



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2017, 10:00 AM

Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

AGENDA

	PAGE #
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
Recognition of Traditional Territories.	
2. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>	
<i>(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)</i>	
3. <u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u>	
a. Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting held September 14, 2016	3-9
<i>THAT the minutes of the Fisheries Resource Committee meeting held on September 14, 2016 be received.</i>	
4. <u>PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS</u>	
5. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION</u>	
a. MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS	10-12
Nuu-chah-nulth Fishing Rights/Ahousaht et al v. Canada	
b. DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS	13-14
On-Vessel Processing of Hake by Domestic Harvesters	
c. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	15-17
Fisheries Habitat Restoration	
<i>THAT correspondence a-c be received.</i>	
6. <u>REPORTS</u>	
a. Department of Fisheries & Oceans Update – A. Goruk (Verbal)	
b. Update on Low Expectations for Returning Sockeye – A. Goruk (Verbal)	
c. Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Update – D. Hall (Verbal)	
d. West Coast Aquatic Update – S. Falconer (Verbal)	
e. Alberni Valley Update – P. Cote, J. McLeman (Verbal)	
f. West Coast Update – D. St. Jacques, J. Osborne, T. Bennett (verbal)	

THAT reports a-f be received for information.

7. **LATE BUSINESS**

8. **ADJOURN**



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2016, 9:30AM

Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

DIRECTORS Dianne St. Jacques, Chairperson, Mayor, District of Ucluelet

PRESENT: Tony Bennett, Director, Electoral Area "C" (Long Beach)
Penny Cote, Director, Electoral Area "D" (Sproat Lake)
Sheena Falconer, West Coast Aquatic Management
Andrea Goruk, DFO, South Coast Division
Don Hall, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

REGRETS: Josie Osborne, Mayor, District of Tofino, Jack McLeman, Councillor, City of Port Alberni, Dennis Chalmers, Province of BC

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Gunn, Contractor
Tracy Bond, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

The Chair recognized the meeting this afternoon is being held in the Tseshaht First Nation and the Hupacasath First Nation Traditional Territories.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY: T. Bennett

SECONDED: D. Hall

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. **Regional Fisheries Resource Committee Meeting – April 13, 2016.**

MOVED: D. Hall

SECONDED: T. Bennett

THAT the minutes of the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee held on April 13, 2016 be received as amended.

CARRIED

4. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

- a. **LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM ACRD TO FEDERAL MINISTERS, MAY 11, 2016**
Re: The Aboriginal Fishing Rights of Five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations
- b. **THANK YOU LETTER FROM NTC TO ACRD, JULY 7, 2016**
Re: The Aboriginal Fishing Rights of Five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations
- c. **LETTER FROM ACRD TO FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA, JULY 5, 2016**
Re: Negotiations of the new PST Chinook Annex
- d. **LETTER FROM ACRD TO FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA/MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AUG 2, 2016**
Re: Vessel Processing of Hake by Domestic Harvesters
- e. **MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA, AUG 12, 2016**
Re: Response to Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District letter concerning the fishing rights of five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations
- f. **WEST COAST AQUATIC, AUG 29, 2016 & SEPT 2, 2016**
Re: Pacific Salmon Treaty – Region Wide Forum & Tentative Date
- g. **AVICC MEMBER UPDATE, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**
Re: Review of Changes to the Fisheries Act and Public Engagement
- h. **ALEX DYER, PLANNER, ACRD, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016**
Islands Agriculture Show, Port Alberni-February 3-4, 2016

MOVED: T. Bennett

SECONDED: D. Hall

THAT correspondence a-h be received.

CARRIED

MOVED: T. Bennett

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT members of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Fisheries Resource Committee attend the Roundtables and the West Coast Vancouver Island wide forum to document community interest related to the renegotiation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty scheduled for Monday, October 31, 2016, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in Port Alberni, location to be announced.

CARRIED

T. Bennett to advise Committee on further details.

5. REPORTS

a. **Department of Fisheries & Oceans Update – A. Goruk (Verbal)**

- Barkley Sound Sockeye fishery was successful – total catch approximately 670,000 Sockeye
- Chinook and Coho fisheries are now taking place. The Chinook run was re-forecasted downward in-season by over 50%, but is still in the moderate zone (50,000)
- In Nootka the run size for Chinook was also re-forecasted downward in-season by 75%, however the escapement target was exceeded; commercial fishery is complete. Chum fishery is planned
- Chum fishery is also planned in Nitinat area
- Offshore Chinook – Area G troll fishery in ongoing. The total catch to date is 49 k (TAC 65 k), however it is unlikely TAC will be achieved.
- Wide spread closures in fresh water systems in Region 1 due to low water with the exception being the Nitinat area which re-opened September 2nd due to improved conditions.

The Pacific Herring Renewal Initiative is in the planning stages and is a long term initiative. It has 3 elements; 1) management framework, 2) fisheries management reforms, and 3) data collection and survey program. The goal is to have a new management framework that is sustainable, robust to change and will meet the various interests and objectives related to herring.

The Fisheries Act Review is being led by the Fisheries Protection Program in National Headquarters. Regional staff will be included. The scope of the review is focused on the “serious harm to fish prohibition” and does not include section 10 (Use of Fish).

WCVI Shrimp – closed June 21st as a result of the eulachon by-catch threshold for Area 124 and 125 being reached. Subsequently the survey showed low shrimp biomass there. 3.6 million obs. Of shrimp were landed before the June 21st closure. Still open in Barkley Sound but no one is fishing. The WCVI will not open until next May 15, 2017. The pilot to test the use of lights to reduce by-catch did not get organized before the west coast was closed. Not sure if this will go ahead. The old shrimp trawl fishery organization has dissolved and two new organizations are being started, representing different aspects of the industry.

b. **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Update – (Verbal)**

D. St. Jacques advised that Dennis Chalmers has retired.

MOVED: D. St. Jacques

SECONDED: T. Bennett

THAT the Fisheries Committee send a letter to Mr. Chalmers wishing him well in his retirement and thanking him for his assistance to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Fisheries Resource Committee with a copy going to the Minister of Agriculture.

CARRIED

c. Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Update – D. Hall (Verbal)

D. Hall advised that he and others traveled to Ottawa in June 2016 and met with Ministers of Fisheries, Justice and Indigenous and Northern affairs to discuss the T'aaq-wiihak Fisheries Justification Trial and stalled negotiations. The hour meeting went very well and the contingent left feeling cautiously optimistic. Unfortunately, nothing has changed subsequently and the Nations are pursuing other means to move the negotiations ahead.

Update on Justification Trial – The oral arguments are set to begin on September 21, 2016 and should take about three weeks. A decision is not expected before spring 2017.

T'aaq-wiihak fisheries - This summer's fishery had increased enforcement from the Department of Fisheries and was heavily monitored. It is the Department of Fisheries policy to have 3rd party monitoring so the Department is paying for redundant 3rd party monitoring and the Nation's monitoring. The Somass Fishery is being monitored by the Nations monitors with no requirement from DFO for 3rd party monitoring.

Herring – a technical working group is working with DFO on the 2016 WCVI herring assessment and forecast for 2017. The final assessment will be coming out next week. Although abundance appears to have increased slightly from the previous low years unlikely that there are enough fish for a commercial fishery in 2017.

MOVED: P. Cote

SECONDED: T. Bennett

THAT the Fisheries Committee recommend that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District forward a letter to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans asking why the T'aaq-wiihak fisheries is being so heavily monitored and enforcement tightened.

CARRIED

d. West Coast Aquatic Update – S. Falconer (Verbal)

Habitat restoration - West Coast Aquatic will be asking for funding from federal government. This is based on the report entitled Somass River Integrated Fish Habitat Restoration Overview. A link to this report has been sent to the Regional District.

West Coast Aquatic is requesting a Letter of Support from the Regional District regarding a request for 15 million (1.5 million a year) from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for Somass Habitat Restoration.

MOVED BY: T. Bennett

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter of support be sent to West Coast Aquatic regarding their Restoration Project Phase 1 model including the Barkley and Clayoquot.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: T. Bennett

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be sent to the Minister of Agriculture advising of the need for more fisheries habitat restoration and highlighting the project by West Coast Aquatic.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: S. Falconer

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be written to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Federal Fisheries Act Review requesting funding for community groups to attend this review.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: T. Bennett

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT the above noted motion be amended as follows:

CARRIED

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Federal Fisheries Act Review requesting both a West Coast based session and funding for non-First Nation groups to attend the Fisheries Act Review Sessions.

The motion as amended was

CARRIED

e. Alberni Valley Update – P. Cote, (verbal)

P. Cote report that there are many bull frogs and huge tadpoles on Sproat Lake. Landslides continue on Dog mountain. The Marine Patrol did level one testing for turbidity in the water. The Ministry of Environment has been contacted requesting they test the water in Sproat Lake. Planning continues for a clean-up day on Sproat Lake scheduled for October 2nd. Great Central Lake residents are also planning a clean-up day in conjunction with Sproat Lake. Docks on Crown Land continue to be an issue.

f. West Coast Update – D. St. Jacques, T. Bennett (verbal)

The price of Fish was high this year for Area G fishers.

D. St. Jacques provided an update on the Groundfish Development Authority – IVQ process. Hake and Groundfish processors and fishers were present. Based on the presentation they get a certain percent of the 10 per cent. Still managing to hang together and make a difference. Included in this group are three coastal representatives, union representation, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans sits in an advisory role as does the Province. It was a good season for Hake until three weeks ago. The Hake quota was large and the activity good. Processor ships have applied pilot project to process more Hake at sea.

D. St. Jacques met with the Minister of Agriculture for an hour. The Fisheries department of the Ministry now only includes two staff members. Retirees have not been replaced and there is no succession planning. This is a Billion-dollar industry and Province is not participating.

MOVED BY: D. St. Jacques

SECONDED: P. Cote

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be sent to the Minister of Agriculture reinforcing how important the Fishing Industry is to the Province of BC and requesting a Provincial representative be re-appointed to sit on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Regional Fisheries Resource Committee.

CARRIED

The Committee would like a reminder noted in the Minutes regarding a community based marine strategy and provincial port strategy for the next Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Annual General Meeting.

MOVED BY: P. Cote

SECONDED: D. Hall

THAT the Fisheries Resource Committee recommend to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Fisheries and Ocean requesting an explanation on the oversight on third party monitoring of the Somass Fishery.

CARRIED

D. Hall offered to help with this letter.

MOVED: Tony

SECONDED: Penny

THAT the Regional Fisheries Resource Committee receives verbal Reports a-f.

CARRIED

7. LATE BUSINESS

8. ADJOURN

MOVED: Director

SECONDED: Director

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 11:34 am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

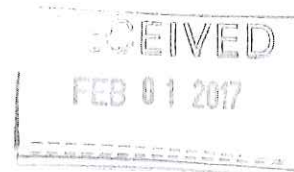
Dianne St. Jacques,
Chairperson

Minister of
Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des
Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6



JAN 23 2017

Ms. Josie Osborne
Chairperson
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni BC V9Y 2E3

Dear Ms. Osborne:

I am writing in response to your correspondence of October 17, 2016, addressed to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, regarding the Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations' fishing rights. The Office of the Prime Minister forwarded your correspondence to me, and I regret the delay in responding.

Thank you for expressing your support for these First Nations. As you note, the Government of Canada is committed to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples.

My colleagues and I remain committed to collaborating with the Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations through consultations and negotiations on the implementation and accommodation of their fishing rights. We are hopeful that a strengthened and productive relationship can be established.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

c.c.: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

Canada



October 17, 2016

Honourable Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau:

Re: Nuu-chah-nulth fishing rights/Ahousaht et al v. Canada

I write to you on behalf of the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District to express our concerns regarding Canada's conduct with the five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations of the Ahousaht et al v. Canada decision (Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, Ehattesaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations).

Your government is presenting arguments in the ongoing justification trial in the B.C. Supreme Court that would restrict and minimize the Nuu-chah-nulth Aboriginal right to fish commercially that was decided in 2009 and confirmed by the BC Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada in 2014. It is our understanding that Department of Justice lawyers are attempting to redefine this proven right as a "low-level" right that would render the right essentially meaningless. Lead negotiators for the five Nations raised this point in a recent meeting with DFO Regional Director General Rebecca Reid. RDG Reid conceded she was unaware that Canada's lawyers were arguing this point in court. Furthermore, the RDG, as a representative of the federal government, said she had nothing new to negotiate with the Nations regarding their rights-based fisheries access.

Seven years after the declaration of their Aboriginal right to fish commercially, these five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations remain without a negotiated agreement or reasonable offer from the federal government to allow their communities to exercise their rights and participate in the abundant fisheries in their territories. Furthermore, Ministers LeBlanc (Fisheries and Oceans), Bennett (Northern and Indigenous Affairs), and Wilson-Raybould (Justice and Attorney General) met with the lead negotiators of the five Nations in Ottawa last June, yet still haven't provided any new direction to their bureaucrats and lawyers on the ground or in court.

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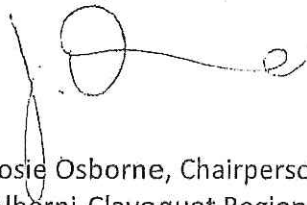
We write, as elected representatives of municipalities, First Nations, and rural areas of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District to strongly urge you to direct your Ministers, staff and legal advisors to:

1. Appoint a Senior Negotiator as a representative of the Government of Canada to conclude negotiations on the fishing plans developed by the five First Nations.
2. Direct your Ministers and their staff to work collaboratively with five First Nations to implement their rights-based fisheries as confirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada and protected under the Canadian Constitution.

This is a serious matter with critical implications to Nuu-chah-nulth communities who face considerable poverty in their communities and the continued erosion of fishing culture. Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations have been very patient and respectful, trying to work with the government of Canada through the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to negotiate the five First Nations Constitutionally protected right "to fish and sell, all species of fish."

You have expressed many times, including during your summer 2016 visit to Tofino, that no relationship is more important to you than that between Canada and the Indigenous peoples of Canada. We urge you to make good on your promise to First Nations and implement the Aboriginal fishing rights of these five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations.

Sincerely,



Josie Osborne, Chairperson
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Cc: Honorable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard (DFO)
Honourable Jody-Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada;
Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC);
Gord Johns, MP for Courtenay-Alberni;
Catherine Blewett, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
Kevin Stringer, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, DFO;
Rebecca Reid, Regional Director General, Pacific Region, DFO;
Debra Foxcroft, President, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Regional Director General
Pacific Region
Suite 200 – 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6C 3S4

Directrice générale régionale
Région du Pacifique
Pièce 200 – 401 rue Burrard
Vancouver C.-B.
V6C 3S4

Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

2016-501-00226

NOV 10 2016



Ms. Josie Osborne
Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni, B.C.
V9Y 2E3

Dear Ms. Osborne:

Thank you for your October 24, 2016, correspondence regarding the trawl representatives' proposal to increase the on-vessel processing of hake by domestic harvesters.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) appreciates the importance of this issue to coastal communities. To ensure that the Groundfish Trawl Advisory Committee (GTAC) is aware of your concerns regarding the scale of the investment by shoreside processors and the importance of the processing jobs to the communities, I have asked staff to relay your correspondence to GTAC for consideration.

DFO anticipates that the industry will be submitting a revised proposal for on-vessel processing of hake at the upcoming GTAC meeting on December 2, 2016. Consultation on that revised proposal will include discussions with the Groundfish Industry Advisory Board (GIAB) where the coastal communities are represented. I suggest that you ensure that one of the coastal communities' representatives on the GIAB is fully apprised of the details of your concerns to ensure those details are made known during the discussion on the proposal.

Additionally, you may not be aware that GTAC meetings are open to observers, providing advance notice of attendance is given to DFO ensure adequate space for the meeting. If you wish to attend the next GTAC or to see a copy of the tentative meeting agenda, please contact Barry Ackerman, Pacific Region Trawl Coordinator, at either 604-666-3991 or barry.ackerman@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Thank you for following up with your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Reid
Regional Director General
Pacific Region



October 24, 2016

Rebecca Reid
Regional Director General
Pacific Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Suite 200 – 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC
V6C 3S4

Dear Rebecca Reid:

Thank you for your letter of September 29th 2016 regarding the proposal presented by the trawl representatives to the Groundfish Integrated Advisory Board (GIAB) to increase the on-vessel processing of hake by domestic harvesters.

As you are aware, this matter is of vital economic interest to Vancouver Island coastal communities given the importance fish processing jobs. In view of this we are requesting active role for the communities and participation in decision making process with respect to the pilot project for on-vessel processing of hake by domestic harvesters.

We would further request that no decisions be made until consultation takes place with communities that could be affected.

Your letter does not specify how comments from the communities can be submitted to the Groundfish Trawl Advisory Committee (GTAC), and rather implies that input from our representatives on the GIAB is sufficient at this stage. We very much hope that GTAC is aware of the scale of recent investments by on-shore processors and the importance to them of a reliable and sustainable volume of hake; and the importance of these processing jobs to the communities. Any decision that erodes this industry is of vital concern to us.

Yours sincerely,

Josie Osborne, Chair

Cc: Gord Johns, MP, Courtenay-Alberni
Scott Fraser, MLA, Alberni-Pacific Rim
West Coast Aquatic
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council



FEB 14 2017

File: 0280-30
Ref: 185404

Josie Osborne
Chair
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Ave
Port Alberni BC V9Y 2E3

Dear Ms Osborne:

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 2016 highlighting the work on fisheries habitat restoration, and the concerns for Pacific salmon and steelhead stocks on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. I appreciate and share your concerns for our wild salmon and steelhead stocks, as well as the work that is being undertaken through West Coast Aquatic, and its multi-stakeholder approach in the Somass Basin Watershed and Kennedy Flats area.

We recently released our *B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan* which includes a new Seafood Strategy. The mission of the Seafood Strategy is to maximize the aquaculture, commercial and marine recreational fisheries while balancing environmental sustainability objectives and supporting a diversified economy.

One of British Columbia's priorities is to sustain and protect what we have, and include efforts to promote conservation and enhancement of wild fish populations by working across ministries to minimize the impact of development projects on fish habitat, while supporting policies to conserve our fisheries resources.

A key priority for government under the Seafood Strategy is to provide industry with a single access point to federal and provincial authorities through the establishment of a provincial Seafood Secretariat that will provide consistent provincial policy positions.

As you are aware, a number of provincial agencies have responsibilities for various aspects of fisheries and fisheries habitat; the lead agency for managing freshwater fisheries and steelhead and freshwater habitat is the Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), with policy and science support from the Ministry of Environment. FLNRO is also a member of the Seafood Secretariat.

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The executive lead for the Seafood Secretariat is Assistant Deputy Minister, James Mack. If you would like to meet with him to discuss this in further detail, I encourage you to contact him directly by telephone at 250 356-1821 or by e-mail at James.Mack@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you again for writing to share your concerns.

Sincerely,



Norm Letnick
Minister

pc: Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment

Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations

Scott Fraser, MLA, Alberni-Pacific Rim

James Mack, Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

West Coast Aquatic

December 7, 2016

The Honourable Norm Letnick
Minister of Agriculture
PO Box 9043, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Email: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: Fisheries Habitat Restoration

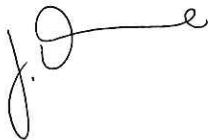
Dear Minister Letnick:

Pacific salmon and steelhead stocks on the Westcoast of Vancouver Island continue to be under severe pressure from a number of environmental issues. While the Province has limited jurisdiction and ability to influence some of these [e.g. Conditions in the North Pacific or climate change], it does have some influence in habitat protection and restoration.

We are writing to draw your attention to the innovative multi-stakeholder salmon and steelhead habitat protection and restoration work being coordinated by West Coast Aquatic in the Somass watershed and well as in the Kennedy Flats area near the Tofino Airport. This work is of critical importance in helping to maintain socially and economically important fish stocks and will result in the Somass River Integrated Fish Habitat Restoration Overview

While we understand the limits of provincial involvement in these activities, the Province does have the primary role in steelhead protection. Moreover, staff from your Ministry can play an important role in encouraging the resource ministries to maintain their virulence with regard to the activities of industry, particularly the forest industry, when it comes to fisheries habitat protection.

Yours truly,



Josie Osborne, Chair

Cc: West Coast Aquatic
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Scott Fraser, MLA, Alberni-Pacific Rim