



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Fisheries and
Aquaculture Management

Gestion des pêches et
de l'aquaculture

Assistant
Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre
adjoit

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

APR 10 2008

Ruth Salmon
Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance
458 Sunset Blvd.,
Parksville, BC V9P 1V4

Dear Mrs. Salmon:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is the federal government's lead department for ensuring our waters are sustainably managed for current and future generations. The long term sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources as well as the support of healthy, productive and biologically diverse marine ecosystems are among DFO's central commitments.

As Assistant Deputy Minister of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of DFO, I am confident that Canada's seafood products are supported by fisheries and aquaculture management programs that are among the most sustainable in the world.

To deliver on our commitments, DFO's fisheries and aquaculture management programs are based on strong legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks aimed at developing both industries in an environmentally responsible way while remaining economically competitive in international markets. At the center of this framework is the *Fisheries Act*, which is the primary authority for the management and regulation of Canada's capture fisheries and aquaculture activities. The *Fisheries Act*, along with several other Acts and regulations, allow DFO to establish and deliver important fisheries and aquaculture management measures that include:

- Setting sustainable allocations based on sound scientific advice;
- Delivering effective monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activity;
- Establishing efforts to reduce by-catch;
- Establishing efforts to minimize the impact of fishing on marine ecosystems; and
- Federal / Provincial regulation which minimizes impacts of aquaculture on marine ecosystems.

Bill C-32, an act respecting the sustainable development of Canada's seacoast and inland fisheries, was tabled in Parliament on November 2007 to further strengthen our legislative framework. Bill C-32 will enshrine new and important fisheries management tools that are already being implemented across Canada.

Canada's fisheries and aquaculture management framework is complimented by the *Oceans Act*, the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (NWPA) and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). Founded on the principles of sustainable development and integrated resource management, the *Oceans Act* provides for the establishment of integrated oceans

management processes and Marine Protected Areas. SARA establishes prohibitions for legally listed species and provides further impetus to thoroughly consider stocks of concern and potential by-catch in fisheries planning. The NWPA and CEAA set out strict criteria and assessment requirements for aquaculture site application reviews in order to minimize and mitigate potential effects on the environment and transportation channels.

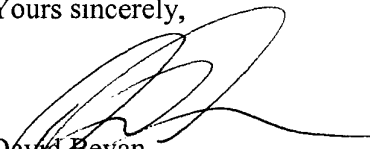
DFO is constantly adapting its programs to reflect a growing understanding of the dynamics of living marine resources and marine ecosystems. Our conservation and environmental performance in both wild capture fisheries and aquaculture sectors has improved in recent years, and we are working with all levels of government in Canada, all segments of industry and other interested stakeholders to further our progress and foster improvements towards sustainability.

A priority for DFO is the application of precaution in our decision-making and understanding and factoring in ecosystems impacts of fishing and aquaculture activities into our decision-making process. More transparent, rules-based risk management approaches to decision-making are our goal, based on strong science, and an engagement process that brings in all stakeholders and partners to the table.

A key component to sustainability is effective monitoring and compliance with established rules. Our monitoring and compliance programs are being reformed to be more strategic in the tools we use to monitor and seek to achieve compliance, and enhance our presence where needed. The aquaculture sector has strong monitoring and compliance requirements built in to licensing and leasing programs. An administrative penalty scheme with an expert tribunal is proposed under Bill C-32, which will help streamline processes and generate incentives for compliance.

The initiatives that I have briefly reviewed in this letter are examples of Canada's commitment to responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management. However, there are a number of other important initiatives that support DFO's management programs. DFO officials will be organizing an information session for you and your colleagues here in Canada and in the United States to provide a more comprehensive overview of DFO's fisheries and aquaculture programs and initiatives. I understand my officials will be working with you to set these meetings up and ensure the participation of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the retail and food services.

Yours sincerely,



David Bevan