

February 17, 2005

Peter Stoffer  
Member of Parliament  
Sackville – Eastern Shore

RE: **Adverse affects of Government Cutbacks to Fisheries & Oceans**

Dear Mr. Stoffer

Please find enclosed copies of letters and memos to Prime Minister Martin from various British Columbia municipalities.

This correspondence is indicative of the concerns that all British Columbians have around their maritime resources and ecosystems, particularly our various salmon runs. The salmon resource is very important to the economy of British Columbia and is *essential* for a number of our smaller communities. The issue here is very easy to understand, **Hatcheries = Salmon = Fishing Opportunities (Sports, Commercial and Aboriginal) = Strong Economy = Vibrant Communities.**

While the focus of these particular letters is the *Salmon Enhancement Program*, all fish resources in British Columbia are currently threatened. The information that I dropped off at your and Nathan Cullen's Ottawa offices is only a partial list of the concerns that British Columbians have around the cutbacks to Fisheries & Oceans and the threat that this represents to our marine resources.

I have also enclosed an article from the PEI Journal Pioneer that talks very appropriately about a disease that has afflicted DFO and that disease is termed "responsibility collapse". It is no coincidence that the closing of hatcheries on the east coast led to the demise of salmon runs. The cutbacks that are occurring to the Department of Fisheries & Oceans are preventing our employees from fulfilling their mandate to protect the marine ecosystems for all Canadians. The clumsy and unsuccessful attempts by the federal government to download the responsibilities of salmon hatcheries to the province and communities have not and will not work.

What we need, what Canada needs, are more resources put into the Department of Fisheries & Oceans, not less. I have to assume that you are very aware of what happens to fish stocks when there are inadequate resources for the science behind stock assessments/biology, enforcement and enhancement. I am of course referring to the northern cod.

I will be in Ottawa March 10-15<sup>th</sup> and would like to meet with you to further discuss the concerns that British Columbians have over the mismanagement of their marine environment.

Sincerely,

Nick Humphreys  
RVP Environment Component BC/Yukon

CC: Nathan Cullen  
Peter Julian  
Keith Martin