



[News Release](#)

[Report](#)

Salmon Forever: An Assessment of the Provincial Role in Sustaining Wild Salmon
Economic Values of Wild Salmon in B.C.

Backgrounder
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In 2002, wild salmon contributed more than \$600 million to the B.C. economy through recreational fishing and commercial landings.

Recreational fishing accounts for about 3,590 person-years of employment annually.

Commercial fishing for wild salmon accounts for about 950 person-years of employment.

Risks to the Wild Salmon Population	
Overfishing	Degradation or loss of habitat
Water withdrawals	Land and marine-based development activities
Natural events	Changes in water flow and/or quality
Flooding of watersheds	Impediments to fish migration
Increased erosion	Introduction of chemicals or waste into water
Loss of riparian areas	Loss of organic debris and food supply
Loss of estuarine areas	Transfer of diseases
Loss of wetlands	Excessive withdrawal of water
Reduced instream habitat available	Removal of forest cover

Economic Values of Salmon Aquaculture in B.C.

B.C.'s salmon aquaculture industry started about 30 years ago.

Today the province is the fourth largest producer in the world after Norway, Chile and the United Kingdom.

The main species farmed are Atlantic salmon (85%), Pacific Chinook (12%) and Pacific Coho (3%).

In 2002, 12 companies produced 85,400 tonnes of salmon and generated 900 on-farm jobs from 121 tenured farms.

Risks to the Wild Salmon Population

The three main areas of risk to wild salmon from salmon aquaculture are:

- health effects from the transfer of parasites and disease (e.g. sea lice, bacterial like kidney disease, and viral infections like infectious hematopoietic necrosis)
- competition from escaped fish (e.g. genetic diversity and food supply)
- marine environmental impacts (e.g. water quality and seabed ecosystem)



[Top of Page](#)