



24959 ALOUETTE ROAD, MAPLE RIDGE, BC V4R 1R8

Tel: 604.467.6401 Fax: 604.467.6478

arms@alouetteriver.org

www.alouetteriver.org

8 November, 2016

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Re: Fisheries Act Review

On behalf of the Alouette River Management Society's Board of Directors, I would like to strongly urge the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to:

- Act on recommendations of the Cohen Commission on restoring sockeye salmon stocks in the Fraser River,
- Work with the Minister of Transport to review the previous government's changes to the Fisheries and Navigable Waters Protection Acts, restore lost protections, and incorporate modern safeguards, and
- Provide adequate resources for monitoring and enforcement to DFO.

These priorities draw heavily from your government's election platform commitments.

As part of the Government of Canada's recent request for public consultation on changes to the Fisheries Act, we recommend amending the Fisheries Act to:

1. Restore habitat protection for all native fish, not just those that are part of or are deemed to support an established fishery.
2. Bring back the harmful alteration, disruption and destruction (HADD) prohibition, but keep the expansion of the prohibition that was introduced with the changes to include "activities". Thus the provision should read: "No person shall carry on any work, undertaking or activity that results in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat."
3. Reverse the repeal of section 32, the prohibition against the destruction of fish by means other than fishing, which has left a gap in the protection of fish. Along with the return to HADD, it is also necessary to restore section 32 as it appeared in the Fisheries Act before the passing of Bill C-38.

4. Include triggers for an environmental assessment (EA) in Canada's environmental assessment legislation when authorization is required under sections 32, 35 or 36 of the Fisheries Act to ensure that the impacts and cumulative effects of works, undertakings and activities are understood, avoided, offset and/or mitigated,
5. Restore the concept of "no net loss" of fish habitat through policy or amendment to the statute or regulations.

We respectfully thank the Honourable Minister for his direct attention and timely response to restoring and modernizing, what was, Canada's strongest environmental law, the Federal Fisheries Act.

Sincerely,



Greta Borick-Cunningham
Executive Director
Alouette River Management Society

Cc:

Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (fax)
Chief Susan Miller, Katzie First Nation
Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister for Transport
Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister for Environment & Climate Change
MP Dan Ruimy (Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge)
Mayor Nicole Read, City of Maple Ridge
Mayor John Becker, City of Pitt Meadows
MLA Marc Dalton, Maple Ridge-Mission
MLA Doug Bing, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
ARMS Board of Directors