

May 18, 2016

The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and Canadian Coast Guard  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6  
*Sent via email to Min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca*

Dear Minister Tootoo,

We commend you and your government for recognizing the cultural, ecological, and economic importance of wild Pacific salmon to First Nations and other citizens of British Columbia.

The undersigned groups and individuals are united in our support for key elements in your mandate letter that we wish to see fulfilled. Doing so without delay will help restore public confidence in federal management of BC's wild salmon, and signal a commitment to renewing relationships with First Nations.

1. "Act on recommendations of the Cohen Commission". At a cost of \$37 million, the Cohen Commission is the most comprehensive review of Pacific salmon management ever undertaken. We support Justice Cohen's sensible recommendations and urge you to embrace their principles and fully implement the recommendations by the end of your current mandate.
2. Fully implement all six strategies of *Canada's Policy for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon* by the end of your mandate: (1) Standardized monitoring of wild salmon runs; (2) Assessment of habitat status; (3) Inclusion of ecosystem values and monitoring; (4) Integrated strategic planning; (5) Annual program delivery; and (6) Performance review. Brought in by the previous Liberal government in 2005, and neglected but left intact during the Harper years, the *Wild Salmon Policy* remains a foundational public policy with broad support from First Nations, fishing and conservation groups, and other British Columbians. Moreover, several of Justice Cohen's recommendations focus on fully implementing the Policy as written.
3. "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.” You have a mandate and broad support for immediately reinstating the habitat provisions of the Fisheries Act that were removed through omnibus bills C-38 and C-45 despite significant opposition from First Nations and the general public. Please do so, and provide adequate resources for monitoring and enforcement. Once habitat protections are restored, we support a thorough review and full consultations to further improve this essential Canadian law.

We stand ready to work with your government and Fisheries and Oceans Canada in accomplishing these critical tasks.

Sincerely,

First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation

BC Federation of Fly Fishers

BC Federation of Drift Fishers

The Honourable David Anderson, P.C., O.C., former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans,  
and former Minister of Environment

The Honourable John Fraser, P.C., O.C., O.B.C., C.D., Q.C., LL.D.(Hon.), and former  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Watershed Watch Salmon Society

David Suzuki Foundation

Wild Salmon Forever

Raincoast Conservation Foundation

SkeenaWild Conservation Trust

Neskonlith Indian Band

Steelhead Society of BC

Kingfishers Rod and Gun Club

West Coast Environmental Law

Living Oceans Society

Squamish Lillooet Sportfish Advisory Committee

Sea to Sky Fisheries Roundtable

Squamish River Watershed Society

Vicky Husband, C.M., O.B.C.

Mark Angelo, C.M., O.B.C.

Dr. Patricia Gallagher

Squamish Streamkeepers Society  
Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition  
Georgia Strait Alliance  
Clayoquot Action  
Fraser Riverkeeper  
Totem Flyfishers  
Friends of Clayoquot Sound

C.c. Kevin Stringer, Sylvie Lapointe, Rebecca Reid, and Members of Parliament Mark Strahl, Fin Donnelly, Elizabeth May, Hon. Hedy Fry, Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Hon. Harjit Sajjan, Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Ken Hardie, Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, Joyce Murray, Dan Ruimy, Jonathan Wilkinson, Joe Peschisolido, Randeep Sarai, Jati Sidhu, Ron McKinnon, John Aldag, Terry Beech, Sukh Dhaliwal, and Stephen Fuhr.