

Western Washington University Western CEDAR

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2018 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (Seattle, Wash.)

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. https://cedar.wwu.edu/ssec/2018ssec/allsessions/473

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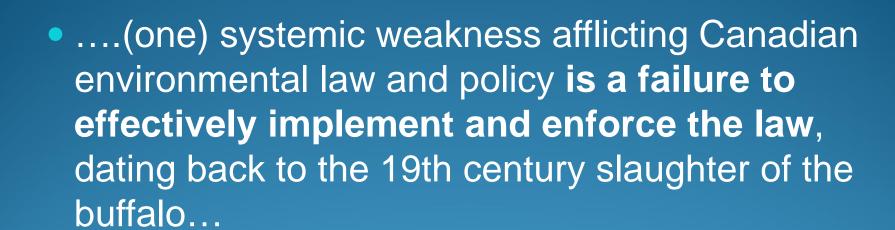


Enforcement and monitoring in Canada: the bad, the ugly and getting to good

Christianne Wilhelmson Executive Director

As American as apple pie

As Canadian as possible, under the circumstances



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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