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**Western CEDAR**

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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2018 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference  
(Seattle, Wash.)

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Apr 6th, 9:15 AM - 9:30 AM

## Monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies in Canada: the bad, the ugly and how we can get to good

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Wilhelmson, Christianne, "Monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies in Canada: the bad, the ugly and how we can get to good" (2018). *Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference*. 473.  
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**Georgia Strait Alliance**  
*Caring for Our Coastal Waters*

## Enforcement and monitoring in Canada: the bad, the ugly and getting to good

Christianne Wilhelmson  
Executive Director

As American as apple pie

As Canadian as possible,  
under the circumstances



- ....(one) systemic weakness afflicting Canadian environmental law and policy **is a failure to effectively implement and enforce the law**, dating back to the 19th century slaughter of the buffalo...
- If there is a chasm between environmental laws and their enforcement in the United States, then in Canada there is a **Grand Canyon.**”



# What are we told stops effective enforcement and monitoring?

- budget cuts
- personnel constraints
- political interference



# What REALLY stops it?

- Lack of political courage or will

# Orcas – paper protection





# Private Prosecutions





# What REALLY stops it?

- Lack of political courage or will
- Lack of transparency/clarity of the law and policy

# Salmon farms – who's in charge?





# What REALLY stops it?

- Lack of political courage or will
- Lack of transparency/clarity of the law and policy
- Industry and businesses often designed with pollution/damage to environment as part of the business model
  - Cost of doing business
  - Costs externalized

# Abandoned vessels





# What's the solution?

- Stop tinkering
- Enforce laws on the books
- Work with industry to eventually remove assumptions that pollution/environmental harm is part of doing business



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Executive Director

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