

The Pristine Coast

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[BC Spotlight Canadian Images](#)

(Canada, 2014, 110 mins, HDCAM)

World Premiere

Director:

[Scott Renyard](#)

FEATURING Alexandra Morton

PROD Scott Renyard

SCR Scott Renyard

CAM Mark Noda

ED Maja Zdanowski

MUS Stu Goldberg

PROD CO Salmon Productions Ltd. / Juggernaut Pictures

Related links: [Director's Website](#)

British Columbia's marine ecosystem has collapsed. Wild fish populations from California to Alaska have been declining since the late 70s. The open-net fish-farm industry began to grow salmon in marine waters at the same time. Fish farms were seen as a way to offset growing pressure on wild stocks. But one woman, marine biologist Alexandra Morton, noticed that diseases coming from fish farms were killing wild salmon. Filmmaker Scott Renyard links the crash of many fish species on Canada's west coast to diseases spread from fish farms and shows how the loss in marine fish biomass has global implications.

The film explains the reasons why the federal and provincial governments let this new industry grow unchecked and without adequate research in to what was happening with European fish farms and in Canada's east coast fisheries. The documentary effectively shows how governments allow questionable industries to flourish in order to solve other problems. There's a wealth of archival footage documenting what has brought us to this point, along with telling present-day interviews. The potential end of wild salmon fishing in British Columbia is an important new element in the story of fish farming, one that has ever-increasing import in our society.