



August 26, 2010

Application Made for Removal of Cohen Researcher

Delta – “The Cohen Inquiry’s claim to have hired the best and the brightest researchers has taken a shot below the water line with an application by environmentalists to remove Brian Harvey,” stated John Cummins, M.P. (Delta-Richmond East).

Cohen Inquiry Senior Counsel, Brian Wallace, advised all participants on July 27th that one of interveners had filed an application seeking the removal of Brian Harvey as research contractor on Project 5 – Impacts of Salmon Farms on Fraser River Sockeye Salmon.

The letter circulated by Wallace stated: “The grounds for such removal are bias and lack of proper qualifications.”

It further states: “[Harvey] has provided advice and received remuneration from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, a major participant at this commission. [There is] a reasonable fear that he will be concerned about his paying client and will be unable to cast the necessary independent thought on the topic.”

“The Cohen Inquiry fails to understand that it is fundamentally wrong for a public inquiry to use researchers and staff who regularly work for the department,” said Cummins.

“Justice Cohen appears not to understand the very real conflict of interest that arises when Inquiry researchers have had close working relationships with DFO, the department’s policies and its management of the fishery, the very issues he is required to investigate.”

“If Cohen’s Inquiry is to have credibility it must be free of the sort of conflict of interest alleged by the environmentalists,” concluded Cummins.

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