
From: Jay Ritchlin
Subject: RE: Reply from David Suzuki / David Suzuki Foundation
Date: June 15, 2009 11:54:24 AM PDT
To: Vivian Krause
Cc: Peter Robinson <probinson@davidsuzuki.org> , Jim Hoggan , Elois Yaxley ,
Lisa Monzon <LMonzon@packard.org> , ecassano@mbayaq.org

Dear Ms. Krause,

Thank you for your recent e-mails and attachments.

Let me begin by saying that the science of food health and contamination risk is still evolving and continues to be an area of debate. There have been improvements to PCB levels in some regions and by some producers, as well as continuing causes for concern around the use and presence of various chemicals in farmed salmon. That said, the David Suzuki Foundation does not currently make this a sole centrepiece of our work and we place it in context of a wide range of health and ecological sustainability issues that seafood and aquaculture consumers must face. At the present time, we still believe that individuals can get a healthy diet from a variety of more sustainable products.

The following link details some issues that continue to concern us around chemicals in salmon farming. It is a very thorough assessment of chemical use in global aquaculture that was undertaken by the Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue, a global group of industry and conservation stakeholders working to establish sustainability indicators for salmon farming. We are a member and work with industry representatives on these issues on a regular basis.

www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/aquaculture/WWFBinaryitem8842.pdf

As regards sea lice, we simply do not agree with your assessment of the situation. Nearly every stakeholder in the Pacific and global aquaculture debate has now acknowledged that sea lice are a serious issue and measures to address the risks must be undertaken. The science continues to evolve and support the need for precautionary action. Bodies like the Pacific Science Forum have reviewed all the evidence you cite, plus more, and recommended management action to address the risks. Industry members like Marine Harvest are negotiating with the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform to find both immediate, interim relief for wild salmon in the Broughton Archipelago through changing their farm management, as well as exploring long term solutions like closed containment.

We plan to update our site with more new developments on these issues soon and to continue our direct engagement with industry members and regulators on long term, sustainable solutions for both capture fisheries and aquaculture.

On a final note, when I review our correspondence over the past two years it is apparent that we continue to have a fundamental difference of opinion with respect to the science of sustainable aquaculture. For our part, we will continue to push for the types of industry reforms we feel are necessary to support healthy and productive wild salmon populations and a sustainable aquaculture industry on the West Coast. We may therefore have to simply agree to disagree on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jay Ritchlin
Director, Marine and Freshwater Conservation
David Suzuki Foundation

Copy to:
Dr. David Suzuki, c/o Elois Yaxley
Jim Hoggan, Chair, David Suzuki Foundation Board of Directors
Peter Robinson, CEO, David Suzuki Foundation
Lisa Monzon, David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Ed Cassano, Monterey Bay Aquarium/Seafood Watch