



DEC 21 2016

Mr. Alan Burger  
President  
BC Nature  
c/o Ms. Betty Davison  
< [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca) >

Dear Mr. Burger:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 12, 2016, regarding the management of wild and farmed salmon in British Columbia. I regret the delay in responding to you.

DFO is responsible for managing Canada's fisheries and safeguarding its waters. Because Canada's fisheries sector includes farmed fish and wild fish and both make important contributions to the economy, DFO has a mandate to manage farmed and wild fish.

The Government of Canada supports responsible and sustainable aquaculture that respects wild fisheries and the environment. In its management of aquaculture, DFO is guided by the same mission, vision, and values that guide its management of wild fisheries. The Department relies on a science-based regulatory regime that supports the co-existence of the two industries and the protection and preservation of wild salmon and other aquatic resources.

Wild and farmed fisheries both require a healthy environment and sustainable aquatic ecosystems. To that end, in *Budget 2016*, the Government of Canada committed \$197 million for fisheries science and research. Some of these funds will enable DFO scientists to continue to conduct research to answer the concerns raised by the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River (Cohen Commission), and will support evidence-based decisions to regulate the aquaculture industry.

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada will continue to improve Canada's already strong regulatory system—one of the most rigorous in the world—to support a safe and healthy aquaculture industry that uses our marine resources in a sustainable manner. DFO is committed to conserving and protecting Canada's fish stocks, as well as supporting Canadians who derive economic benefit from the sustainable use of aquatic resources.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. LeBlanc', written in a cursive style.

Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

c.c.: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
The Honourable Richard Cannings, M.P., South Okanagan–West Kootenay



September 12, 2016

The Honourable D. LeBlanc, Minister  
Fisheries, Oceans, and Canadian Coast Guard  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Via Email - [dominic.leblanc@parl.gc.ca](mailto:dominic.leblanc@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister LeBlanc:

BC Nature (the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists), which represents more than 50 naturalists' clubs and over 6000 individual members, supports the letter from the South Okanagan Naturalists' Club to you of August 9, 2016, regarding the conflict of interest in your Ministry inherent in its dual role of overseeing the management of both wild salmon and salmon farmed in open net pens.

Our assessment of current evidence leads us to oppose BC's open-net salmon farming industry. This practice endangers the wild salmon that your ministry seeks to protect, so we fail to see how you can oversee the best interests of both.

As the story of the amazing importance of salmon to our well-being, as well as to the health of BC's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems becomes ever clearer and better understood, we applaud conservation measures that promote healthy populations of wild salmon and support the restoration of measures to protect their habitat.

We look forward to the benefits of best practices recommended in the Cohen Commission Report.

Sincerely,

Alan Burger  
President, BC Nature

cc The Right Honourable J. Trudeau, Prime Minister - [Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca)  
Richard Cannings, M.P. South Okanagan-West Kootenay [Richard.Cannings@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Richard.Cannings@parl.gc.ca)