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“...is now in print. Wow! One day it could be the crown of Orri Vigfusson’s vision. The efforts of a single person can make a difference. A dramatic difference. Whether or not FlyLife readers respond to Adrian’s pleas for donations, I hope they are inspired by Orri’s legacy. The efforts of a single person can make a difference. A dramatic difference. Greg French, Molesworth, TAS

Nick Withers, Montmorency, VIC

Orri was born into an Icelandic herring community and later became very successful in the vodka business. He watched as the local salmon stocks plummeted. The really big problem began in the 1950s when commercial fishermen worked out that both the American and European forms of Atlantic salmon congregated in feeding grounds around Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Soon, thousands of kilometres of driftnets were being set across the migration lanes, and by the 1980s the numbers of fish returning to their natal rivers to spawn had crashed by 80 per cent. Having witnessed already a similar destruction of herring stocks, Orri decided that enough was enough. In 1989 he founded the North Atlantic Salmon Fund and dedicated the rest of his life and “considerable personal means” to stop the decline. Using his stamina and business acumen, not to mention persistence and diplomacy, he was able to raise millions of dollars to buy back netting rights in Canada, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, England, Wales and mainland Europe. He even negotiated moratorium agreements with several national governments, and some eventually began contributing to the buyback programme. Working with his coalition partners he eventually managed to reduce netting across an estimated 85 per cent of the salmon’s North Atlantic habitat.

His message was clear and focused. Get the economics right and treat the netmen correctly. Move fish-farming to onshore closed-containment methods to remove the catastrophic consequences of open marine aquaculture, with its infestations of sea lice, genetic inbreeding from chemical treatments)."