

PACIFIC WILD E-NEWS: SUMMER 2013 EDITION



All photos by Ian McAllister unless otherwise noted

Over two years of presentations, technical submissions, protests, media events and [countless other actions](#) – some happening quietly behind the scenes while others making front cover news across the country –the final decision on Northern Gateway is now in the hands of the National Energy Board (NEB) and the Federal government.

With a decision expected by December 2013, coastal communities and countless people across the country can say with certainty that they have put their best foot forward and [made their case to protect this coast with dignity, intelligence, passion and a commitment](#) to generations yet unborn. This fact is now a proud and indelible part of Canada's history.

But this pause in the Northern Gateway process is no time to rest. New Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) pipelines and terminals and all of their associated tanker traffic continue to be proposed for the Great Bear, trophy hunting season for bears and wolves is set to open in just over a month and with the rise in softwood lumber markets, many of the Great Bear Rainforest's river valleys are being stripped of their old growth forests.

Here at Pacific Wild, our team of biologists, educators, technicians and marine specialists continue to unlock mysteries of the rainforest while developing solutions for lasting environmental protection.

Coming through the Great Bear this season? Drop by and visit. Consider a [charitable donation](#) or sign up to become a [monthly donor](#).

Our voice is stronger with your support and we simply could not do this important work without it.

Sincerely,

Ian McAllister
Executive Director

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Expanding our Underwater Ears: New Remote Camera & Hydrophone Installation



With the help of our city-slicker intern [Elliot Bok](#) (coming straight from NYC!) and some especially cooperative weather, we were able to install our most remote station yet in a single day. Photo: [Max Bakken](#)

Our fifth [hydrophone](#) station is now in place on the extreme outer coast of the Great Bear, complete with an additional remotely controlled HD camera system. This acoustic and visual remote sensing equipment will allow us to document transient killer whales preying on seals, sea lions and even sea otters. In addition, we are a step closer to documenting packs of wolves that are actively preying on these marine mammals.

With few opportunities left on earth to record previously undocumented large mammal predator-prey relationships, both staff at Pacific Wild and our Heiltsuk First Nation collaborators are excited about the non-invasive research opportunities this technology brings to the coast.

Be sure to stay tuned to our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) updates to find out when whales and dolphins are chatting away and how you can [hear them live](#).

Welcoming our SEAS Summer Interns



Greg, Gene and Diana catalogue a day of whale recordings from the remote corners of the central coast.

This summer, Gene Larsen and Greg Campbell from Bella Bella join us as part of the Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards ([SEAS](#)) internship program. Greg and Gene are working in both the lab and field, analyzing our hydrophone audio recordings and isolating an incredible amount of [cetacean acoustic activity](#). Recently, the two helped scout out the feasibility of setting up a hydrophone station in Hakai Pass, our farthest reach at over 60 kms. Previously unreachable, this area is being considered for designation as critically important whale habitat and has been underrepresented in acoustic monitoring.

Learning the Ropes: Sea & Life Training

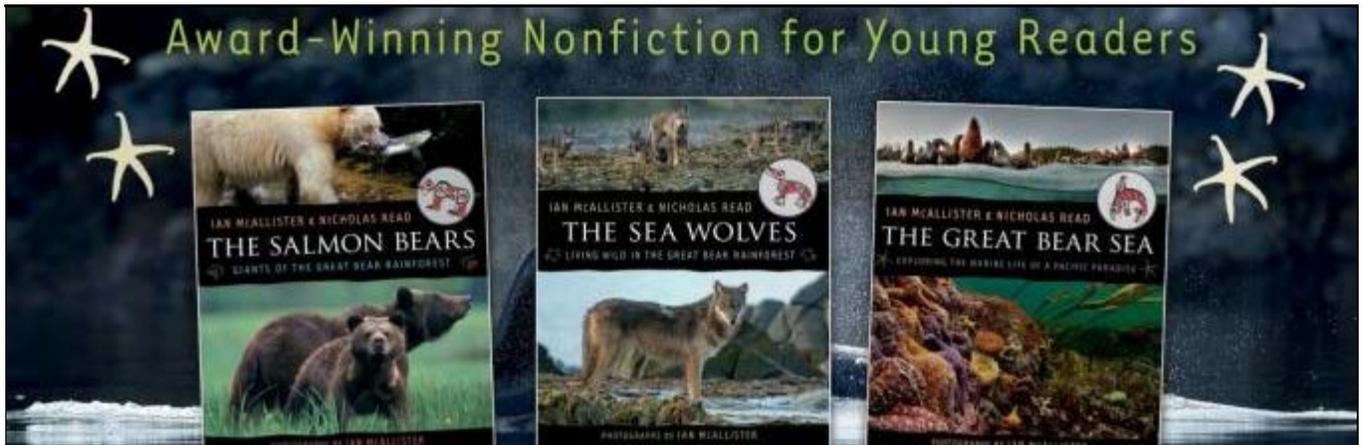
Last week the Heiltsuk interns joined Hartley Bay and Klemtu interns for our pilot Sea and Life Training program. The six youths spent five days aboard S/V Habitat practicing chartwork, knots, marine safety,



sailing and other practical marine skills as they explored the remote outer islands of the Great Bear Rainforest. See more photos in this [blog post](#) and stay tuned for a short film about this exciting endeavour.

Left: SEAS intern Cole McKnight from Klemtu at the helm of S/V Habitat during the inaugural Sea and Life Training program in the Great Bear Rainforest. Photo: Max Bakken

The Great Bear Sea



Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read have co-authored a third book, [The Great Bear Sea](#), hitting the book shelves [this summer](#). This book is the third in a series that includes *The Sea Wolves* and *The Salmon Bears*. The authors take readers on an expedition into the wondrous and mysterious underwater world of the Great Bear Sea. This amazing part of the northeast Pacific Ocean is home to some of the planet's mightiest and most beloved residents: whales, sea lions, dolphins, sea otters and wild salmon.

Filled with [spectacular images](#) of this largely unexplored underwater world, the book also explores the uncertain future of the Great Bear Sea in this age of climate change, overfishing, pipelines and oil tankers. Can a rainforest full of rare spirit bears, fishing wolves and great grizzlies survive without a Great Bear Sea to feed and nourish it?

Celebrate International Bog Day

Join revelers around the northern hemisphere in a celebration of bogs on International Bog Day, July 28th, 2013. Pacific Wild will host Denny Island's first such event, beginning with an information table at Shearwater Marina on the 27th. On the 28th, there will be a bog walk to a sandhill crane nest site and an evening slideshow featuring local crane researcher Krista Roessingh, complete with beautiful imagery from our remote sandhill crane cameras. Learn about the bog wetlands of the



The Great Bear Rainforest is believed to be home to a rare subspecies of sandhill crane. Photo: Krista Roessingh

Great Bear Rainforest, their bizarre and wonderful inhabitants and their important role in the ecology of the coastal archipelago. And there will be prizes!

Join us for the premiere of **The Fortune Wild**



The north, the province and the country are abuzz with talk of economic development, resource extraction, transportation and industrial development. It's easy to feel helpless and apathetic in the face of all these threats. [The Fortune Wild](#) documents the journey of three surfers who embark into the wild and discover the true value of B.C.'s west coast.

The film will premiere on [July 31st in Vancouver](#). This event is a fundraiser for Pacific Wild and Haida Gwaii CoAST (Communities Against Super Tankers), featuring live music, an exhibit and silent auction of Ian McAllister's stunning photography and, of course, the first ever public screening of *The Fortune Wild*!

[Watch the trailer.](#)

[Learn more about the event.](#)

Otalith Music Festival + Other Happenings

Otalith Music Festival

Pacific Wild is a proud beneficiary of the first annual Otalith Music Festival taking place in Ucluelet B.C. the weekend of August 24th. This unique festival is doing things a bit differently—not only are they bringing in a score of talented and entertaining bands, they are also providing concert-goers the opportunity to learn more about various environmental issues in British Columbia. We encourage you to get out there, have fun and make a contribution to a great cause! [More info on bands and ticket sales here.](#)

Asking Norway about Piscine Reovirus

[Check out this video](#), in which filmmaker Twyla Roscovich hops a plane to Norway to find out what scientists there have to say about how PRV is infecting wild salmon both in Norway and Canada.



Listening Down Deep

Pacific Wild's Remote Operations Technician, Max Bakken, is featured in this month's Young Naturalists' Club of B.C. publication NatureWILD Magazine.

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