The Wild Salmon Fishing Commons and Salmon Farming in British Columbia

This is a take home quiz due November 7 as a handed in sheet. No email submissions. (15 points possible)

Many people believe that salmon farming using net pens causes disease and mortality in wild salmon populations. Scientific experimental methods use ***replication, controls, and randomization***. There is some scientific evidence for the salmon farming – wild population mortality hypothesis, and some results demonstrating this have been ***replicated***. However, what little systematic research exists tends to lack controls and randomization protocols, so there is a paucity of conclusive research on this question.[[1]](#footnote-1) It is expensive to conduct this type of research, but cost may not be the only reason there is little of it being conducted and/or published.

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Summarize the content of each of the following materials using bullet points. (~one page) Then write a concise answer to each of the bold printed questions at the end.

1. Backgrounder: from where salmon farming has been going on for a long time: *Norway’s Salmon Farming Crisis* (6 minutes) <https://youtu.be/CsO8NO-hUKo> (at end are some related documentaries)
2. A Pro-Industry video: *Salmon Farming in BC* (7 minutes) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U-dEKI0MpY>
3. Morton: documentary *Salmon Confidential*: (view at least first ~50 minutes) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTCQ2IA_Zss>
4. Morton: documentary *A Look Inside Salmon Farms*: (2017) (9 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duhnZB5Bjcw>
5. Salmon Feedlots were long in government planning (blog) <http://alexandramorton.typepad.com/alexandra_morton/2013/01/salmon-feedlots-this-was-not-a-mistake.html> You may also want to read the Morton blog *Silenced*, which was referenced and linked in the blog just above this (#4).

**Questions: (write 50 to 100 words on each)**

**1) Why do you think there is so little scientific research being conducted about the effects of farmed salmon on the wild salmon runs of southern British Columbia? And a related question – why would the Canadian government put a gag order on its scientists about the role of salmon farming on wild salmon health?**

**2) Do** **you find, in general, the testimony of DFO officials to be credible in the Morton documentary “Salmon Confidential”? Explain.**

**3) How credible to you find the assertion that salmon farming is and will continue to be destroying the wild salmon runs in southern British Columbia? Discuss.**

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1622817/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)