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September in coastal British Columbia should deliver a river thick with salmon, a sky packed with birds, and a riverbank owned by the wild: grizzly bears there to gorge on an oceanic abundance that grants the difference between life and death on this coast. But on a day in autumn of 2008 – during the lowest salmon runs ever recorded – I saw none of this. I instead heard a sound that has fueled my activism ever since. Like the moan of an accident victim or the distressed murmur of someone imprisoned by nightmares, the momma bear pacing the empty creek across from me sounded a primitive call of suffering. Of frustrated impoverishment. Cubs would not grow inside her that winter. Her lament found a place inside me where dispassionate scientific thinking cannot. What I heard from her gives me strength to speak for her and her precious food – to guard them from overfishing, logging, trophy hunting and climate change. No longer need respected scientists and vocal advocates be different people.

The Raincoast Conservation Foundation is a team of conservationists and scientists empowered by our research to protect the lands, waters and wildlife of coastal British Columbia. raincoast.org 📷 On the ground in the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia, Chris Darimont examines tracks laid by a grizzly bear on the hunt for salmon. **TIM DAVIS**