

Raincoast is a team

of conservationists and scientists empowered by our research to protect the lands, waters and wildlife of coastal British Columbia. We use rigorous, peer-reviewed science and community engagement to further conservation objectives. We call this approach informed advocacy and it is unique among conservation efforts.

Our vision

for coastal British Columbia is to protect the habitats and resources of umbrella species. We believe this approach will help safeguard all species, ecological processes and ecosystems that occur at different scales. Central to our efforts are long-term relationships with Indigenous governments that are rapidly regaining agency over conservation decisions.

Our mandate Investigate. Inform. Inspire.

We investigate to understand coastal species and processes.

We inform by bringing science to decision makers and communities.

We inspire action to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat.



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Marine Operations Coordinator BRITISH COLUMBIA'S UNWARRANTED GRIZZLY BEAR HUNT has concluded yet another fall season, but opposition to the trophy killing of these iconic animals continues to intensify.

The ecological argument is clear; killing bears for "management" purposes is unnecessary and scientifically unsound. Although ongoing attempts are made to dress up the Province's motivations in the trappings of their proverbial "sound science", they are clearly driven by an anachronistic ideology that is fixated on killing as a legitimate tool of wildlife management.

The ethical argument is clear; gratuitous killing for recreation and amusement is unacceptable and immoral. Polling shows that nine out of ten British Columbians agree, from rural residents (including many hunters) to city dwellers.

The economic argument is clear; research by a Stanford University think tank found that bear viewing supports ten times more employment, tourist spending, and government revenue than trophy hunting within the Great Bear Rainforest. Notably, the revenue generated by fees and licences affiliated with the grizzly hunt fails to cover the cost of the Province's management of the hunt. Consequently, BC taxpayers, most of whom oppose the hunt, are in essence, subsidizing the trophy killing of grizzlies.

Raincoast and our coastal First Nations partners are progressing with an innovative solution to end the commercial trophy hunting of grizzlies and other large carnivores throughout a vast stretch of coastal BC. We stand ready to raise the funds to acquire the commercial trophy hunting tenures still left in the Great Bear Rainforest.

In 2016, Raincoast acquired our third tenure, increasing our commercial licence holdings on the coast to approximately 30,000 km². Buying out the remaining hunting tenures, coupled with the administrative closure of resident bear hunting, would create the largest grizzly sanctuary in the world and become a model for sustainable economic activity.

Please give generously to help Raincoast make this vision a reality.

For the bears,

Chris Genovali Executive Director,

Chri Genti

Raincoast Conservation Foundation



P.S. *Tracking Raincoast into 2017* is dedicated to our close friend and colleague Savvy Sanders, who is stepping down as our US operations coordinator after 20 years of volunteer service to Raincoast.

Oil-Free Coast

This year we celebrated a major conservation success for BC's coast when Enbridge's Northern Gateway proposal was finally rejected by the Canadian federal government in November 2016.

Raincoast's five years of at-sea marine mammal and marine bird surveys, our evidence submitted in the hearing process, art expeditions, surf expeditions, films, public education and legal challenges, were all part of a monumental public effort that stopped this project. This victory is one you can celebrate along with our First Nations partners, conservation groups, coastal communities and thousands of supporters across Canada, the US and around the world.

Defending killer whales

In November 2016, Texas-based Kinder Morgan received the green light from Canada's federal government to triple the capacity of the Trans Mountain tar sands pipeline and bring a seven-fold increase in oil tanker traffic to the Salish Sea. Raincoast filed for a judicial review after the original National Energy Board recommendation (June 2016) failed to meet the requirements of Canada's Species



at Risk Act (SARA) to protect endangered Southern Resident killer whales. We filed a second legal case in December 2016.

SARA protects the whales' critical habitat, which will be degraded by increased noise from tankers and inevitable small to large oil spills. The government's

decision further jeopardizes the Southern Residents' uncertain survival. It also violates SARA legislation designed to protect their critical habitat.

Port Metro Vancouver also has plans to add another container terminal on the Fraser estuary at Roberts Bank, making the Salish Sea even noisier. This threeberth expansion, along with other energy



proposals that will increase shipping and noise in the Salish Sea, will cripple the ability of Southern Resident killer whales to recover. In addition to noise, construction of the terminal may also impact the rearing grounds of Chinook salmon, a critical food source for these whales. Raincoast has submitted our review of this proposal to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and will continue to defend the critical habitat of Southern Resident killer whales.



Salish Sea Spill Map Project

IN 2016, the Salish Sea Spill Map Project entered its fourth year of drift card deployments. This year, we focussed on the Strait of Georgia and the Fraser River estuary. With oceanographers from the University of British Columbia, we deployed drift cards (that behave like spilled oil) alongside live tracking satellite drifters.

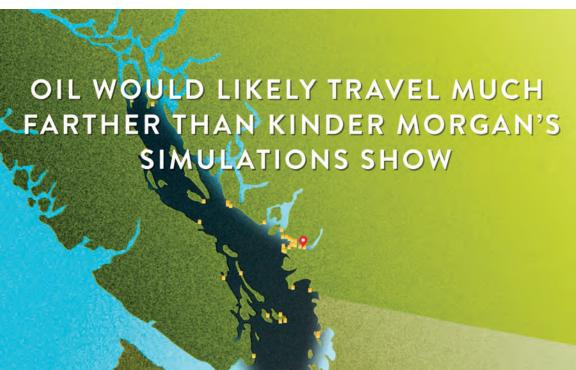
By launching different types of drifting objects side by side, we gain a better understanding of how and where the drift cards move. This summer, more than 1,000 cards were dropped during different weather and tidal conditions. By concentrating on more releases in fewer locations, we can determine a full range of trajectories the cards can take under different sets of conditions.

This fall, students taking part in

Raincoast's *Salish Sea Emerging Stewards* program on *Achiever*, deployed more cards in Vancouver and the Gulf Islands. The experience will raise awareness about marine environments and pollution in this next generation of ocean stewards.

To date, we have dropped more than 5,000 cards at 23 locations in 42 deployments, and have received reports of more than 2,200 recoveries. All of this adds to our understanding of the spread and timing of potential oil spills in the Salish Sea.

With analysis ongoing and academic publications pending, the drift card project uniquely integrates citizen science and outreach. Our spill animation, produced with Georgia Strait Alliance, brought this message to thousands online.





Raincoast Kids

Engaging the next generation in science and conservation



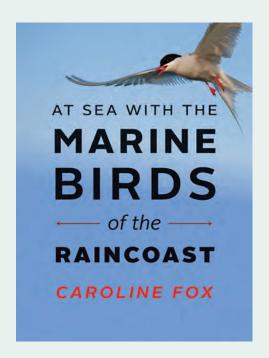
Consilience—the idea that independent sources of knowledge and ways of knowing can merge for more powerful conclusions and insight—increasingly informs our scientific approach. With support from our First Nations partners and colleagues, we brought this concept south to launch the *Salish Sea Emerging Stewards Program* to support youth environmental stewardship.

Hands on learning at sea

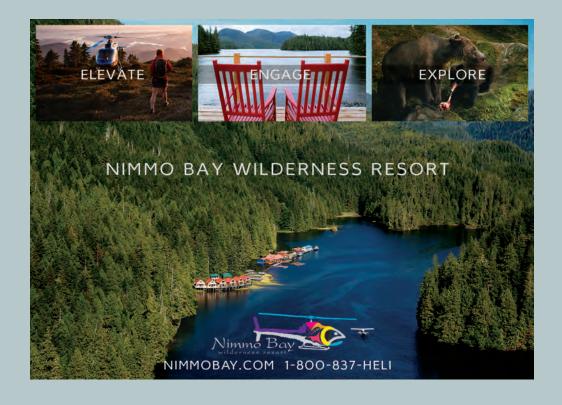
Working with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and teachers from the WSÁNEĆ School Board, we developed programs that use First Nations traditional territories, the Salish Sea and our research vessel, *Achiever*, as a classroom. Accordingly, local school children, including at-risk youth, learned about contemporary conservation issues through direct

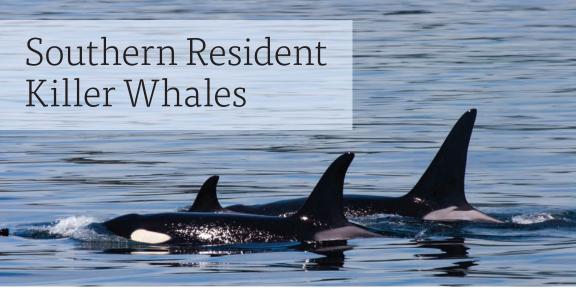
immersion. Local knowledge holders taught students about traditional food sources and resource management techniques, and Raincoasters shared scientific knowledge and experience with conservation in the Salish Sea. Through 2017, we are excited to see this program, and our own knowledge, grow.





Recently released by Rocky Mountain Books, At Sea with the Marine Birds of the Raincoast shares the unique story of Raincoast conservation scientist Caroline Fox as she sails thousands of kilometres along the British Columbia coast, surveying marine birds. Trailed by curious albatrosses and encountering puffins, cranes and storm-petrels, Dr. Fox places these birds in a global and historical context while calling attention to the urgent conservation challenges faced by many species. Order yours today at shop.raincoast.org.





Identifying threats

Last year, Raincoast teamed with leading killer whale scientists to conduct a Population Viability Analysis (PVA) to understand and rank threats facing this population and provide direction on the most effective conservation actions available. Our PVA showed that Southern Resident killer whales require more Chinook salmon (their primary food source) and less physical and acoustical disturbance from vessels to survive-factors that are heavily influenced by human actions. Knowing these details informs our advocacy about which disturbance types pose the largest risks.

Moving fisheries equals more salmon

Low abundance of Chinook salmon corresponds to Southern Residents not getting enough to eat, their survival and birth rates dropping and mortality increasing. More Chinook would be available for killer whales by moving commercial and recreational fisheries that intercept migrating Chinook, to terminal (near their spawning river) areas. Reducing harvest would also allow depleted salmon runs to rebuild.

Space to survive

In addition to their diminishing food supply, vessel noise and disturbance make it difficult for killer whales successfully hunt, feed and communicate. Killer whales produce and listen to sounds to navigate, select mates, maintain social networks and capture their salmon prey. The current levels of noise and disturbance have already degraded critical habitat and reduced the feeding efficiency of these whales. We must give these whales the space to survive in their habitat by actions such as increasing Canada's vessel approach distance to 200 meters (same as US distance), regulating whale viewing by limiting viewing times and boat numbers and stopping expansions in Salish Sea shipping.

Fourteen years ago the Southern Resident killer whales were listed as endangered under Canada's Species At Risk Act. Today, fewer than eighty-five of these whales remain. Despite their legal obligation, the federal government has failed to take measures to facilitate the recovery of the Southern Residents. As one of Canada's most iconic and endangered group of animals, actions for their survival cannot wait any longer.

Ensuring recovery actions

This is a critically endangered population that has the capacity to recover; what we do not have is time to delay—these whales need immediate and effective recovery actions.

Consequently, Raincoast is taking legal action to protect killer whales from threatening disturbances and advocating for the recovery and protection of Chinook, the primary prey of the Southern Residents.





Building a vision for salmon in the Fraser River estuary

Through 2016, we have continued to engage those championing salmon habitat in the Lower Fraser River. In October, hosted by the Kwantlen Nation, we brought together First Nations, local habitat stewards, municipalities and other experts to begin the process of formally identifying a positive long-term vision for salmon habitat in the Lower Fraser, and the means to make it a reality.

This effort is daunting in scope and yet we are buoyed by public enthusiasm for initiatives that appropriately value salmon habitat and the strength and resilience of the salmon themselves. Through 2017, we will continue to pursue this vision, mapping the potential scope for habitat protection and restoration, identifying salmon-friendly flood management options and helping to assess strategies for ensuring the long-term resilience of the Fraser River estuary.

Informing fisheries management

Chum salmon are important food sources for grizzly bears, yet commercial fisheries occur in places that intercept chum salmon migrating back to their coastal streams. In an effort to understand the effect on spawning grounds, bears, the Klemtu community and bear tourism opportunities, Raincoast has teamed up with the Kitisoo/Xais-xais First Nation to collect DNA samples from chum salmon. We are building a genetic baseline that will differen tiate chum salmon runs and popula tions from one another. This new information will inform fisheries management decisions and ensure that adequate numbers of chum salmon reach their spawning grounds.



Raincoast works to protect salmon for the coastal species that rely on their abundance and to advocate on behalf of wildlife in fisheries management decisions. We use primary research and quantitative analysis to inform our participation in government processes and collaborative conservation initiatives.

Protecting a salmon nursery

With a core team of researchers from Raincoast and the University of Victoria's Baum Lab, along with stellar volunteers, we began our inaugural study of juvenile salmon on the delta of the Fraser River estuary in Spring 2016. Despite the Fraser being the rearing grounds for Canada's largest salmon runs, many questions remain unanswered about how different salmon populations use the estuary's habitats.

From setting our beach and purse seine nets more than 500 times, we sampled 33,000 fish across 35 different species, including five species of young salmon. Using DNA analysis, we will learn what populations of juvenile Chinook salmon use the different habitats in the estuary. Ultimately, we hope to understand how we can better protect rearing habitat for some of Canada's most important runs of wild salmon.





Salmon Carnivore Project

Understanding the salmon eaters

For eight years, Raincoast has collaborated with communities on BC's central coast to monitor grizzly, black and Spirit bear populations. Our scientists partner closely with the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'xais, Wuikinuxy, Nuxalk and Gitga'at First Nations, building a dataset of genetic and dietary information from hundreds of bears.

OUR RESEARCH not only supports science-based management, but also provides us the immense privilege of learning about these areas in a deeper cultural context. We work across a 25,000 km² landscape on which bears, salmon and Indigenous peoples have co-existed since time immemorial. In the villages, we bear witness to traditional stories, which teach us the animals are revered as ancestors and relatives to local people. Such cultural context makes for rich

experiences with community members, especially youth and elders, who play very important roles in our work.

This year, we worked with the Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards (SEAS) programs in Kitasoo/Xai'xais and Heiltsuk territories, helped to facilitate a Wuikinuxv re-discovery camp, spent a week at the Heiltsuk Nation's Kvai Youth Camp providing science programming and shared our work with countless students in schools throughout the coast.





We have learned that being on the land and water is more than solely conservation science; we are present as guests, friends and collaborators of the youth, elders and community members in the places that we work.





Daring. Ambitious. Transformative.
So went the first five years of our Applied Conservation
Science Lab at the University of Victoria, an experiment
to bridge science and conservation, academia and
community-engagement, research and education.

We dared to accomplish what had never before been imagined.

Our co-investors at the Tula Foundation/Hakai Institute (see Friends of Raincoast, page 24) shared our innovative vision. Together, we established what might be the first university lab dedicated to acutely applied conservation science. We reasoned that great science would surely emerge; but making a difference would pose the larger challenge.

Change-making requires ambitious agents.

Led by Chris Darimont and Paul Paquet, and with direction from our First Nation partners, our lab has attracted dedicated young scholars. Among their contributions, they directly inform Indigenous government policy that safeguards coastal wildlife, provide expert testimony in review processes like Northern Gateway and expert evidence to the Auditor General's scrutiny of Provincial wildlife management, all while publishing in the world's top peer-reviewed journals.

The lab has transformed the landscape of conservation science, outreach and education.

With our First Nations partners, we have strived for engagement with communities as respectful—and respected—scientific partners. And notably, with world-class educational opportunities that transcend mere graduate studies, we transform young people into conservation leaders.

Looking to the next 25
years, Raincoast envisions
an endowed fund. This
will secure our ability to
commit to more long-term,
ambitious work. Leveraging
the enormous resources a
university affiliation provides,
such investments will go far,
leaving a legacy for generations
to come.





Large Carnivore Conservation



Wolf persecution

Portrayed as a fearful large carnivore, wolves in BC have been persecuted for decades; trapped, poisoned and shot from helicopters, this legacy continues today. Raincoast works to stop their brutal slaughter and replace it with ethics and science.

Although many wolf populations worldwide are now under conservation-minded management, those in BC are not. They are largely managed to reflect political and economic interests, which treat large predators as a "resource" to kill. This approach is based on obsolete provincial policies that are out of step with public opinion. Driven by special interests,

such as the trophy hunting lobby and ranching industry, these policies reflect a self-serving intolerance of large carnivores.

An ethical failure

More than 1,000 wolves are killed province-wide each year for trophy, competitive, commercial and recreational purposes. In a policy that mimics "Scientific Whaling" in terms of serving as cover for other objectives, the rationale for BC's annual wolf kill is the antithesis of science-based wildlife management.

Killing wolves via trophy hunting or "experimental" lethal predator control



At Raincoast, we actively encourage a 'wildlife welfare' ethic and believe that the suffering wildlife endure because of humans is our collective responsibility to eliminate. Our large carnivore conservation program centres upon this ideal and strives to protect and preserve the bears and wolves of coastal BC.

will not improve the recovery of caribou or other ungulates. Ostensibly to protect caribou, the BC government has been experimentally sterilizing and killing wolves for more than a decade. These initiatives have not resulted in any measurable benefits for caribou (as acknowledged in the BC government's own Wolf Management Plan).

Similarly, Alberta's lethal wolf control using strychnine poison, strangling neck snares and aerial shooting failed to achieve any improvement in boreal woodland caribou adult female survival, or any improvement in calf survival, and as such has had no long-term effect on population dynamics. Notably, neither experimental



program has been reviewed or has the approval of an Animal Care Committee. Raincoast's carnivore scientists continue to speak out—to scientific colleagues, governments and the public—on the fallacies of such wolf management practices.

The Ecology of Fear

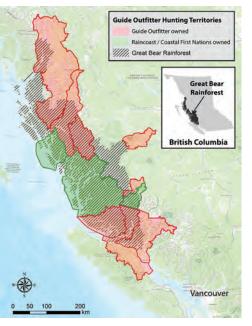
Published in the prestigious journal *Science Communications* and global media outlets, Raincoast ecologist Justin Suraci demonstrated how top predators maintain ecosystem health by creating a landscape of fear for prey animals. The absence of fear increases foraging to a point where overgrazing and other problems can occur. The study on BC's southern Gulf Islands, which are devoid of large carnivores, involved playing "predator" noise (barking dogs) to instill fear in the resident raccoon population. This caused a significant decrease in foraging behavior, allowing previously depressed intertidal populations to rebound. These results have



important implications for both conservation and wildlife management.

Saving the Great Bears

IN 2001, OUR HARD WORK to achieve a province-wide moratorium on grizzly hunting in BC was overturned by a newly elected provincial government. The three-year ban was revoked after one spring hunting season to appease trophy hunters. In response, *we decided to take a different approach*.



In 2005, Raincoast raised \$1.3 million to purchase the exclusive commercial trophy hunting rights across 24,700 km² of the Great Bear Rainforest. In 2012, we purchased an additional territory where Spirit bears live. In 2016, we acquired a third tenure in the southern region of the Great Bear Rainforest, increasing our commercial licence area to approximately 30,000 km². These purchases permanently extinguish the guided hunting of wolves and bears. We shoot only with cameras.

The sellers of these hunting tenures received a fair price, bears and wolves were safeguarded and ecotourism has prospered, including within coastal First Nations communities. We are now actively raising the funds to acquire the remaining commercial hunting tenures in the Great Bear Rainforest.





EXCEPTIONAL ECOTOURISM EXPERIENCES DEPEND ON EXCEPTIONAL NATURE.

From trophy hunt licence acquisitions to fundamental science, from government policy bodies to public advocacy, Raincoast's work is vital for everyone who wants to build a conservation-based economy that protects the coast.

It is vital for our eco-tourism business.

The awards we've won for exceptional wildlife guiding, exceptional journeys, and mind-blowing BC coast destinations are in part due to Raincoast's work in protecting our home.

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OUR DEDICATED RESEARCH VESSEL, *Achiever*, is a Transport Canadacertified 70 ft, steel hulled sloop that operates seven months a year on the BC coast. The boat can be fit to provide observer platforms, oceanographic equipment, freezer space, and other research requirements. It can accommodate up to 10 guests and has substantial water and fuel capacity. *Achiever* is also central to Raincoast's ability to administer and monitor our commercial hunting tenures in the Great Bear Rainforest.



2016 saw the largest winter maintenance project since launching Achiever 10 years ago. Our new Captain and Marine Operations Coordinator, Nick Sinclair, spearheaded her ten-year refit, as Achiever underwent repairs to her steel hull, foredeck, and transom. The rigging was inspected and mounted with new equipment. New navigational electronics and software were installed, and the maintenance conducted on Achiever's main engine will keep her going strong for years to come. This was all made possible by generous donations from our supporters, who invested in our conservation work and Achievements!

For charter inquiries, or to join a Raincoast 'grizzly hunt' trip, contact Captain Nick at nick@raincoast.org

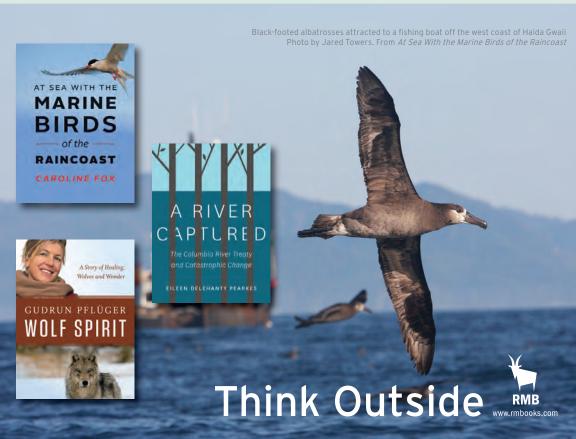


shop.raincoast.org

Visit the Raincoast Shop and Gallery for all things Raincoast: books, bags, videos, art, and more. The Gallery currently features remaining art from the Art for an Oil-free Coast project and works by Artists for Conservation.

Three Sisters by Dorset Norwich-Young





Profiles of individuals and businesses who deserve special recognition for their dedication and generosity in helping protect the lands, waters and wildlife of coastal British Columbia.



Friends of Raincoast



JEREMY KORESKI

Pictures taken by **JEREMY KORESKI** (jeremykoreski.com)—photographer and friend to Raincoast—are worth much more than a 1,000 words, as evidenced by his work for our Groundswell campaign. Amongst a million moments, Jeremy can always capture the most remarkable, poignant and exhilarating. These images, kindly donated, take people into unspoiled land and seascapes. Jeremy's recent book, *This is Nowhere*, reminds us of the beauty and fragility of our coast, and inspires us to stand tall to protect it.



We honour **DR. ERIC PETERSON AND CHRISTINA MUNCK** of the Hakai Institute—a project of the Tula
Foundation. Hakai has invested significantly in our
Applied Conservation Science Lab at the University of
Victoria and partners with us on our community-engaged
research on bears. Dedicated to 'Science on the Coastal Margin',
the Hakai team supports and performs interdisciplinary,
long-term ecological research. Hakai shares with Raincoast
a recognition that human activity ought to be included in
ecological inquiry, as well as a profound sense of place, with
special affinity for the magical outer shores often overlooked
by other scientists.

Tracking Raincoast into 2017 Photographers

Mark Byrne: page 19 (wolf)

Rosie Child: page 14 (students paddling),

page 15 (checking camera)

Michael Clinchy: page 19 (researcher)

Bertie Gregory, BertieGregory.com:

page 18 (wolf)

John Gussman: page 12 (salmon head), page 22 (*Achiever*), (Captain Nick)

Brandon Harvey: page 5 (killer whales),

page 10 (killer whales)

Mike Hoekendijk: cover (grizzly family), page 4, 5 (humback whales), page 14 (grizzly & salmon), page 15 (grizzly), page 16 (grizzly), page 20 (grizzly)

Jeremy Koreski: page 12 (salmon underwater), page 15 (setting hair snag), page 17 (fieldwork),

page 24 (trees), (self-portrait)

Lantern Films: page 6 (drift card map)

Ocean Adventures: page 25 (grizzly cub)
Klaus Pommerenke, bears-and-more.de:
page 2 (spirit bear), page 18 (bear in tree)

Andrew Rosenberger: page 8 (kid at the helm)

Michael Snyder: page 13 (salmon researchers)

Lindy Sisson: page 3 (Chris Genovali)

Maureen Vo: page 8 (students on Achiever)



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OR complete this form and send to:

Raincoast Conservation Foundation, PO Box 2429, Sidney, BC V8L 3Y3

A note to our US supporters: Visit our website at www.raincoast.org/donate and select Network for Good, a safe US based on-line donation service.

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to protect the BC Coast!

RAINCOAST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

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~Captain Randy Burke - Owner / Director







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