

Science journal letter highlights salmon vulnerability

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Simon Fraser University scientist Jonathan Moore has authored new research suggesting that a proposed controversial terminal to load fossil fuels in the Skeena River estuary has more far-reaching risks than previously recognized.

In a [letter](#) newly published in the journal *Science* Moore and First Nations leaders and fisheries biologists from throughout the Skeena watershed refer to the new data, which is on the [Moore Lab site](#).

Moore is a Faculty of Science and a Faculty of Environment professor of ecology and conservation of freshwaters and the [Liber Ero Chair of Coastal Science and Management](#). He has been researching salmon in the Skeena River estuary for three years. *PLOS ONE* published a [previous study](#).

"Salmon migrate thousands of kilometers during their life," says the letter. "We have shown that the proposed development area supports particularly high abundances of [juvenile salmon](#) from more than 40 populations that are harvested in at least 10 First Nations territories throughout the Skeena watershed and beyond. This is twice the number of First Nations groups that industry proponents identified as needing to be consulted.

"Science, can, and should inform the scale of environmental decision-making."

The [letter](#) calls for effective environmental decision-making to balance risks to environment and culture, as well as the economy.

The Skeena River is the second-largest salmon-producer in Canada.

Provided by Simon Fraser University

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