

STOP



The Killing of Howe Sound NOW!

More than half of all the liquid waste dumped into British Columbia's marine waters comes from the province's ten coastal pulp and paper mills. According to Environment Canada, they discharge almost three times more toxic effluent than all the coastal city sewers combined!

On a daily basis Woodfibre, Western Forest Products' mill near Squamish, pours into the ocean more than twice the amount of suspended solids discharged by Vancouver's sewage plant on Iona Island.

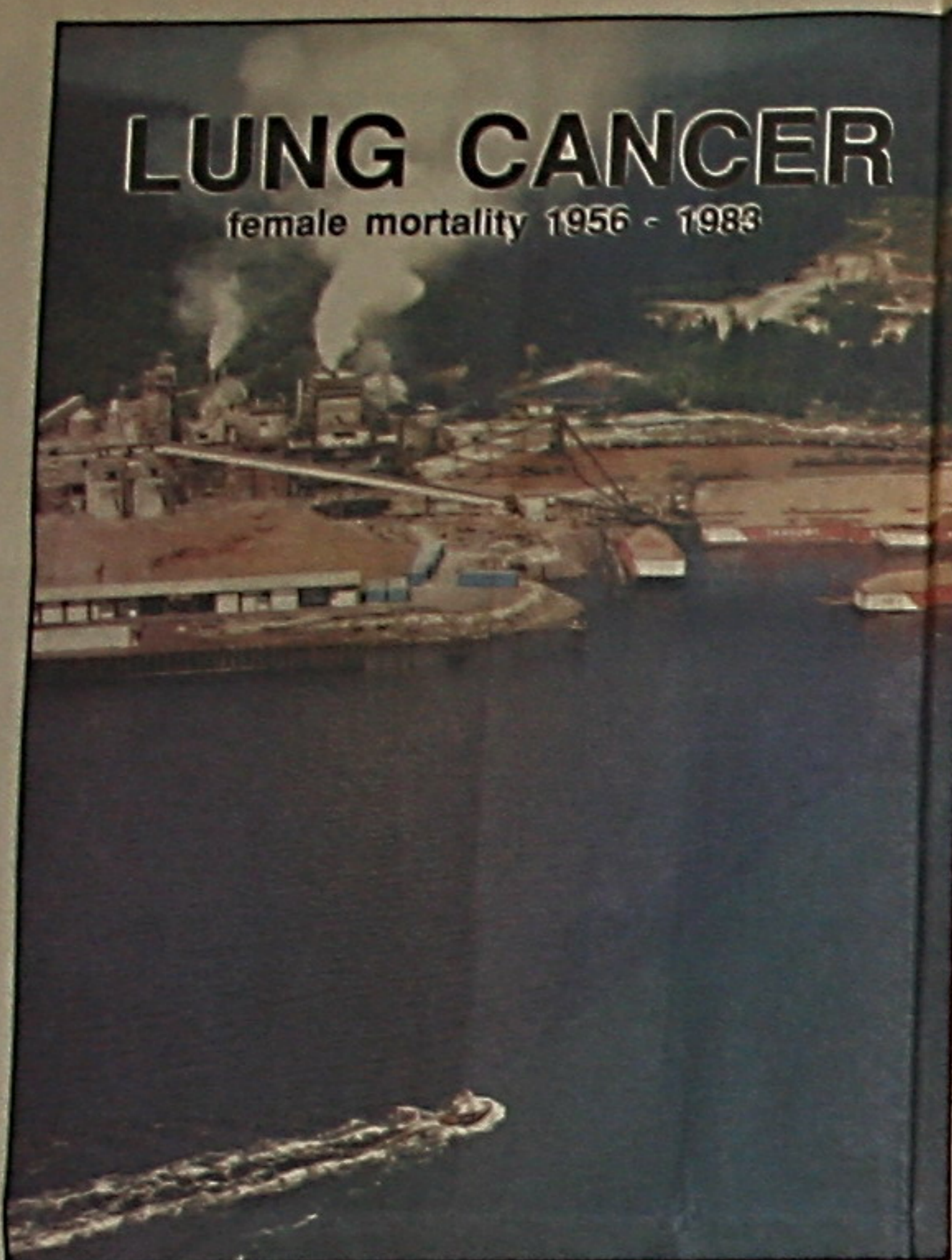
Two giant mills, Woodfibre and Port Mellon, Canadian Forest Products' mill (pictured here), together dump over 120,000 kilograms of chlorinated poisons into Howe Sound every day. It's no wonder that fisheries have been closed.

While you are reading this paper, these mills, both located only a few miles away from Vancouver, are breaking the law --exceeding their permitted pollution limits. Our B.C. Government lets them get away with it, saying that the companies promise improvements which will provide adequate environmental protection. Meanwhile, Howe Sound is dying.



LUNG CANCER

female mortality 1956 - 1983



above - This 1981 aerial photo taken before the company put its outflow pipe down 300 feet and a quarter of a mile off-shore shows purple toxic effluent pumped (left side of picture) into Howe Sound from Canfor's Port Mellon Mill. Crabs tested from this area had a higher degree of dioxin (2378TCDD) contamination than any other specimens tested at other pulp mills in Canada. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency claims that this dioxin is bioaccumulative and that it is "the most toxic molecule made by man", finding no safe level of exposure. Monkeys exposed to concentrations one trillionth of their body weight contracted cancer.

below - "After our first dive near the pulp mills the team remarked on the very noticeable foul after-taste and pungent odour of the sound's water. It was unlike anything we had experienced elsewhere in Vancouver's coastal waters. On our fifth and final dive (off Anvil Island, midway between the two pulp mills) I came upon a red snapper, the first fish I'd seen! As I slowly reached out to touch this colourful fish he turned and looked at me with his one good eye. The other eye was deformed and looked to be tumorous. As I interacted with this normally skittish fish, a feeling came over me. I felt as if the creature wanted me to tell the world about his pain." - John T. Pennington (Professional Underwater Photographer)

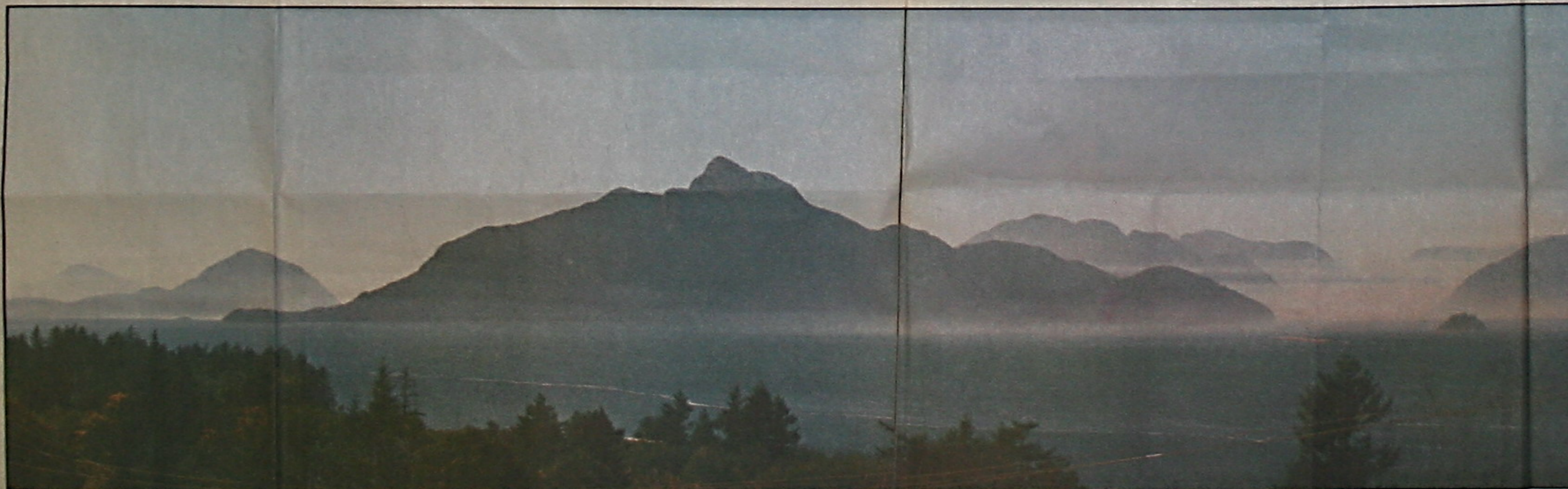


to the right - This beautiful panorama of Howe Sound, taken from the Sea to Sky Highway (Squamish Highway near the Provincial Park at Porteau) shows a toxic veil of air pollution from the pulp mills at Port Mellon and Woodfibre.

After forestry, tourism is the second largest industry in B.C. It contributes over 3.5 billion dollars to our economy annually. Yet the forest industry is given priority and allowed to impact negatively on tourism as well as on fisheries, B.C.'s fourth most important industry.

"If Howe Sound were in any other part of the world, it would be a great national park. Our seas are being destroyed at an incredible rate." - Dr. Murray Newman, Vancouver Public Aquarium Director

"The Strait of Georgia is one of the most polluted areas in the world and unless pulp mills keep their toxins within their own fences the area will be completely devoid of marine life in 20 years." - Jacques Cousteau, prominent French oceanographer (Vancouver Sun, 1971)



Howe Sound belongs to all of us

While industry destroys it, where is our government??

British Columbia's Waste Management Branch personnel admit that Canfor's Port Mellon mill and Western Forest Products' Woodfibre mill, since receiving their first pollution permits, have consistently exceeded their permitted levels of toxic effluent discharge. These mills have also exceeded their toxic gas emission limits.

Current B.C. legislation holds that pulp mills which knowingly pollute above their permitted levels on a continual basis are committing a criminal offence.

They can be taken to court and, if found guilty, can be fined up to 3 million dollars, shut down and the person or persons responsible jailed.

However, the B.C. government has been exceedingly lax in enforcing this law and the mills have been allowed to pollute excessively, making unduly high profits at the expense of the environment. Given what these factories regularly dump into our air and water, the government could charge most mills with breaking the law almost every day.

Instead, for example, Western Forest Products' Woodfibre mill, one of the worst polluters, presently has only 12 charges against them. While the company waits for a future court appearance, it is allowed to continue to pollute in quantities that are more than the law allows. During this time they are not charged with further offences.

The effluent from Howe Sound's other major mill, Canfor's Port Mellon mill, was checked five times in May of 1989. It was found to be significantly higher in volume than legal limits, in violation of the company's permit. However, to date, no charges have been laid. B.C. has a legal double standard. In an apparent

attempt to make Canfor's Port Mellon mill conform on paper to the letter of the law without changing their current level of toxic air emissions, a special amendment was recently passed. This amendment allowed the



above - This deformed leg was found on a crab caught by a commercial fisherman off Gambler Island. According to Swedish and American scientists, other chlorinated organics, as well as the dioxin 2378TCDD, cause birth defects, weaken the immune system, and damage the reproductive systems of fish - even in parts per quadrillion! Department of Fisheries and Oceans' state that over 50% of the Chinook salmon that were tested had chlorinated organic contaminants in their bodies.

Port Mellon Mill to calculate emissions by averaging the air pollution coming from all of the mills stacks rather than forcing them to meet specific standards for each stack such as other industries are required to do. Dubbed the "bubble system", this lenient form of monitoring, allowed to no other industry within the Greater Vancouver Regional District, outraged thousands of people. Hundreds of letters and a petition containing over 5,000 names of concerned citizens sent to the B.C. government protesting this amendment were completely ignored by the government. Those objecting to this change which, in effect, allowed Port Mellon to continue to pollute the air at an unacceptable level, included former

Environment Minister Raif Mair, former Solicitor General Angus Ree, former Social Credit cabinet minister Pat McGeer, Mayor Don Lanskaal of West Vancouver, Mayor Gordon Prescott of Lions Bay, over 100 medical doctors, as

claim that if they were shut down they would lose their pulp markets. Environmentalists counter by claiming that the company's loss of markets would only be a temporary situation, whereas the mills' continued abuse of our air and water, according to scientists, will have devastating effects lasting for years.

Neither Port Mellon nor Woodfibre has plans for producing recycled paper. Such lack of facilities, because of the growing global demand for environmentally more friendly products, could potentially hurt their market position much more than a temporary loss of market to meet environmental standards.

The corporate heads also claim that with a closure there would be a temporary loss of jobs with an unacceptable cost to the work force. But with a closure the pollution abatement equipment could be installed much more rapidly, immediately taking a step to protect Howe Sound's environment.

Corporate heads also fail to mention that they have cut the workforce by over 30% in the last 10 years and, according to the unions, the companies plan further job reductions due to automation, even after their

planned expansions.

Environmentalists are calling for full compensation for the workers while the mills are closed and that the mills must not be reopened until they are environmentally safe and in compliance with our laws.

The mill owners should immediately begin to compensate all fishermen who have lost part or all of their livelihoods because of fisheries closures due to the mills' toxic discharges.

The people of B.C. have lived with half-truths, empty promises, and violations of waste permits for so long that according to recent polls, people no longer believe government and industry when it comes to statements about how they are taking care of the environment.

People now realize the magnitude of the danger facing us in the near future if the amount of toxic substances released into our environment is not immediately and drastically reduced. There is no more time for more studies, "roundtables" and other stall tactics. The time to act is now! Later will be too late. Let's make Howe Sound beautiful and clean again.



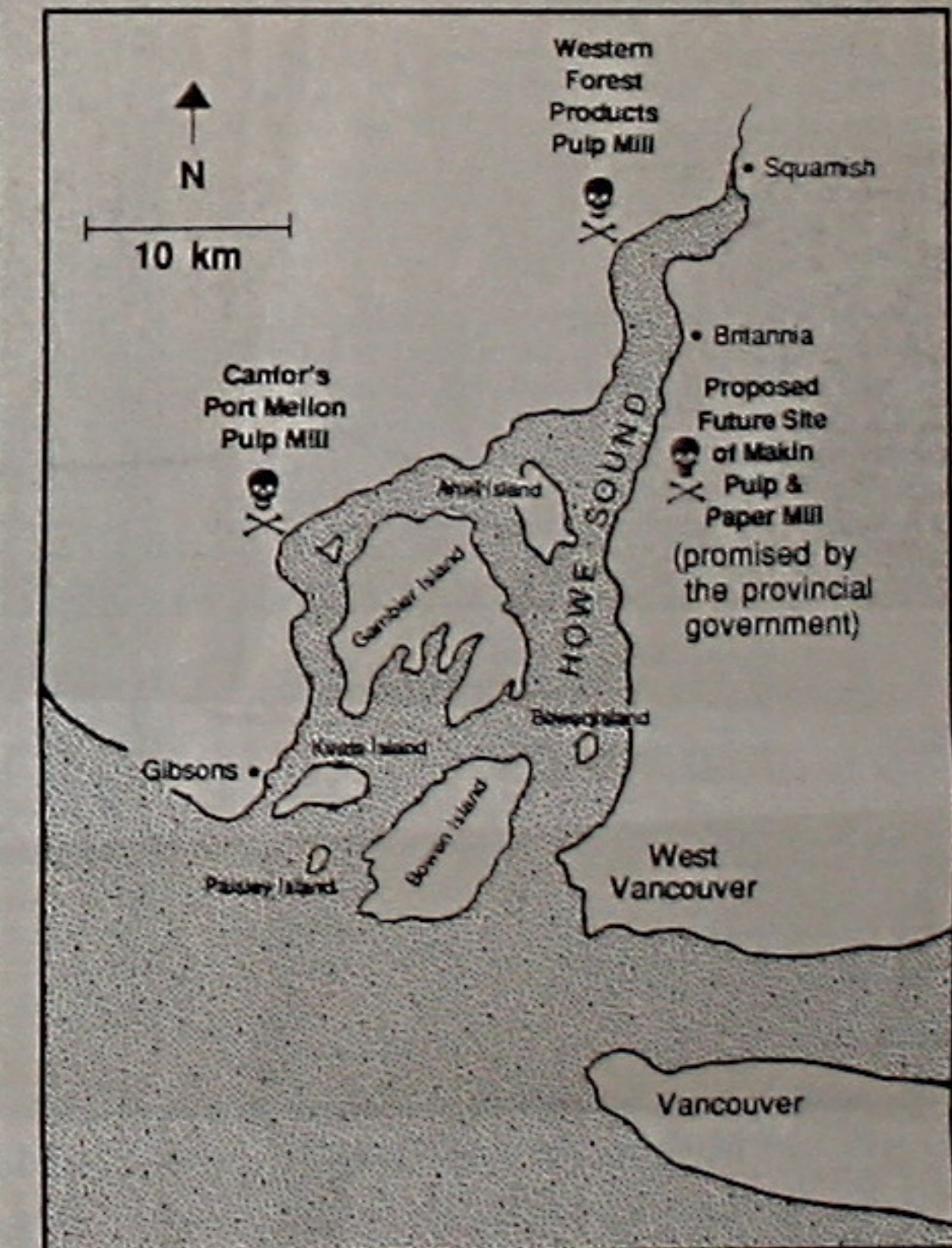
above - This 1989 photo shows the emissions from two of the three recovery boilers at Canfor's Port Mellon mill. According to Environment Canada, the pulp and paper industry is the most toxic industry in Canada, producing more than 1,000 toxic compounds. Some of them have yet to be identified. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency claims that particulate ash from pulp mills is a carrier of sulphur dioxide and dioxins. Dioxins, clinging to dust and smoke particles, can be absorbed through the lungs directly into the bloodstream. Sulphur dioxide converts into sulphuric acid when inhaled into the lungs.

below left - This photo taken in 1989 by a local resident, shows typical "effluent foam" washing ashore across from Western Forest Products' Woodfibre pulp mill. The Honourable John Reynolds, commenting on the pollution situation in Howe Sound on the day he was appointed Minister of the Environment said, "There are no more dioxins going into the water. And if you want to go to Howe Sound to eat crab with me, I'll take you anytime. They are very safe to eat." Federal Fisheries officials dismissed Reynolds' off-the-cuff remarks and charged that he was inciting people to break the law. Dr. Roy Albert, head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Carcinogen Assessment Group, who reviewed the data on dioxin 2378TCDD (the dioxin found in Howe Sound shellfish) concluded that the human cancer risk was unacceptable at a chronic dietary exposure of only one part per trillion, the lowest dose tested. He concluded that there is no known or assumed safe dosage. Dr. Hal Rodgers, a prominent B.C. dioxin researcher working for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, said that even if there were no more dioxins and other chlorinated organics discharged into the water (and they are still being discharged) it could take years for these deadly compounds to break down and no longer be present in our sea life. As long as these pulp mills use chlorine or chlorine dioxide bleaching compounds, we will have deadly chlorinated organics. People must learn to use recycled paper, non-bleached paper products and less paper overall.

SHELLFISH CONTAMINATED

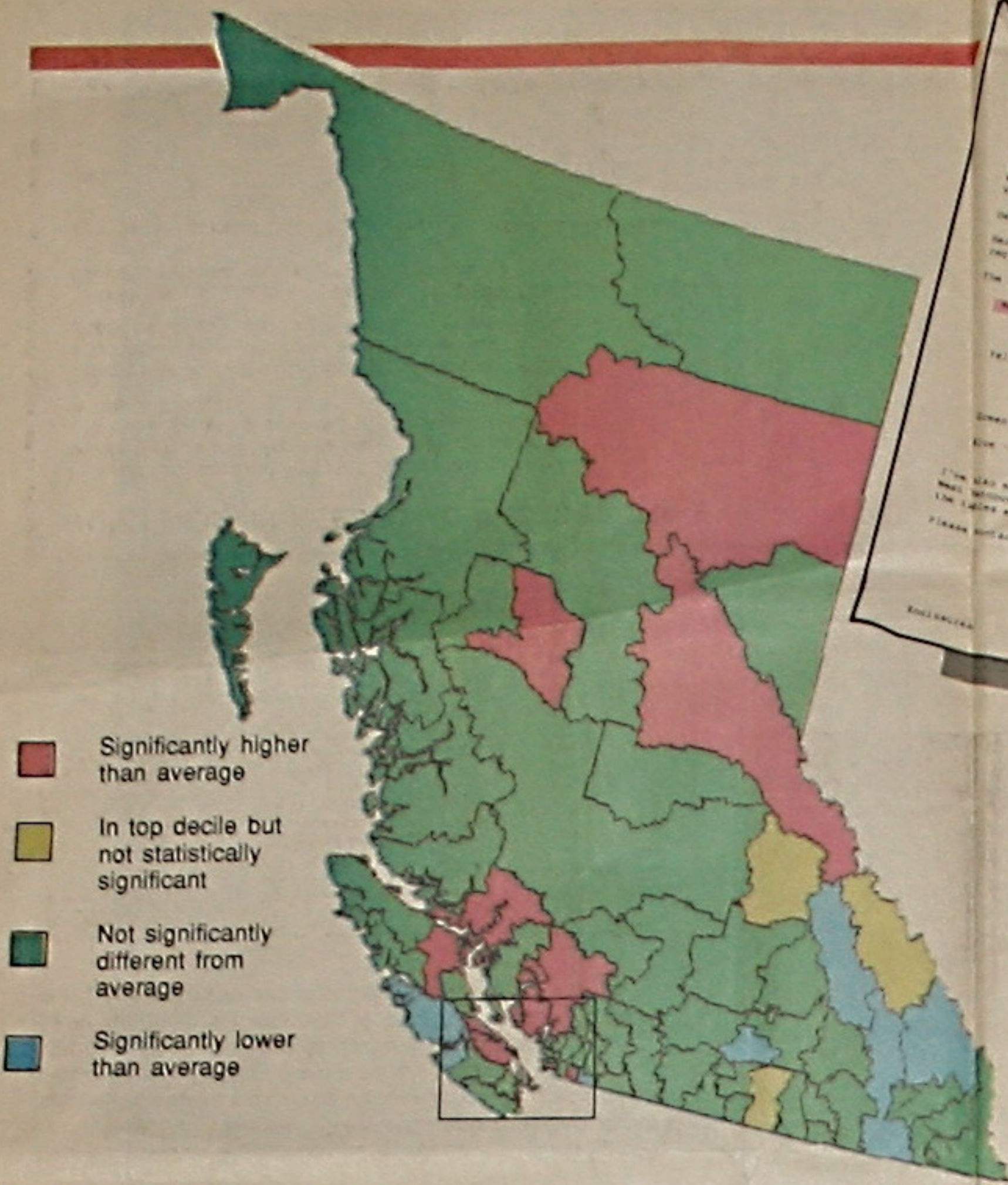
HARVESTING PROHIBITED

By Order
Regional Director General
Department of Fisheries and Oceans



Find out more about the pulp mills in Howe Sound. Watch "The Nature of Things" with David Suzuki on CBC TV, December 13 at 8pm.

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
Société Radio-Canada



CCA BC
1 June 1989

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 1989 regarding the results of the lung cancer mortality study in the Howe Sound region.

The findings are as follows:

Howe Sound - Shows mortality rates significantly higher than the provincial average and the highest mortality rate in the province.

Other regions - Not falling into any of the above categories.

The data follows below for the Howe Sound region as well as the other regions of the province. A comparison of the findings with the provincial average is also shown.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,
John C. Spornell
Epidemiologist

Region	Male	Female	Both
Howe Sound	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other regions	75.0	75.0	75.0
Provincial Average	75.0	75.0	75.0

According to the Cancer Control Agency, the School District of Howe Sound ranks number one per capita in British Columbia for both male and female lung cancer deaths.

This paper was co-produced by Environmental Watch and Western Canada Wilderness Committee, with lots of help from volunteers.

Environmental Watch must include all of us! People watching what's happening to our air, watching what's happening to our water, and watching our current B.C. government's inaction.

Environmental Watch is motivated by the words of the late Chuck Billy (1926-1989), Hereditary Chief and "Minister for the Environment" of the Squamish Nation. "What are we going to tell our children when they ask...Why didn't we do something about it?" Environmental Watch is doing something about it! Suite 202 - 5262 Rumble St. Burnaby BC V5J 2B6. Phone 922-2683 or 435-0512.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee is a not-for-profit society based in Vancouver. Through research and educational publications, this organization tells everyone that we must protect Earth's remaining wilderness and our sustaining biosphere. Everyone must be part of the shift to a conserving, non-polluting way of life. The Committee always needs and welcomes new members and more volunteers.

CREDITS

Photography: Barry Chambers, Ken Fairhurst, Terry Jacks, John Pennington, and Doug MacKenzie
 Writing: Terry Jacks
 Editing: Paul George and Adriane Carr
 Design and Paste-up: Bev Dussault and Leslie McClelland
 Map of Howe Sound: Ron Jasper and Marten Nichols
 Environmental Watch Logo: Jim Miller
 Lung Cancer Mortality Map and Statistics provided by Cancer Control Agency
 Closure Sign provided by Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Second Class Mail Registration No. 7980 (Vancouver)
 Published by Western Canada Wilderness Committee, 20 Water St. Vancouver, BC V6B 1A4
 Printed in Canada - Copyrighted WCWC 1989 - Written material may be used without permission. Please give full credit. Production run 150,000 copies.
 Recycle this paper - give it to a friend.



above - Western Forest Products' new pulp mill at Woodfibre, along with all the other B.C. pulp mills, must be monitored by government employed inspectors on a "round the clock" basis to make sure that the mills continuously conform to our pollution laws and that charges are laid when the mills don't. Such monitoring is the only way to ensure the safety of our environment.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

I support Environmental Watch's campaign to stop pulp mills from continuing to pollute Howe Sound. Here is a tax deductible donation of _____ (Please make your checks out to HANS [Health Action Network Society] - Environmental Watch fund.)

I support the Wilderness Committee's educational campaign to protect and maintain a sustainable biosphere. Please accept my tax deductible _____ gift. (Please make your check out to WCWC - sustainable biosphere fund.)

I would like _____ copies of the 28" x 24" poster *Toni Onley - Wilderness - The Choice*, a powerful watercolour of Howe Sound. \$25 each.

I would like to join the Wilderness Committee here is my \$25 annual membership fee.

Name _____ Address _____
 _____ Postal code _____

Please send to: Western Canada Wilderness Committee, 20 Water St., Vancouver, BC V6B 1A4

OPINION SURVEY CONCERNING PULP MILLS IN HOWE SOUND

1. Regarding Canfor's Port Mellon and Western Forest Products' Woodfibre mills: Do you think that these violators should be (circle either A or B)

A. shut down immediately (with their workers compensated for any lost wages) and remain closed until the mills are environmentally safe and can comply with our environmental laws.

B. allowed to operate as long as they continue to promise to improve their mills so that they will conform to pollution standards in the future.

2. The government should have officials, paid for by the mills, making round the clock, on-site inspections to ensure pulp mills' effluents and emissions meet legally set standards. Yes No (circle one)

Name _____ (please print)
 Address _____ Signature _____

Please send to Premier Vander Zalm, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4