

Wendland, Justine AGRI:EX

From: Volk, Frances PREM:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 10:02 AM
To: Correspondence Unit AGRI:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX
Subject: MIN RESPONSE: FW: Re: Report on Violations - Illegal By-Catch in Fish Farms and Illegal Occupation of Fish Farms
Attachments: Open Letter to Trudeau & John Horgan Re Fish Farms.docx; 12071570_10201185640719675_1282326247_n.jpeg

Good morning,

I believe that this is best addressed by AGRI- please confirm that you can take the lead.

Thanks,

Frances Volk
Premier's Correspondence Office
250-356-5128

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22 |
Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2017 1:48 PM
To: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Cc: dominic.leblanc@parl.gc.ca; Andrew Weaver – BC Greens; Jennifer.Nener@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; Karen.Calla@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; andrew.thomson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; Brian.Atagi@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; George Quocksister Jr.; s.22; Fraser.MLA, Scott LASS:EX; Grand Chief Stewart Phillip; Judy Wilson; Michelle Edwards; Chief Alice McKay; ernie crey; Robert Gladstone; Darrell; Marilyn Gabriel; Susan Miller; council@xwisten.ca; s.22; Bobbi Ellen Peters; BillC@namgis.bc.ca; Robert mountain; elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca; Bob Chamberlin; Watershed Watch Salmon Society; Bonny Glambeck; Grand Chief Bob Pasco; Finn Donnelly; Dawn Morrison; Alexandra Morton; Ernest Alexander Alfred; ihanington@davidsuzuki.org
Subject: Re: Report on Violations - Illegal By-Catch in Fish Farms and Illegal Occupation of Fish Farms

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier John Horgan,

Please read the attached letter outlining the report on violations of illegal by-catch in fish farms and illegal occupation of fish farms in Indigenous territories who have never consented to have them be in their territory.

This warrants a speedy response to these violations.

Sincerely yours,

Eddie Gardner, Elder of Skwah First Nation and President of Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance



Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance
#213 – 46993 Yale Road
Chilliwack, BC
V2P 7X4

August 6, 2017

Open Letter to:

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Premier John Horgan
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Re: Report on Violations - Illegal By-Catch in Fish Farms and Illegal Occupation of Fish Farms

It has come to our attention that, on August 2, 2017, Hereditary Chief George Quocksister Jr. of the Awahwoo Tribe of the Laich-Wil-Tach Nation boarded the Marine Harvest Sonora Point salmon farm, located in Nodales Channel in the Discovery Islands. He was concerned there were young wild fish trapped in the farm. This has long been a concern for him, as he has seen herring and salmon fisheries severely decline in his unceded territory.

Chief Quocksister took an underwater Go Pro camera, boarded the farm and submerged the camera with a long pole. Despite being told by fish farm staff that there were no fish in the pen, he filmed thousands of juvenile herring and other species. George reported this to the First Nations fisheries office on this reserve, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and others in authority to see what is going on and release these fish. We are astonished that DFO officials never returned his calls.

These reportable illegal by-catch were trapped in pens where the farmed fish had been harvested and the pen raised to within just half a meter of the surface. These fish normally dive deep during the day, but here they were trapped at the surface in the high temperatures of the B.C.'s heat wave, circling without the opportunity to dive into the cooler depths.

Wild herring populations are collapsing along the B.C. coast where salmon farms are operating, such as in Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw territory (Broughton Archipelago), where commercial herring fishing has been closed for over thirty years and yet the herring populations continue to plummet. Researchers are documenting heavy sea louse loads on these fish, and they are heavily exposed to the highly contagious piscine reovirus and other farm salmon pathogens.

We urgently ask you to connect with Hereditary Chief George Quocksister Jr. and take immediate action to ensure these wild fish are released and to ensure the wild fish of B.C. are no longer trapped in salmon farms and put so carelessly at risk. We, and Chief Quocksister, also demand reporting from Marine Harvest on how many herring were killed during the Sonora Point harvest, as it is unreasonable to think the thousands of herring left to die in the sun were the only herring in the farm.

We call on you also to meet with the traditional leaders of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw to honor their Indigenous right to have fish farms evicted from their territorial waters, as they have never consented to the presence of fish farms in their unceded territory. This is a violation of their Indigenous rights and title to their land and resources. After some thirty years of saying no to fish farms, the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw served yet another eviction notice to the fish farms in August of 2016. Willie Moon confirmed with us that Minister Dominic LeBlanc has not, to date, responded to him on fish farms in his territory. Unfortunately, the farms are still there, and fish farm corporations are investing heavily in the expansion of open net pen aquaculture even as B.C. moves towards the unthinkable - extinction of Pacific wild salmon. The same salmon that swim up the Fraser/Thompson rivers also swim past fish

farms on the coast. Indigenous governments along the Fraser/Thompson rivers long opposed to fish farms are in solidarity with Indigenous people on the coast who are evicting fish farms from their territorial waters, as fish farms also threaten their right to a salmon fishery, which they have depended upon since time immemorial.

In 2016, your management of the Fraser River salmon resulted in the lowest return of Fraser sockeye ever reported, while Alaska, which has no fish farms on its coast, enjoys enormous returns.

We are reporting these violations to you, and thus we are holding you accountable to exercise your responsibility and respond to this situation. We are asking you to report on the immediate actions you will take to address the urgency of protecting wild salmon from fish farms and respecting Indigenous rights and title.

Sincerely yours,

Eddie Gardner, Elder of Skwah First Nation & President of Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance

CC DFO Minister Dominic LeBlanc
 Andrew Weaver, MLA Oak Bay, Leader of the B.C. Green Party
 Hon. Scott Fraser, B.C. Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
 B.C. DFO Regional Director, Andrew Thompson
 A/Director, Aquaculture Management Division, Karen Calla
 B.C. DFO Director of Salmon, Jennifer Nener
 George Quocksister Jr., Hereditary Chief, Awahwoo Tribe of the Laich-Wil-Tach Nation
 Chief Willie Moon, Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Nation
 UBCIC President, Grand Chief Stewart Phillips
 Chief Judy Wilson, Neskonalith First Nation
 Chief Michelle Lee Edwards, Sekw'el'wes First Nation
 Chief Alice McKay, Matsqui First Nation
 Chief Ernie Crey, Cheam First Nation
 Chief Robert Gladstone, Shxway First Nation
 Chief Darryll Bob, Xaxli'p
 Chief Marilyn Gabriel, Kwantlen First Nation
 Chief Susan James, Xwisten First Nation
 Chief Susan Miller, Katzie First Nation
 Chief Bob Combes, Skwah First Nation
 Chief Rhoda Peters, Chawathil First Nation
 Chief Bill Cranmer, Namgis First Nation
 Councilor Robert Mountain, Namgis First Nation
 Elizabeth May, MP, Leader of the Green Party of Canada
 Chief Bob Chamberlin, First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance
 David Suzuki Foundation
 Watershed Watch Salmon Society
 Bonny Glambeck, Clayoquot Sound
 MP Fin Donnelly, NDP
 Chief Bob Pasco, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council
 Dawn Morrison, Wild Salmon Caravan & Indigenous Food Sovereignty activist
 Dr. Alexandra Morton, Marine Biologist

Popham, Lana AGRI:EX

From: Roberts, Ian <Ian.Roberts@marineharvest.com>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 2:03 PM
To: Popham, Lana AGRI:EX
Cc: Erenst, Vincent; dominic.leblanc@parl.gc.ca; Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX; Fraser, Scott IRR:EX; Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX
Subject: Letter of response from Marine Harvest - Minister of Agriculture, Lana Popham
Attachments: Marine_Harvest_letter_to_Minister Popham_October 16 2017.pdf

Dear Minister Popham,

Please the attached letter from Vincent Erenst, Managing Director, Marine Harvest Canada.

Sincerely,

Ian Roberts
Director of Public Affairs
Marine Harvest Canada
250-850-3276 (7256)
ian.Roberts@marineharvest.com
www.MarineHarvest.ca

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Marine Harvest Canada
124 – 1334 Island Hwy
Campbell River, BC, V9W 8C9

October 16, 2017



BY EMAIL

The Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture, British Columbia
PO 9043 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2

Re: Stocking

Dear Minister,

We have received your October 13th letter advising us of the sensitive nature of discussions between your government and some Broughton Archipelago First Nations who oppose our operations in their traditional territories.

As you are aware, our company has been very willing and wanting for these discussions to occur for a long time.

Two of our farm sites have been occupied unlawfully by protestors since late August, and early September respectfully. We have managed this situation with considerable patience and flexibility, as you have acknowledged, and despite much stress being inflicted upon our employees, our fish, and our business plans and operations. In hopes of all parties sitting together to discuss a long-term solution, we had delayed certain business operations for weeks, as long as possible, but now have to care for our living and growing animals.

As these events have proceeded we have been disappointed to hear no request made by your government asking the protestors to leave our sites - yet you are now suggesting that we further delay or disrupt our business and inflict major and costly adjustments to our operations.

Your letter references UNDRIP and goes on to tell us that "companies should make every effort to develop and maintain healthy relationships with First Nations." This is precisely what we have done in all other operating areas for the past 20 years, and will continue to be leaders in this province by creating employment and providing training, entrepreneurial opportunities and badly needed community revenues with Nations that have been willing to engage with us. As you know the elected leadership of Broughton First Nations involved have refused to meet with us to discuss their concerns and to learn about our business and possible benefits to their communities. We have consistently sought meaningful dialogue with all First Nations in the Broughton Archipelago.

It is very clear through media comments and direct communications that the Broughton First Nations are using Marine Harvest as leverage for their primary concern which is their

indigenous rights and title dispute with the Province. This is not something Marine Harvest can resolve.

Your letter also reminds us of the tenure renewal process in which we are about to engage with FLNRO. We expect this to be a rigorous and fair process and we look forward to working with government officials as these renewal requests proceed.

As you know Marine Harvest is one of Vancouver Island's largest employers and during the last two years has invested \$90 million in the business in BC. Furthermore total investment in 2017 and the four following years is planned to reach \$175 million. Over the past 30 years we have built a strong and successful business. As you further know ours is a global company which will deploy capital investments according to local business conditions and prospects. Your letter does not add to our confidence about the wisdom of a large BC investment, and we believe other industries would find such a situation deeply concerning.

We cannot put our business on hold for parties unwilling to meet and discuss long-term solutions and compromise. We have communicated clearly to your government that we are willing to discuss quick and significant concessions to our production plan, if there is agreement for immediate dialogue with the Broughton First Nations about long-term solutions and the removal of protesters unlawfully trespassing on our worksites.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Erenst', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Vincent Erenst, Managing Director, Marine Harvest Canada

Cc:

The Honourable Dominic Leblanc
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

The Honourable Scott Fraser
Minster of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development



October 13, 2018

File: 0280-30

Ref: 186976

Mr. Vincent Erenst
Managing Director
Marine Harvest Canada
124-1334 Island Hwy
Campbell River BC V9W 8C9

Dear Mr. Erenst:

I have recently become aware of Marine Harvest's decision to restock the Port Elizabeth salmon farm. Although this may be part of your operational procedure, it comes at a very sensitive time in government-to-government discussions. The decision to restock occurs as we are entering into sensitive discussions with some of the First Nations in the Broughton Archipelago who remain opposed to open net pen salmon farming in their territories.

Our government has committed to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Practically, this means that companies should make every effort to develop and maintain healthy relationships with First Nations in whose territories companies are doing business.

Whatever operational decisions you should choose to make, the Province retains all of its rights under the current tenure agreements, including potentially the requirement that you return possession of tenured sites at the end of the current terms. My colleagues from The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development will be in touch with you to describe the process for you to initiate applications for replacement tenures. As you are aware, government will be reviewing tenures and will make a decision on renewals before the current leases expire in June 2018. While issuance of any replacement tenure or any permission to allow you continued occupation of existing sites on a month to month remains subject to future decision making processes and cannot be guaranteed, we look forward to your input on the lease renewal decisions.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture

cc: The Honourable Dominic Leblanc
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

The Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development