

March 9, 2007

To The Honorable Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

There is a great deal of dissension in the fishing community in British Columbia with respect to all advisory processes, illegal use of fish and poor management and a lack of trust in the Fisheries Minister and the Conservative Government.

The Conservative Government referred to as the Harper government, (*this is you*), was supported by the fishing industry and the people of British Columbia. We believed that your government would take responsibility for correcting the irresponsible management policies of the past.

Your sworn commitment to stand in opposition to Race based fisheries, and to conduct a judicial inquiry into the collapse of the Fraser River salmon, was a good first step.

Your Minister of Fisheries has reneged on the Judicial inquire, claiming that the costs would be to high, and he says he is already aware that the problem is illegal fisheries. He has not made any financial commitment to correct the problem that claims to know, but rather ignores the problem.

In the community of Cranbrook where I live, anyone can order illegal poached salmon and there isn't a salmon-producing river within three hundred miles. Illegal salmon can be purchased in every community in British Columbia and beyond.

Your Fisheries Minister has rubber-stamped the Integrated Fishing Plan, a product of DFO policy, and claims support from the advisory process. He claims it a necessity to protect species of concern, without stock assessment, which has resulted in the industry paying for management costs, and \$10,000,000 dollars of harvestable fish still in the water. This uncaught fish will soon be transferable to another sector. The only benefit is more corporate control over these fisheries resources.

Your Fisheries Minister then tables a Fisheries Act, Bill C 45 that falsely claims, consultation and support from industry and the Provinces, that gives government total desecration over resource allocation that defies

constitutional responsibility that legally protects the rights of it's citizens.

Your Government has not held the Fisheries Minister responsible or accountable to achieve any defined goals or results. The Fisheries Minister has not held the Department Of Fisheries Responsible to achieve goals or results, and the Department Of fisheries has instituted policy that has burdened the industry with management expenses, expenses that don't protect or enhance resources, or achieve goals or results. The fact is that there is nothing in any DFO policy that is goal oriented with respect to protecting and enhancing the fishery resources, only eliminating the participants in the industry.

We think it's time that you take action, personally, in respect to the behavior of your Fisheries Minister, and the Department Of Fisheries management policies. We think it time that you take a position in discarding Bill C-45. We think its time that you held a Judicial inquiry into DFO's management policies, which includes protection of fish and enhancement of all rivers, including the Fraser, the advisory processes, and the affects of the Aquiculture industry on both the markets and the health of wild fish stocks.

Government is for the people by the people, not by government for government bureaucracy and big business.

Gerald Dalum  
Fishing For Freedom