



November 13, 2012

The Right Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Building  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Via email: [stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Wild and Domestic salmon

Members of BC Nature view wild salmon as icons of British Columbia, and many of our members travel great distances to view them spawning every autumn. While we value salmon as icons of our natural world, we also recognize the importance of salmon for food, commerce, recreation, and the culture of our First Nations. Our members are very concerned about the transmission of diseases and other parasites from farmed to wild salmon. Consequently, we were very pleased that you and your government had the foresight to commission Justice Cohen to investigate the causes for the huge discrepancy between the expected and actual numbers of sockeye salmon returning to the Fraser River in 2009. We welcome his excellent report which has recently been released.

Although we support all seventy-five of Justice Cohen's recommendations, some are more important to us than others. We look forward to responses from you or your appropriate Cabinet Minister as soon as possible with follow up of the following recommendations listed in Justice Cohen's report:

- 3. The name and title of the Cabinet Minister with the newly assigned responsibility for promoting the industry of salmon farming and farmed salmon as a product.**
- 4. The name and address of the newly appointed Associate Pacific Region Director General with responsibility for Recommendations 5 and 6.**
- 5. We would like to receive a copy of the Wild Salmon Policy Implementation Plan expected to be published by March 31, 2013.**
- 8. The decisions of the new Director General with respect to Recommendations 2 and 3 which are expected to have been made by January 31, 2013.**
- 9. We would like to receive maps and descriptions of the red zone Conservation Units under Strategy 1, based on Exhibit 1915.**
- 16. We would like to receive a copy of the Revised Salmon Farm Siting Criteria expected by March 31, 2013.**

**23. We would like to receive a copy of the Risk Assessment of Interactions between Fraser River Sockeye Salmon and Enhanced Salmon expected September 30, 2013.**

**26. We would like to receive a report about the review of the Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative model which addresses the criticisms made of this model.**

**41. A copy of the Implementation Plan of the 1986 Habitat Policy expected by March 31, 2013.**

**75. We would like to receive the name and address of the Commissioner responsible for implementing these 75 recommendations and reporting on progress to Parliament and to us members of the public.**

When all of these recommendations are implemented, there is little doubt that this salmon recovery plan will be among the finest of the environmental legacies from your government. Please convey our gratitude and congratulations to the appropriate members of your government. We look forward to receiving further information about the above issues in the near future.

Regards,



John Neville, President  
Federation of BC Naturalists (BC Nature)

cc Nature Canada  
Friends of Wild Salmon  
Ecojustice  
Westcoast Environmental Law