jodrell, Larry Jorgensen, Sohan Ko, Heidi Krajewsky, Lorna Kreutz, Jake Legg, Jean Marc LeGuerrier, Dan Lewis, Dave Lutz, Andrew Kotaska, Jane McAllister, Jeff McConechy, Adriana McMullen, Alexandra Morton, Gerd and Linda Mueller, Lindsey Morin, Doug Neasloss, Ralph Nelson, Erin Nyhan, Briony Penn, Jamie Pepper, Bill Perrett, Marnie Phillips, Leigh Pieterse, Doug, Lija and Jonah Pittman, Tom Reimchen, Paul Richard, Marven Robinson, Tracy Robinson, Anita Rocamora, Ken Rodney, Peter Ross, Kasia Rozalska, Sandy and Savvy Sanders, Teunis Jan (TJ) Schouten, Christine Scott, Wayne Shiplack, Barbara Souther, Chester Starr, Shelby Temple, Len Thomas, Jared Towers, Kara Triance, Michael Uehara, Leo Vicari, Terri Vicari, Martin van der Ven, Dave Wahl, Charlene Wendt, Jordan Wilson

A special thanks to David Thomson and TREC (Training Resources for the Environmental Community) for their ongoing support.





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