

Importance: High

December 8, 2008

Minister Shea

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Re: Pacific Salmon Treaty

Dear Minister Shea

We wrote to you earlier this month with our urgent concerns regarding the Pacific Salmon Treaty. As we explained, we were deliberately excluded from the negotiation process. There has been no consultation with local communities or processors.

A proposal was signed by the Pacific Region of Fisheries and Oceans in the late spring and we have repeatedly asked for consultation with access to background information. In particular, we are concerned with the amount of mitigation being proposed and the cost to our fleet in loss of livelihood and direct investments in our enterprises. This exceeds the amount of \$30 million being discussed.

We are further concerned that the deal is to trade off anywhere from \$100 to \$300 million dollars in Landed Values of fish for far less than product value, not to mention jobs and related values.

The Pacific Region has refused to provide any information on the socio-economic impacts or HOW THEY CAME UP WITH A FIGURE OF \$30 MILLION?

As the House is not sitting till the end of January, we now have the time to do this analysis. We are asking you to instruct the Pacific Region to work with us and provide you this information before proceeding with this proposal.

We have asked for independent oversight on this process. We had suggested that Mr. Theriault who oversaw the negotiation and implementation of the Marshall decision on the East Coast might be a suitable candidate that would be agreeable to all parties.

We now have an opportunity to have a real look at the implications. There is no need to rush. No fish stocks will be at risk as DFO Pacific region agreed that the measures put in place in the 1999 Agreement were working well and did not need any changes. The Proposal was for funds in exchange for access to more of the Canadian share of fish and the funds will not be available until the new President and Congress are sitting. The Proposal was to be phased in over the

next few years. There is no excuse for a hurried approach to signing off on this treaty without full impact analysis and second thought.

The House is supposed to have a treaty tabled and 21 days to review and debate. This was the commitment we have had from your representatives.

We are confident that the Conservative government would not allow a treaty to be signed off while Parliament is prorogued, as this would be contrary to the principles of democracy that the Prime Minister stated he is trying to protect by asking the Governor General to take this unprecedented action.

Please assist us in reaching a fair and accountable resolution to the impasse being created by the Pacific region.

Yours truly

Kathy Scarfo
President West Coast Trollers Association

Cc concerned parties