

# DON STANIFORD

## Global Alliance against Industrial Aquaculture



Don Staniford has a Masters Degree in Environmental Science; he left the academic world to campaign against industrial salmon farming 15 years ago.

In 2002 he was awarded British Environment and Media Award from the World Wildlife Fund which cited his significant influence in persuading the Scottish Parliament to hold a formal inquiry into fish farming and praised his work in uncovering proof that fish farm workers in Scotland were being ordered to use illegal chemicals.

In 2005 he contributed 'Silent Spring of the Sea', an exhaustive study of the chemicals used in the salmon farming industry, as part of the book 'A Stain Upon Our Seas'. Working in Scotland, England, Canada, and the United States, Staniford has been the subject of numerous threats and lawsuits, the last of which was a defamation case taken by Cemaq, the Canadian world leader in salmon production 43.5% owned by the Norwegian government.

Staniford's 2011 'shock' campaign used images similar to the warnings on Marlborough cigarette packages to highlight the dangers to human health through consumption of farmed salmon. The case was dismissed last month by the Canadian British Columbian Supreme Court, which found that while he was actuated by

'extreme malice', he had 'an honest belief in the statements he made' and 'he should succeed in his defense of fair comment.'

**"I think the onus is on researchers to be political, to be active and not just let that information rot on an academic bookshelf but to get that into the media and that really means being a campaigner.**

**Farmed salmon can contain cancer-causing chemicals and can carry an elevated cancer risk. The parallel between the tobacco and fish-farming industries is sound.**

**Salmon farming is a false economy. The farming of carnivorous fish is draining our global ocean and contributing to the global fisheries crisis - not solving it. Salmon farming is a net loss and has nothing to do with feeding the world's poor but everything to do with filling the coffers of corporations.**

**The relationship between the salmon farming industry and Governments has always been incestuous but the Irish Government's promotion of the industry is brazen in the extreme. The Irish Government, like their Scottish counterparts, are selling off the country to the highest bidder and mortgaging the future without any respect for the future or the marine environment.**

**Thankfully, the truth wins out in the end. The weight of scientific evidence has clearly shown the farming of carnivorous finfish in open-net cages is inherently unsustainable and biological nonsense. The industry is defending the indefensible, and environmental campaigners will go to the ends of the earth in defense of wild salmon in particular. If that means going to court or protesting on the streets to prove the point, then so be it."**

*For more information visit [savebantrybay.com](http://savebantrybay.com)*