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VANCOUVER -- There are sharply different views on the effect of fish farms on wild salmon at the World Fisheries Congress in

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VANCOUVER -- There are sharply different views on the effect of fish farms on wild salmon at the World Fisheries Congress in Vancouver.

Dr. Daniel Pauly, the director of **U-B-C**'s Fisheries Centre, says the B-C government and fish farms are to blame for an unfolding disaster on the coast.

He says it's a pattern he's seen in other places around the globe where there has been an unwillingness to learn from previous experience.

However, another member of the **U-B-C** Fisheries Centre denies that fish farming is to blame.

Dr. Carl Walters says there's a catastrophic decline in a couple of salmon species on the coast, but there's no way fish farming is the cause.

He says the reason could be ocean climate change, pollution, or an increase in marine mammals.

Meanwhile, a report from the David Suzuki Foundation is calling for an overhaul of Canada's Pacific fishery.

Scientist Suzanne Tank recommends better management and habitat protection, and the creation of marine reserves.

(CKBD,BN)

DWL

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