

WAKE UP CAMPBELL RIVER

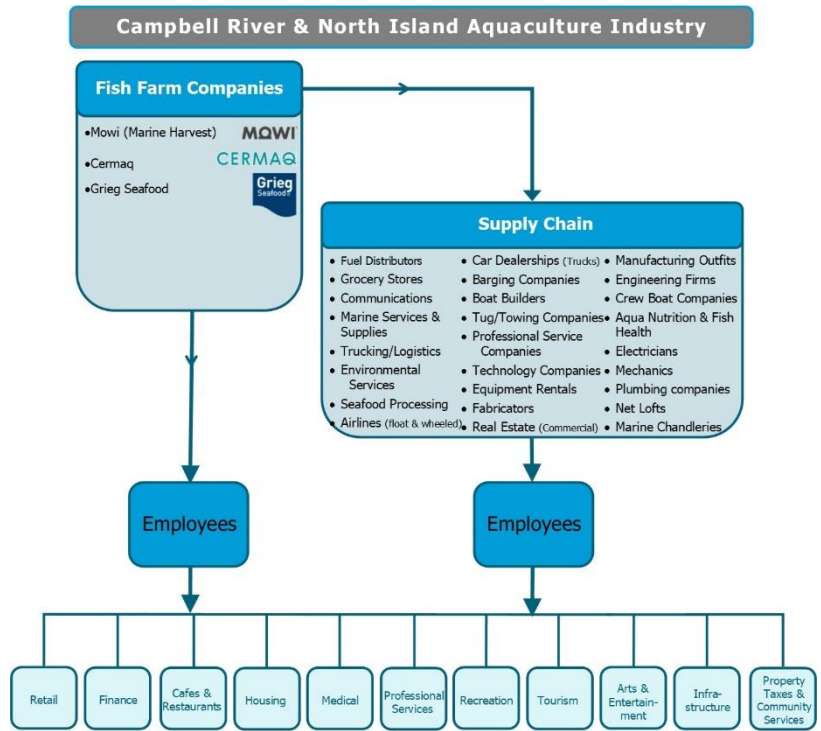
"Discovery Islands salmon farms on their way out." - Campbell River Mirror, December 22nd, 2020

The closure of the salmon farms in the Discovery Islands, will have **profound economic consequences for Campbell River**. In a recent report of the Campbell River Business Recovery Task Force, the interdependencies and the financial contribution of the salmon farming industry were highlighted.

Whether you agree or disagree with the decision of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, it is important, we think, that each member of the community is fully informed about what this industry contributes directly and indirectly in cash input to Campbell River and how the other local business are connected to the salmon farming industry and **what may be lost if this industry either fully or partially retreats from the current scope of its business**.

The Report of the Task Force draws the following conclusion from its work:

"There is a direct connection between the health of first dollar industries (Aquaculture is a first dollar industry) to the number of schools, retail options, scope of health care, the number of parks, property values and general community amenities and attractiveness that are hallmarks of this community. As we seek to attract others, whether retirees or younger individuals who can bring new skills and knowledge, the attractiveness of Campbell River must not be put at risk by lack of awareness..."



LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Salmon farming employees in CR region: **572 (20% indigenous)**

Salary/wages paid to salmon farming employees in CR region: **\$31 million**

Number of vendors in CR region that salmon farming companies purchase supplies and services from: **678**

Estimated annual spending on supplies and services from these local vendors: **\$132.65 million**

It is estimated that local vendors who are part of this supply chain, in turn, created an estimated additional 1500 jobs.

The fish farming industry has, unlike many other businesses, been virtually unaffected by the pandemic and has continued production at near normal levels and has been deemed "essential" during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past, many of the job losses associated with the closure of the Elk Falls Mill, were absorbed at the time by an expanding aquaculture industry. We don't see such a fall-back position being available to those workers who will lose their jobs as a result of the closure of the Discovery Islands salmon farms.

What does the future now hold for these workers and for the economic health of Campbell River and the North Island?

Garth Sheane and Brian Stamp, Co-Chairs, Campbell River Business Recovery Task Force