

## Scott, Melissa AGRI:EX

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**From:** McRae, Meghan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 2:35 PM  
**To:** Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX; Mack, James AGRI:EX; Hryciuk, Lorie AGRI:EX  
**Cc:** Beale, William AGRI:EX; Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** DISREGARD RE: ENVIRONMENT MEDIA REQUEST: Fish Processing Plants

Stand down!

Environment's going with a shorter response that doesn't involve AGRI.

**From:** McRae, Meghan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 2:01 PM  
**To:** Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX; Mack, James AGRI:EX; Hryciuk, Lorie AGRI:EX  
**Cc:** Beale, William AGRI:EX; Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** ENVIRONMENT MEDIA REQUEST: Fish Processing Plants  
**Importance:** High

Hi Wes/James/Lorie,

ENV is handling a media request from DeSmog regarding fish processing plants. Below is the response they've put together that crosses ENV, FLNRO and AGRI. Can you please review and ensure you're comfortable with this response? I've highlighted the bullets relevant to us.

**RESPONSE:**

- BC Fish processing plants are regulated by either the federal or the provincial government.
- The federal government regulates processing plants that export products outside BC, plants that do not export outside BC are regulated by the provincial government.
- Provincially regulated plants are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture from a food safety standpoint.
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) permits 28 of those facilities, operating under an Environmental Management Act authorization, for a discharge to the environment.
- Facilities that do not have a discharge to the environment (i.e. discharge into a municipal sewage system) would not require an authorization from ENV.
- For more information on the number of processing facilities in BC, you can visit: <http://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/dmf-viewer/?siteid=7738297449388694230>

**Reporter**

Carol Linnitt, Editor  
DeSmog Canada  
[carol@desmog.ca](mailto:carol@desmog.ca)  
250-858-1329

**Deadline ASAP**

**Request**

Quick follow up question for you: around the time of the 'blood water' footage being released, Heyman said on the floor of the house that there are 109 fish processing plants in B.C. In the information you've provided you've indicated

government is inspecting the 28 fish processing plants with provincial permits. Does this mean the remaining 81 are without permits?

## **Background**

This is a follow-up to a media request from January 18, 2018.

### **REQUEST:**

Reporter has asked again to speak with ministry staff who attended the fish processing facilities and took samples. She indicated that not being able to speak with them seems to be a story in itself.

Wants to ask them how many plants were inspected?

How often?

How many inspectors are there?

### **RESPONSE:**

Provided Background

- Ministry compliance staff conducted site visits to both the Browns Bay Packing (Campbell River) and Lions Gate Fisheries (Tofino) facilities the week of December 4, 2017.
- The facilities were inspected and samples collected, and lab results showed the presence of PRV.
- The Ministry will continue to monitor these facilities to ensure compliance with their permits and provincial regulations.
- Following an announced review of fish processing plants on December 20, the provincial government has initiated inspections of the 28 fish processing plants with provincial permits. The inspections will review whether:
  - Effluent discharge is potentially causing harmful pollution
  - Current authorizations contain strong environmental protection provisions.
  - Current authorization holders in the fish processing sector are in compliance with their permit.
  - Best achievable technology (BAT) is being used in the treatment of effluent from fish processing plants.
  - Once inspections and data collection is complete, Ministry staff will be reviewing permits and/or regulations to require that best available technology is used in the treatment of effluent from fish processing plants to protect wild salmon stocks.

Quote attributable to George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy:

British Columbians expect their government to ensure any discharge into the water is safe, and does not threaten wild salmon. The previous government ignored the issue and failed to update regulations or even regularly conduct inspections. That isn't good enough, and that is why, in December I announced an immediate review of fish processing plants, which will include audits of 28 facilities, as well as strengthening requirements to ensure wild salmon are protected."

## **Recommendation**

### **RESPONSE:**

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Meghan McRae  
Communications Director,  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
P:250-952-0622

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