



Votre référence - Your file

Notre référence - Our file

A-2003-00534 / sd

FEB 12 2004

Mr. John Cummins  
Member of Parliament  
Room 548, Confederation Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Cummins:

This letter is in response to your request under the *Access to Information Act* for:

**"...Copy of all documents prepared for or received by the Minister in December 2003 regarding the status of environmental assessments and approvals of fish farm sites or any approvals required by or associated with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act."**

After our original release package was forwarded to you, additional records were found by program staff. Attached please find the supplementary information with respect to the request.

The *Access to Information Act* grants you the right to file a complaint with the Information Commissioner if you are not satisfied with our handling of your request. The address is:

Office of the Information Commissioner  
112 Kent Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Place de Ville, Tower B  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 1H3

If you have any questions regarding this request, do not hesitate to contact Suzanne DuPont-Leboeuf, at (613) 991-4493.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Lacey  
Director  
Access to Information and Privacy

Attach.

200 Kent Street  
Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0E6

Canada

To: Larry Murray  
A: Deputy Minister

Date: December 16, 2003  
CT# 385720v1

Subject:  
Objet:

**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AQUACULTURE ISSUES**

**MINISTER'S VISIT TO REGION, DECEMBER 22, 2003**  
**(For Minister's Information)**

Via: S. Kirby, Assistant Deputy Minister, Oceans

From: P. Macgillivray, A/Regional Director General

<input type="checkbox"/>	For Signature/Pour Signature Votre signature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Comments/Pour commentaires Observations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Material for the Minister/Documents à l'intention du ministre

Remarks: Susan Farlinger, Regional Director, Habitat and Enhancement

**DISTRIBUTION**

Mr./M. P. Macgillivray, A/Regional Director General, Pacific Region  
Ms./M<sup>me</sup> S. Farlinger, Regional Director, Habitat and Enhancement Branch

Drafting Officer / Rédacteur : A. Thomson (604) 666-7009 / S. Farlinger  
(604) 666-6532 / P. Macgillivray (604) 666-6098 / S. Kirby / L. Murray

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BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE MINISTER

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AQUACULTURE ISSUES

(Information Only)

**SUMMARY**

- The Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council has released its recommendations for a Salmon Aquaculture Forum on December 16, 2003. The forum is proposed to be jointly supported by DFO and the BC Government as a panel to discuss issues relating to aquaculture.
- BC MAFF continues to pressure DFO to complete CEAA finfish aquaculture site screenings in a timely manner.
- DFO and BC MAFF are working together to harmonize a joint regulatory framework and related processes such as an Area-based Management initiative in the Broughton Archipelago and standardized Fish Health Management Plan (FHMP).

**Background**

- The January 2003, PFRCC advisory *Wild Salmon and Aquaculture in British Columbia* recommended the creation of a Salmon Aquaculture Forum (SAF). The PFRCC will release its report to BC and DFO ministers outlining the proposed structure of the SAF on December 16, 2003. DFO and BC MAFF have been working with the PFRCC to reduce the costs / scope of the forum.
- Concerns regarding the time required to complete CEAA screenings for aquaculture sites has led to significant pressure being placed on DFO by BC and industry to expedite the process.

- DFO Pacific initiated an Aquaculture Action Plan to deal with a backlog of CEEA reviews. The Action Plan regularizes benthic assessments, fish health issues for wild fish and siting criteria to streamline reviews and enable harmonization with the provincial regime. As part of the larger Pacific Aquaculture Action Plan:
  - The BC Government has introduced a standardized mandatory FHMP for all aquaculture sites in BC. DFO Science has worked with MAFF to ensure the FHMP meets our regulatory requirements.
  - The Kwakiutl Territorial Fisheries Commission has proposed that an MOU between themselves, DFO and the provincial government serve as the foundation of an area based planning initiative for aquaculture in the Broughton Archipelago.

#### **Analysis / DFO Comment**

- The favoured recommendation of the PFRCC is in-line with DFO and MAFF expectations and should be acceptable with small changes to limit the budget and to focus on dialogue rather than consensus building.
- As part of the Aquaculture Action Plan, DFO Pacific Region Sustainable Aquaculture Division has undergone significant changes in the last month, with the reassignment of 14 additional staff, including BC MAFF and industry funded biologists, to focus efforts on conducting the CEEA reviews in a timely manner.
- DFO has worked with MAFF to complete the standardized Fish Health Management plan. An LOU with BC is anticipated regarding DFO and BC's roles and responsibilities regarding fish health.
- The area management approach proposed in the Broughton Archipelago has the full support of industry and may be a mechanism for achieving acceptance of the industry in the area. DFO is supportive of integrated area planning processes to resolve public and First Nations concerns.

#### **Recommendation / Next Steps**

- BC and DFO will continue to work with the PFRCC in support of a Salmon Aquaculture Forum and to provide advice for a ministerial response.
- Work continues, both internally and with BC MAFF, to harmonize information requirements for new finfish site applications and existing site renewals.

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- This work will be congruent with the national framework for site approvals under development.
- Continue to work cooperatively with the Province on the shared issues of fish health and area management agreements.
- A transparent joint regulatory framework is required to provide certainty for industry, clarity for regulatory staff and clarity for the public and First Nations.

- Attachment (1)

• A. Thomson / S. Farlinger / P. Macgillivray / P. Lemieux/ R. Nadeau/ R. Wex /S. Kirby / L. Murray

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- **Speaking Notes:**
- **DFO is the lead federal agency with respect to aquaculture, and we are committed to the sustainable development of this industry. A cornerstone of this commitment is involvement in public consultation and improved communication with stakeholders.**
- **DFO and the Provincial Government have shared responsibilities in the area of aquaculture and are committed to working together to ensure the Salmon Aquaculture Forum promotes meaningful dialogue among government agencies, First Nations, industry, NGOs and academic institutions.**
- **Substantial progress has been made in streamlining regulatory reviews, as evidenced by the increase in approvals.**
- **DFO and MAFF must present a joint regulatory framework to ensure industry and the public understand the regulatory requirements.**