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DFO systems failure is killing wild salmon

Wild Salmon Caravan calls for urgent action to prevent further harm to wild salmon and transform fisheries management

[VANCOUVER, BC, **Oct 12, 2026**] **–** The Wild Salmon Caravan, an Indigenous-led grassroots organization, is calling on Anna Classen, Regional Director General, Pacific Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), to make critical changes to the department's decision-making, policies, and practices. The organization is urging DFO to do more to protect declining wild salmon populations by meaningfully including Indigenous fisher peoples in decisions that affect their livelihoods and upholding Indigenous food, social, and ceremonial values and principles.

Since DFO assumed responsibility for the management and regulation of British Columbia's fisheries, wild salmon populations have faced widespread and persistent declines. This decline continues. A recent report, *The State of Salmon 2026*, released by the Pacific Salmon Foundation, confirms the widespread decline in salmon abundance, stating that "Declines in Pacific salmon abundance are widespread, with abundance below the long-term average for most regional populations."

Dawn Morrison (Secwepemc), co-founder of the Wild Salmon Caravan states "Western science-based resource management systems fail to account for the long-term memory and accumulated knowledge of Indigenous fisher peoples, who remember a time when many more millions of wild salmon returned home to spawn. Many express serious concern for the rapid decline they are witnessing first hand, and the ways the system prioritizes commercial fishing, recreational fisheries, and corporate control."

Before the introduction of European industrial-scale commercial fisheries, wild salmon were abundant throughout British Columbia. This abundance was because Indigenous Peoples sustained their relationships with salmon through thousands of years of accumulated knowledge, experience, and regenerative practices grounded in long-term food sovereignty. Wild salmon populations can recover and thrive again. The Wild Salmon Caravan calls on DFO to learn from Indigenous fisher peoples and establish participatory decision-making processes that meaningfully involve them in decisions affecting their livelihoods.

On October 13, the Wild Salmon Caravan will gather at the Vancouver Art Gallery for Grandmothers' Law: Walk for Wild Salmon, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Participants will celebrate and honour wild salmon as they make their way home to spawn, share solutions to prevent and transform further harm to wild salmon, and call on Anna Classen to shift fisheries management priorities.

The Wild Salmon Caravan is an Indigenous-led grassroots organization that seeks to implement a new accountability framework that upholds Indigenous food, social, and ceremonial values.

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