

FISH FARMS

West Coast Environmental Law	B.C. Liberals	B.C. NDP	BC Green Party
A moratorium on new fish farms, immediate relocation or fallowing of fish farms located near wild salmon runs, and the phase out of open net farms.	"We will work with the federal government to ensure an orderly transfer of regulatory oversight to the federal government for aquaculture fisheries management." (p. 31)	"Implement the recommendations of BC's Sustainable Aquaculture Committee, including the transition to closed containment fish farming within five years." (p. 43)	"Cap the production levels of existing salmon farms and then phase out open-net-cage farms over a ten-year period" (p. 41)

Analysis:

As the result of a recent BC Supreme Court decision in a case brought by fish-farm critic, Alexandra Morton, it appears that the BC government has no jurisdiction to regulate fish farms - a fact apparently accepted in the BC Liberal platform. That being said, there will be opportunities for the BC government to influence the federal government's regulation of the industry, or to negotiate with the federal government to regain control over the industry. The NDP, based on the work of the Sustainable Aquaculture Committee, has proposed a specific and aggressive timeline and approach for regulating fish farms.

