

SCOMM

126:8



CONSUL GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1095 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6E 2M6

Telephone number: (604) 681-0345

FAX NUMBER: (604) 685-7304

Hugo Llorens arrived in Vancouver to officially take over his assignment as U.S. Consul General on August 9, 1999. He has come from Washington, D.C. where he served as Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Policy and Summit Coordination in the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs. In that capacity Mr. Llorens played a key role in the launch of the historic Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations in 1998. He has been in the U.S. a Foreign Service for 19 years with extensive diplomatic service as economic counselor, commercial attache, narcotics coordinator, and consular officer in Central and South America, as well as in Asia. Prior to joining the Foreign Service Mr. Llorens worked as an Assistant Treasurer at the Chase Manhattan Bank, International Division, New York.

Mr. Llorens received his Master of Science in National Security Studies, National War College in 1997; Master of Arts in Economics, University of Kent at Canterbury, England in 1980; and Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University in 1977.

He has earned numerous Superior and Meritorious Awards from 1984-1998. He is also the recipient of the prestigious Cobb Award for excellence in promotion of U.S. business and trade policy and was runner-up for the Saltzman Award for distinguished performance in advancing U.S. international economic interests. He speaks Spanish, French and Tagalog.

Mr. Llorens is accompanied by his wife, Lisett, and their two children, Andrew (12) and Dirk (11).

[Sitemap](#) [Subscribe](#) [Contact Us](#) [Advertise](#) [Search](#)

TOP STORIES

www.vancouversun.com

60

sunrun.com

 TRY OUR FREE AND
 PERSONALIZED
 .com
 e-mail

 ClassifiedsBC
 .com
 Province


SnowsportsBC

Last Updated: Saturday 7 April 2001

TOP STORIES

B.C. fish farms breaking laws, report says

Provincial investigators say they have uncovered widespread violations

Scott Simpson Vancouver Sun

An unprecedented, exhaustive examination of salmon farming operations along the B.C. coast has uncovered widespread violations of environmental protection laws, according to a report by B.C. government investigators.

The report, released quietly this week by the B.C. environment ministry, shows that the majority of B.C. salmon farms are failing to properly store hazardous materials such as diesel fuel, pesticides and drugs, are not properly disposing of human waste generated on-site at fish farms, and are not keeping up with paperwork required to document their activities.



Vancouver Sun / A coastal fish farm

Industrial investigators with the ministry's conservation service, along with pollution prevention staff from the Vancouver and Lower Mainland regions inspected 124 farms -- 84 active, 40 inactive or fallow -- between July and December 2000, with the majority of inspections completed by October.

The inspections revealed a varying degree of compliance with legislation such as the B.C. government's Waste Management Act.

Investigators found that refuse disposal, feed handling and storage, and storage and disposal of fish that die in pens met B.C.'s requirements in most cases.

However, they also determined that, as a whole, the industry needs to improve its compliance with regulations governing sewage disposal, cleaning wastes, hazardous products and wastes, discharge of blood water from on-site fish gutting, firearm licensing and predator control

authorizations, and unlicensed

use of freshwater from nearby streams.

Violations of regulations, as cited in the report, include:

- Waste material and waste water from net cleaning are being discharged to the environment contrary to the provisions of the Waste Management Act;
- Approximately 50 per cent of B.C.'s fish farms have appropriate sewage treatment facilities, but only one-quarter of these farms discharge their sewage to a depth greater than 15 metres below the surface, as required by regulations; almost half the fish farms do not even have appropriate sewage treatment facilities.
- The majority of farms stored a variety of hazardous products and special waste. Less than half the farms had appropriate secondary containment for diesel fuel. Most farms did not have adequate containment and protection for other hazardous materials on site.
- Approximately two-thirds of the farms stun and bleed fish at off-site processing facilities. The remaining farms discharge blood water to the environment contrary to the provisions of the Waste Management Act;
- Of the 26 farms using firearms for marine-mammal control at the time of inspection, 17 were able to produce both the required provincial documentation and the (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) marine-mammal predator control licence;
- About half of the farms inspected use water from streams, and the majority of these operations do not hold a water licence.
- Information on operating parameters, site characteristics and operational plans was not received by June 15 as required for any of the farm sites. As of January, a portion of the information had been submitted for the majority of sites. Fifteen per cent of the farms submitted all the required information.

A spokesman for B.C. Agriculture, Food and Fish Minister Ed Conroy said he would not be commenting on the report, stating that the violations detailed in the report do not pertain to legislation within his ministry's jurisdiction.

In January, Conroy released a report from his own ministry that gave a glowing endorsement to the salmon farming industry, which has been a repeated target of environmental groups because of pollution and chronic escapes of alien species such as Atlantic salmon. It stated the industry was fully in compliance with B.C. fisheries ministry

regulations governing escapes, fish health and over-all management.

A month later, federal auditor-general Denis Desautels released a report challenging the assumption that salmon farming poses a low risk and said monitoring of the industry is inadequate.

Desautels' report said federal support for salmon farming is partly based on outdated research and discounts a recent increase in the number of farmed salmon in B.C.

However, Desautels did not explore the environmental problems revealed in the new provincial report.

His report was aimed at Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which has been promoting salmon farming as a viable industry and has not, according to the auditor general, enforced the Fisheries Act at fish farms or prosecuted a single salmon farm operator.

David Lane, executive director for the T. Buck Suzuki Foundation -- an environmental group aligned with United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union -- said the new B.C. report finally confirms all the criticisms levelled at the industry over the last 15 years.

"We've known that there are huge problems and that the industry is far from being environmentally sustainable but we've been waiting for the actual proof," Lane said. "This is the proof. It's about time that these farms had full inspections. We're glad the government finally got around to it, but now it's time to crack down on these farms.

"Let's see some charges laid."

Lane said blood water was a particular concern because of the heightened risk of disease at salmon farms, and the risk that such fish waste could create an opportunity for disease to spread to wild fish -- particularly juvenile salmon, which are known to congregate outside of net pens because of easy feeding opportunities.

Another concern is that more than 70 per cent of farms use toxic, copper-based antifoulant chemicals on nets -- and waste water from net cleaning is being discharged into the ocean contrary to the B.C. Waste Management Act.

The report is described as the environment ministry's "first stage" in a gradual approach to bringing salmon farms into compliance with the law, with individual companies being obliged to inform the ministry of how they intend to respond. If they continue to shirk, they'll receive a warning and, subsequently, will receive tickets and formal charges.

"What we need to see is a crackdown on the worst offenders," Lane said.

Brad Hicks, a director of the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, said there was nothing new in the report, suggesting that the same concerns were raised in the mid-1990s.

Asked why the industry had not responded to those concerns in the intervening years, Hicks said the province has had a spotty track record when it comes to explaining and enforcing its laws.

Hicks agreed that the industry needs to respond by coming into compliance with some of the concerns expressed in the report -- notably the storage and containment of hazardous materials -- but said other concerns are open to debate.

For example, he said, he wants the industry to sit down with ministry officials and debate the environmental impacts of discharging net-wash directly into the sea instead of forcing compliance.

He also said that the industry does not consider blood water to be a hazard.

Lance Sundquist, a Nanaimo-based enforcement manager for the B.C. environment ministry, said investigators are still processing all the information they collected and may consider immediate action against individual farms where it is deemed necessary.

On industry-wide issues such as net washing, Sundquist said, there will be consultations with the entire industry before action is taken.

"Net washing has developed as a sort of standard operating practice for the entire industry and it hasn't been flagged up to this point as an area where we need to do more work.

"Now we have an understanding of how much of it is going on in the field and we need to talk with industry about the most appropriate way of protecting the environment while they're doing this operation."

Sundquist agreed with Hicks' claim that the ministry was putting unprecedented scrutiny on the industry and said that may account for some of the compliance problems, notably the completion of paperwork.

B.C. SALMON FARMING REPORT CARD

1. Refuse Storage and Handling -- A

2. Refuse Disposal -- B

- 
3. Sewage Treatment and Disposal -- Fail
 4. Storage of Hazardous Materials -- Fail
 5. Net Cleaning -- Fail
 6. Feed Handling -- B
 7. Dead Fish Storage -- C
 8. Dead Fish Disposal Method and Location -- A
 9. Harvesting Practices -- B
 10. Predator Prevention and Firearms Use -- B
 11. Proper Water Use and Appropriate Licensing -- Fail
 12. Record Keeping and Reporting -- Fail

PROBLEMS AT A GLANCE

Problems with the B.C. salmon farming industry:

- Improper disposal of human waste, creating environmental pollution from fecal coliform.
- Improper handling of hazardous materials so that diesel, gasoline, propane, oil, acids, disinfectants and anesthetics may enter the marine environment.
- Improper disposal of net waste including oxygen-deprived sludge and toxic antifoulant chemicals that have long-term effects on marine organisms.
- Unauthorized removal of water from nearby streams, which can compromise fish movement and reproduction.
- Failure to keep proper documentation and report on fish farm practices as required for appropriate regulation and monitoring.
- Failure to produce firearms licence authorizations, where firearms are used to kill fish predators.
- Improper storage of dead fish.
- Improper disposal of fish blood waste from cleaning on-site, posing unknown risks to wild stocks.

Comments about this article? Send an e-mail to the [writer](#).



Tony Knowles, Governor

Department of Community and Economic Development

Division of International Trade and Market Development

550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1770, Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Telephone: (907) 269-8110 • Fax: (907) 269-8125 • Text Telephone: (907) 465-5437

Email: AKtrade@dced.state.ak.us • Website: www.dced.state.ak.us/trade/

Alaska - Canada Affairs

International Trade Profile / Recent Events / Highlights

Alaska and Canada have a healthy and active relationship. Canada has traditionally ranked a strong third place among Alaska's export markets. Canadian mining companies are the biggest investors in Alaska's mining industry. Alaska and Canada exchange delegations on a regular basis. If the proposed Alaska natural gas pipeline project is initiated along the Alaska Highway route through Canada, this is likely to have a major impact on the regional and cross-border business activity. Trade with Canada has occurred with relatively few obstacles or problems, but there have been disputes centered around the use of natural resources in maritime and land border areas.

BUSINESS / TRADE

Alaska Exports to Canada

- Canada is Alaska's traditional No. 3 trading partner, after Japan and Korea.
- Alaska exported \$165 million (USD) worth of commodities in 2000, about 7 percent of Alaska's total exports.
- Although Alaska exports to Canada declined in 2000 from the 1999 total of \$203 million, last year's exports to Canada were about average for the past decade.
- Leading export: minerals and ore – more than one-third of the export total.
- Seafood and forestry products ranked second and third. While overall exports were down, wood product exports increased significantly over 1999.

Alaska Imports from Canada

- Alaska imported \$120.9 million (USD) of Canadian goods in 1999. Canadian exports to Alaska dropped dramatically in 1999 from the 1998's total of \$282 million. Canadian goods delivered to Alaska in the years 1995-1997 ranged from \$123 million to \$151 million (USD).
- Import commodities: Refined petroleum products, construction and mining machinery, sawmill products, prefabricated buildings, aircraft and parts, communication and electronic equipment

Mining

- Canadian firms are heavily involved in Alaska mining industry in investment, exploration, development and production, accounting for 81 % of Alaska 1999 exploration expenditures, \$37 million (USD).
- Cominco Alaska, subsidiary of Canada's Cominco, operates Red Dog Mine, Kotzebue, world's largest lead-zinc mine. Cominco won Governor's Exporter of Year Award in 1999 for Red Dog, its second award in past decade. Cominco is working toward increasing its Red Dog production.

"Promoting a healthy economy and strong communities"

- Kinross Gold Corp. of Toronto operates Fort Knox Mine near Fairbanks and is Alaska's largest gold producer. This is one of three Kinross flagship mines, along with mines in Ontario and in Magadan, Russian Far East, which relies in part, on logistics support from Alaska.
- Teck, in partnership with Sumitomo Metal, is developing Pogo Mine near Fairbanks.
- Canadian mining companies have used Alaska for logistics and staging for Russian Far East exploration and development to take advantage of Alaska-RFE flights, proximity and availability of supplies and personnel, and Alaska's close relations with RFE regions.
- Canadian mining companies have used Southeast Alaska towns and ports for logistics and staging for mine operations in the Yukon Territory and British Columbia. But a downturn in mining in the Yukon has had a negative impact on Skagway, Alaska and the operations of the White Pass Railway.

Agrium / Fertilizer

- Agrium, Inc., based in Calgary, purchased the world class Unocal fertilizer plant in Nikiski, Alaska for \$325 million (USD) in 2000. The plant produces ammonia and urea for agricultural and industrial customers in the Pacific Rim region, and Agrium anticipates a growing Asian market. Agrium now has 11 fertilizer plants in North America, five in Canada and six in the U.S.

Construction

- Western Canada has been active in arctic housing and construction projects in rural Alaska, working on projects with regional governments, housing authorities, AHFC and HUD. Canadian construction companies also compete with Alaska companies in the Russian Far East. Canadian firms and government housing agencies are active in prefab/modular construction, arctic design and arctic utility development.

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

- The proposed Alaska Highway Natural Gas Pipeline project presages a new era of increased activity involving Alaska and Western Canada. Already, government and business leaders are anxiously anticipating the policies and actions that will bring the long-awaited project to life.
- In Western Canada, there is competition between YT and NWT over a highway route versus a Beaufort Sea route. In Alaska, discussion also includes an all-Alaska route to an Alaska port. Ultimately, the companies that control the resource and would bear the cost of getting it to market – as well as market dynamics – will determine which way the project goes.
- The various proposals have stirred intense debate, lobbying and discussions in regional capitals and corporate boardrooms. Alaska companies are positioning themselves for work in Canada while Western Canada is showing more ambitious interest in Alaska than it has for quite a while.

TOURISM

- Alaska works with three Western Canadian provinces -- British Columbia, Yukon Territory and Alberta -- on joint tourism marketing and promotion, "Tourism North", to attract tourists to all four regions via Alaska Highway travel.
- Alaska ferries link Southeast Alaska to Bellingham, WA, via Prince Rupert, B.C.

- Large cruise ships ply the Inside Passage between Vancouver and Juneau along with others towns in Southeast Alaska.
- Tourism supports seasonal flights on several airlines and routes linking Alaska's three main cities, Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau, with Whitehorse. Tourism also supports seasonal flights between Anchorage and Vancouver.

GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS DELEGATIONS & VISITS

Visits by Alaska officials to Canada and Western Canadian officials to Alaska are regular occurrences that have gone on for years with little fanfare. The past few years have brought a marked increase in official visits, delegations, negotiations and attention to Alaska-Western Canada affairs. This has been a result of disputes over salmon fisheries, issues of concern over development and the environment, business opportunities and, most recently, the stepped up discussions, conjecture and debate about the proposed Alaska gas pipeline. Some of the recent visits include the following:

U.S. Consul General Hugo Llorens

- U.S. Consulate, Vancouver, B.C., covers Western Canada: British Columbia and Yukon Territory.
- Issues: Natural gas pipeline project, fisheries, business development, Alaska-Western Canada affairs. Juneau, April 2001.

U.S. Consul General Roy Chavera

- U.S. Consulate, Calgary, Alberta, covers Central Canada: Northwest Territories, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan.
- Issue: Natural gas pipeline project. Juneau, Anchorage, Prudhoe Bay, February-March 2001.

Canadian Consul General Roger Simmons

- Canadian Consulate, Seattle.
- Latest in a regular series of visits by Canadian consulate staff. Focus: UA Canadian Studies program and business issues; accompanied by several Western Canada provincial officials. Juneau, Anchorage, February 2001.

Yukon Territory

- Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles, and other Alaska leaders, met with Yukon Territory leader Pat Duncan on a number of occasions over the past year, and they renewed an Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental Relations Accord in Juneau in September 2000. That agreement pledged cooperation on matters such as trade, energy, fisheries, tourism and other common issues.

Northwest Territories

- Alaska and NWT leaders also met on several occasions – focusing on the proposed Alaska natural gas pipeline route, over which Alaska and NWT disagree.
- Delegations from the Northwest Territories have visited Alaska to discuss arctic construction and housing issues, to promote their expertise, to visit project sites and to hold talks with AHFC, HUD, regional and local government agencies and Native corporations. Trade, energy, transportation and other issues were also discussed. Two

most recent visits: March 2001, Juneau and Anchorage, and March 2000: Juneau, Anchorage, Nome, Stebbins, Barrow and Prudhoe Bay.

Northern Quebec

- Northern Quebec delegation of government, business and Native leaders traveled the Alaska Highway on a fact-finding tour with the aim of using the Alaska Highway as a model for economic and tourism development in Northern Quebec's James Bay region, meeting with state officials, Native groups and Alaska tourism companies. May 2000.

Alberta

- Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles traveled to Calgary to speak about his vision for the proposed Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline, March 2001.
- Alaska legislators visited Alberta in September 2001.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES & CONTROVERSIES

Gasline

- Alaska Highway Natural Gas Pipeline route is preferred by the state and Yukon Territory, but NWT prefers an arctic route across the Beaufort Sea to the MacKenzie Delta and then down through NWT.

ANWR

- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge development is opposed by Canadian authorities and Gwich'in Indians in neighboring western Canada (and in Alaska), thus putting Canadians in opposition to state policy on ANWR.

Tulsequah Chief Mine, B.C.

- The Knowles administration, particularly the Dept. of Fish & Game, and Alaska fishing interests, are concerned that development of this near-border project in British Columbia, poses an environmental threat to Alaska fisheries. Discharges and tailings going into the Taku River watershed could create potential environmental hazards harmful to the salmon fishery in Alaska waters.

Pacific salmon

- U.S.-Canada negotiations have led to a recent agreement resolving long and bitter disputes over Pacific salmon fisheries, though concerns remain over the future health of the stocks, catch allocations, and related issues. - *Stable since June of '99*

State ferry seizure

- State ferry was held hostage in Prince Rupert Port by B.C. fishermen angry over Alaska/U.S. fisheries policies, and hard feelings may still linger.

Lumber

- U.S.-Canadian trade dispute at the federal level.

Railroad

- Should the Alaska and Canadian Railroads be extended to connect?

Border

- Long-standing but relatively quiet U.S.-Canadian border dispute over Dixon Entrance maritime boundary between SE Alaska and British Columbia.

April 6, 2001

Jeff Berliner, Trade Specialist

Alaska Division of International Trade & Market Development