

Is the B.C Salmon Inquiry a Waste of Money?

Written by Administrator
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In three columns over the past week, Postmedia's Christie Blachford reported on the proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry into the Fraser River Sockeye Salmon. The salmon returned last year in record numbers but the commercial fishery was completely shuttered for six of the previous 10 years, including three consecutive years starting in 2007. In a pointed comment on the failure of Commission lawyers to ask witnesses probing or meaningful questions, she observed: "While it is early days yet to pronounce any sort of judgment – the Commission recently received a 13-month extension, and another \$11-million in public funds for a total of about \$25-million, and won't produce its final report for another year— it's hard to say if it will in the end do what it's supposed to, that is, determine and actually name the causes of the decline of the fishery."

Her opinion of the proceedings to date was summed up brilliantly: " If the famously missing sockeye salmon of the Fraser River weren't already so often M.I.A., the temptation would be to imagine they had sat in on the proceedings of the Cohen Commission of Inquiry, and then simply done the decent thing and hanged themselves en masse."

Her scathing critique of the Commission seems warranted based on its milquetoast approach to the issue so far.

TAGS: Fraser salmon sockeye, B.C. Salmon Inquiry, sustainable, fisheries, missing salmon, Christie Blachford, waste of money

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