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# **Salmon Aquaculture Update**

**Open Cabinet  
March 14, 2003**

# Jobs for British Columbians

- **More than 3,500 jobs**
- **Estimated 50% are women and First Nations**
- **8 First Nations involved in aquaculture**
- **90% in coastal Heartlands**
- **Full-time, year-round jobs**
- **Kitasoo Band cut unemployment from over 90% to 30%**

# A major economic contributor

- **30% of \$1 billion BC seafood industry**
  - \$291 million wholesale value
  - Total production: 68,000 tonnes
- **\$391 million value-added exports**
  - Total seafood exports of \$1 billion
- **90% of supplies and services purchased locally**
- **250 B.C. companies supply the industry**

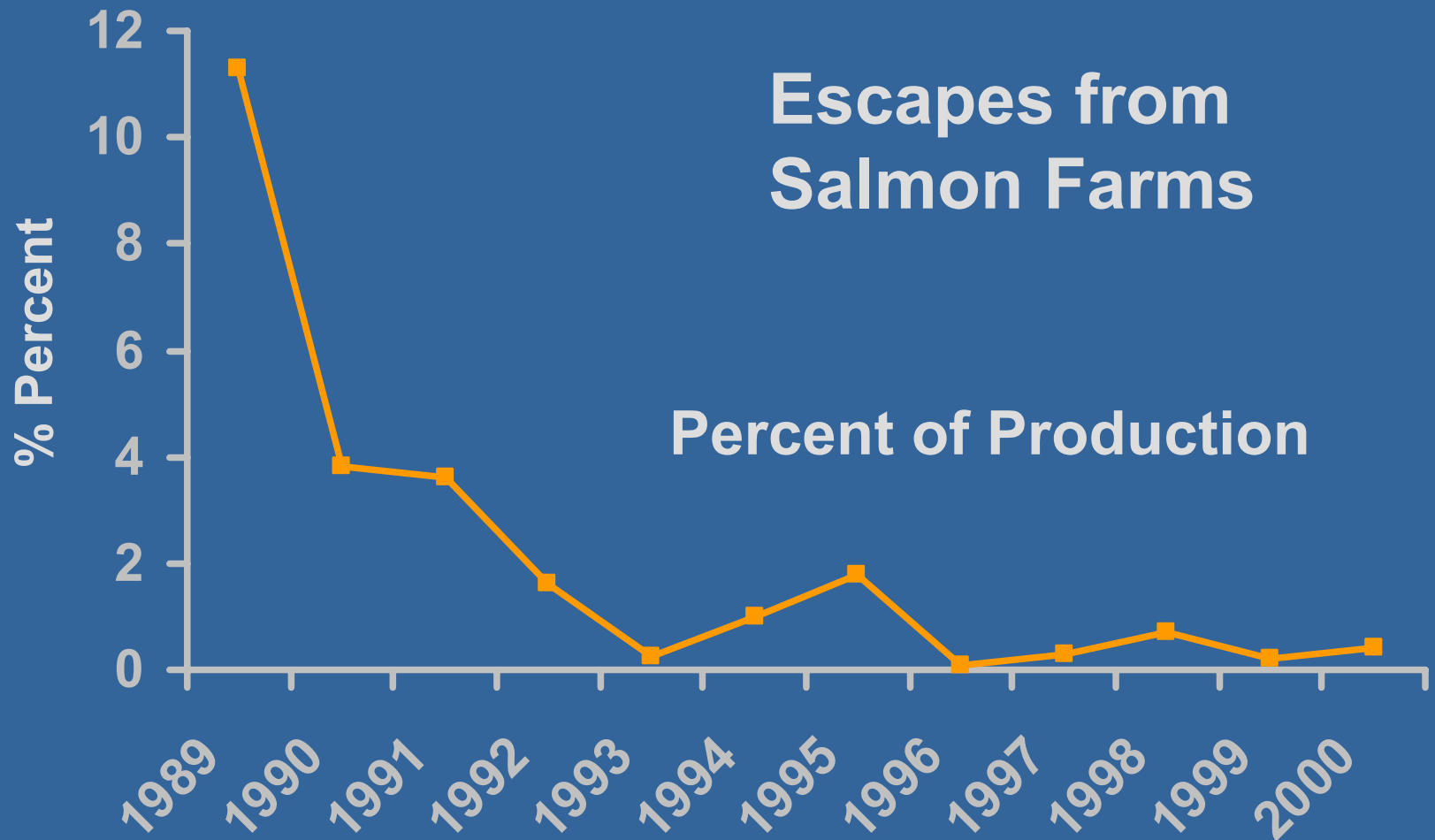
# BC's competitive advantage

- **Fresh and available year-round**
  - Wild salmon only 2-3 months per year
- **Lower retail prices**
  - **Atlantics \$4.49/lb (fresh)**
  - **Sockeye \$6.15/lb (previously frozen)**
- **Close to North American market**
- **Healthy and safe**
  
- ***Farmed salmon sales 3 times wild salmon***
- ***Jobs stay here in BC, not exported to Atlantic fisheries***

# History

- 1980s**      **Rapid development**
- 1991-95**    **34 new farms**
- 1995**        **Moratorium imposed**
- 1997**        **Salmon Aquaculture  
Review completed**
- 1997-2001** **Re-siting of farms delayed**  
  
**= *Pressure on environment***

# Significant Declines in Escapes

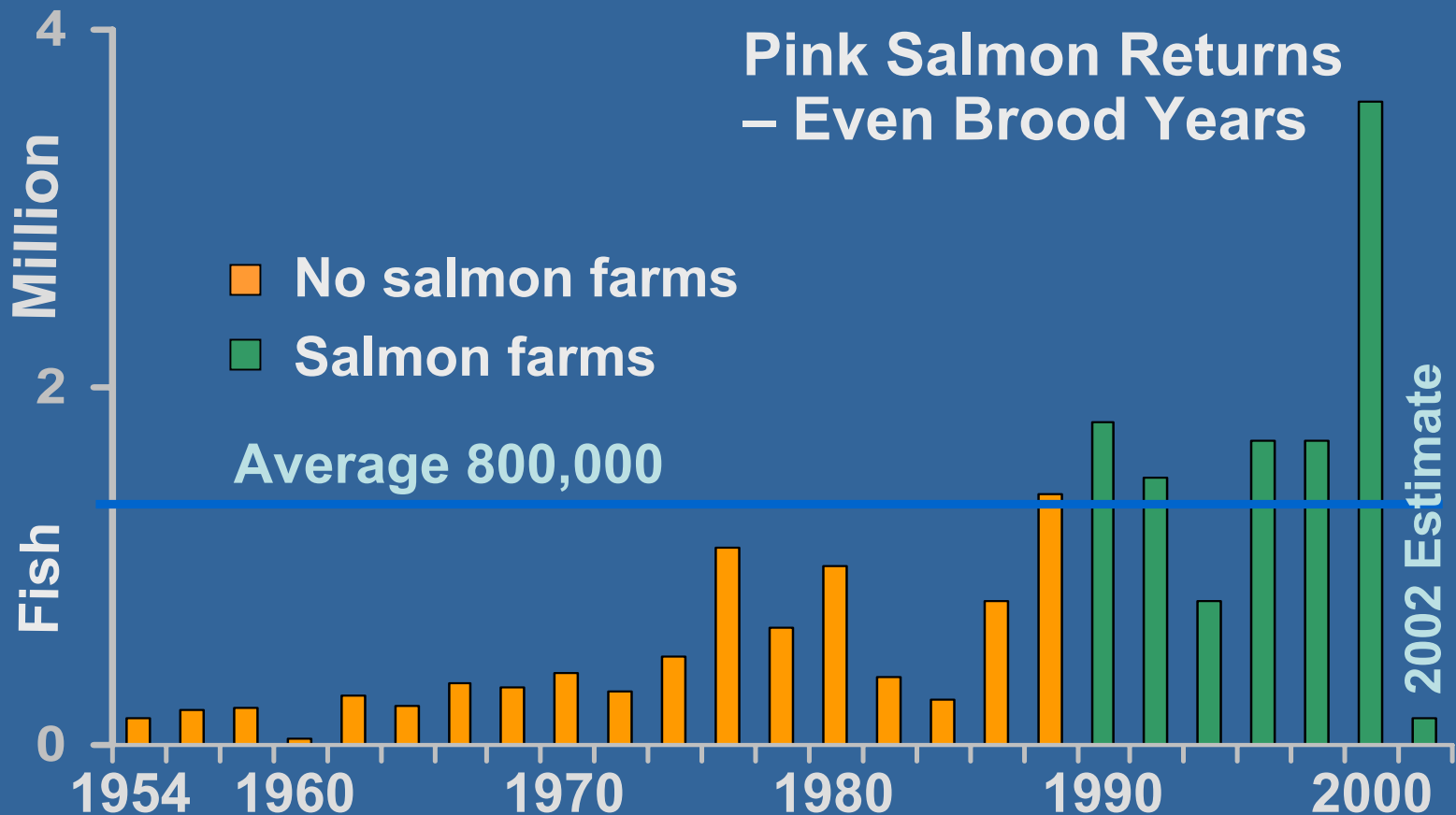


# Environmental Improvements

- Escapes drop – 200,000 to 9,000 a year
- 17 farms okayed for relocation  
– awaiting federal approval
- Fish health tracked
- Waste regulated, monitored

# Adaptive Management

## Broughton Archipelago Action Plan





# Our commitment to continuous improvement

## Example: Broughton Archipelago Action Plan

- \$5 million to research
- International science forums on IHN, sea lice
- Strict enforcement
- Shared with DFO, First Nations, communities

# Our Commitment to the Future

- Enhanced compliance and enforcement
- Increased Fines
- Aquaculture Forum
- Ongoing Research
- Adaptive Management
- A new Partnership with DFO



# Benefits for the Future

- **Job creation**
- **Economic revitalization for coastal communities**
- **Competitive advantage in price and supply of salmon markets**
- **New opportunities for First Nations**
- **One of the toughest regulatory regimes in the world**
- **New compliance measures**

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