

**From:** Davis, Terry <Terry.Davis@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2009 4:27 PM  
**To:** Richards, Laura <Laura.Richards@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Thomson, Andrew <Andrew.Thomson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Farlinger, Susan <Susan.Farlinger@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Sprout, Paul <Paul.Sprout@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Brian Riddell article

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Laura,

I spoke to Paul Sprout on this. He is concerned about backing away from the wording we used in the media lines and the letter to the editor of the Globe. The media lines state: Sea lice from salmon farms cannot explain the extremely poor marine survival of Fraser River sockeye. This is supported by the fact that sockeye returns to the Skeena River in northern B.C. were also significantly lower than anticipated this year, and the migration route of juvenile sockeye from this river system does not take them anywhere near fish farms. We also know that the majority of sea lice found on juvenile sockeye in the Strait of Georgia, which Fraser River salmon migrate through when they leave the river as juveniles, are not the sea lice species commonly reported on BC salmon farms.

Are we still comfortable being as definitive as this?

The statement we used in the letter to the editor of the Globe, based on the media line was: It is also clear that sea lice from fish farms are not the explanation for the extremely poor marine survival of Fraser River sockeye. This is supported by the fact that sockeye returns to the Skeena River in northern B.C. were also significantly lower than anticipated this year, and the migration route of juvenile sockeye from this river system does not take them anywhere near fish farms. We also know that the sea lice species found on juvenile sockeye in the Strait of Georgia are not the same species that typically infects farmed salmon.

The statement we now propose to use in the letter in response to Alexandra Morton is: We know that returns of sockeye to other rivers in B.C. that are not in proximity to fish farms, such as the Skeena, were also much lower than anticipated. And we know that given the management actions that farm operators are taking to minimize the potential for sea lice from their operations to infect wild salmon populations, and our research on the species of sea lice being found on wild sockeye populations, that sea lice originating from fish farms cannot explain the lower-than-expected sockeye runs this year.

We could change the wording in the letter to be identical to the media line wording, if that would be helpful.

Terry

Terence Davis  
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**From:** Richards, Laura  
**Sent:** August 19, 2009 2:32 PM  
**To:** Thomson, Andrew; Davis, Terry; Farlinger, Susan  
**Cc:** Imbeau, Michelle; Sloan, Lara; Fowler, Nancy

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**Subject:** RE: Brian Riddell article

if we use this sentence, then I suggest adding the word "fully" before explain. While we don't have any evidence about lice, we also cannot say that lice had 0 impact. Scientifically, we need to leave the door open, even if the odds are low.  
Laura

Dr. Laura Richards  
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**From:** Thomson, Andrew  
**Sent:** August 19, 2009 2:09 PM  
**To:** Davis, Terry; Richards, Laura; Farlinger, Susan  
**Cc:** Imbeau, Michelle; Sloan, Lara; Fowler, Nancy  
**Subject:** RE: Brian Riddell article

I agree with Laura's suggestions and in addition I would modify the following, as I have no data ( I'm trying to track it down) on what the levels on the farm were.

What we do know is that the marine survival of Fraser River sockeye was poor among the group of four-year-old sockeye that were expected to return to the river this year. We know that given the management actions that farm operators are taking to minimize the potential for sea lice from their operations to infect wild salmon populations, and our research on the species of sea lice being found on wild sockeye populations, that it is highly unlikely that contact with sea lice originating from fish farms can explain the lower-than-expected sockeye runs this year.

**Andrew J. L. Thomson**  
Director - Aquaculture Management | Directeur - Gestion de l'aquaculture

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Note: DFO e-mail addresses are changing. Please update your records: Andrew.Thomson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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**From:** Davis, Terry

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**Sent:** August 19, 2009 1:20 PM  
**To:** Thomson, Andrew; Richards, Laura; Farlinger, Susan  
**Cc:** Imbeau, Michelle; Sloan, Lara; Fowler, Nancy  
**Subject:** FW: Brian Riddell article  
**Importance:** High

Andrew, Laura,

Alexandra Morton has submitted a letter that she has written to the Minister to the Georgia Strait and other media outlets. It has been published in the Strait as well as in the Courier-Islander. I have written a possible response for your consideration, and would like your advice on whether we should respond. If you could get back to me on this by close of business today, that would be great. If we want to submit a response, we will need to complete regional approvals and submit it to NHQ by tomorrow morning.

Terry

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**From:** Davis, Terry  
**Sent:** August 19, 2009 12:17 PM  
**To:** Fowler, Nancy; Imbeau, Michelle  
**Subject:** FW: Brian Riddell article

Nancy,

Alexandra's letter was also published in the Georgia Strait -- <http://www.straight.com/article-247753/alexandra-mortons-letter-fisheries-minister-missing-sockeye>, along with an article by Brian Riddell -- see below.

I will work with Andy Thomson to draft a response.

Terry

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**From:** Sloan, Lara  
**Sent:** August 19, 2009 11:19 AM  
**To:** Davis, Terry

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**Cc:** Grout, Jeff; Rosenberger, Barry  
**Subject:** Brian Riddell article

Just in case you haven't seen this

<http://www.straight.com/article-248097/brian-riddell-where-have-all-fraser-river-sockeye-salmon-gone>

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