

Ponchet, Kim IRR:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 3:17 PM
To: 'alexandramorton5@gmail.com'
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX; Minister, IRR IRR:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Tenure renewal / Bloodwater
Categories: ADD TO EXISTING LOG

Reference: 313100

February 13, 2018

Alexandra Morton
Email: alexandramorton5@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Morton:

Thank you for your email of December 4, 2017, which was also addressed to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, and the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, regarding effluent discharges from fish processing plants on Vancouver Island fish farm tenure renewals. As Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, I am taking the lead to respond to issues you have raised that fall under my ministry's purview and I apologize for my delay in doing so.

First, I would like to assure you that I share your concerns and I take any potential risks to the environment, including potential risks to wild salmon, very seriously. For this reason, I instructed staff to inspect the two fish processing facilities where underwater observations were made in late 2017. I was troubled that, under the previous government, these facilities had not been inspected in many years. Effluent samples collected by ministry staff in December returned positive for Piscine Orthoreovirus, which was consistent with your own sampling. Our data has been shared with you at your request.

On December 20th of last year, I announced that my ministry will immediately begin a review of the fish processing sector, which will include audits of 28 facilities. This review will inform the development of a comprehensive set of measures to ensure waste materials produced from these operations do not threaten our wild salmon stocks and that provincial regulations and permits governing waste discharge from fish processing are informed by the best available science and practices.

We will continue conducting compliance inspections of fish processing facilities in the province to ensure that environmental requirements are met and harmful substances are not entering our marine environment.

With regard to accepting applications to renew all fish farm tenures in the Broughton Archipelago, our government recently met with Chief Robert (Owa'di) Chamberlin and leaders from four Nations to discuss the issue. The basis for the meeting was to jointly honour the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to confirm a commitment to a consent-based government-to-government process. A joint statement can be read here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018FLNR0006-000128>.

It is important to note that licences for operation of aquaculture facilities off the coast of British Columbia are within the jurisdiction of the federal government. For more information on how the aquaculture industry is regulated in BC, please visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/land-use/crown-land/crown-land-uses/aquaculture>.

Thank you again for your enquiry on this important issue.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture

From: Heyman.MLA, George [<mailto:George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 10:23 AM
To: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Tenure renewal / Bloodwater

From: Alex Morton [<mailto:alexandramorton5@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 10:09 AM
To: premier@gov.bc.ca; Horgan.MLA, John <John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Heyman.MLA, George <George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Popham, Lana <L.Popham@leg.bc.ca>
Cc: s.22
s.22

s.22
Meggs, Geoff

PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>s.22
s.22 ; Andrew Weaver
<andrew.weaver@greenparty.bc.ca>; Furstenau, Sonia <S.Furstenau@leg.bc.ca>;s.22
s.22

Subject: Tenure renewal / Bloodwater

Dear Premier John Horgan, and Ministers George Heyman and Lana Popham:

I am writing in regards to two matters:

1. you have accepted applications to renew all fish farm tenures in Musgamagw and Namgis territories
2. you have not followed up on public statements that you are reviewing bloodwater samples

As you are aware, Musgamagw and Namgis members have occupied salmon farms and the surrounding areas for over 100 days with the clear message that salmon farms must be removed from their territories. They have been saying this for 30 years and have not signed any agreements with the industry. They have no food fish and the science increasingly supports their position that salmon farms are a large factor in destruction of their fisheries.

Premier Horgan, you stated in the Big House in Alert Bay that the industry should not restock farms where the tenure is going to expire *before* the fish can be harvested. Minister Popham, you sent Marine Harvest a letter advising them they are not guaranteed to have tenures in the Broughton Archipelago renewed.

And yet on October 16, 2017 your government accepted applications for all the salmon farms in these territories.

Attached is a screen shot in regards to Swanson Island. I would like you to explain why your website states "Status Reason - Accepted" and gives an "Effective Date." This is particularly concerning because you have refused to set a follow-up meeting with the Nations as promised in the Big House. Marine Harvest is restocking Midsummer Island, appears to be preparing to restock Swanson and Upper Retreat and has restocked Port Elizabeth, while Cermaq is actively restocking Sir Edmund - despite your warnings to the industry.

You do not appear to have any control over this industry which is violating First Nation rights.

Minister Heyman, you have appeared in the media several times stating that your ministry is examining the samples of bloodwater taken from the farm salmon processing plant effluent pipes near Campbell River and in Tofino. As I submitted those samples to the lab, they are my samples and yet neither Tavish Campbell, myself or the lab has been contacted by your ministry. You are *not* actually reviewing these samples.

We well know that this is an aggressive Norwegian industry, what we don't know is whether your government is capable of controlling them or whether you are honestly committed to reconciliation and protection of wild salmon. These developments certainly concern us.

This issue is not going to die down quietly. In just the past 21 hours, over 1.5 million people have viewed bloodwater pouring into the waters of BC on the National Geographic Instagram site. There are over 3,000 comments wondering how BC could be so reckless to allow this. The wilderness tourism industry is twice as big as salmon farming and yet you show no willingness to support it.

How did piscine reovirus get into the bloodwater pipe? You have the lab implicated in this under review and we have the internal communications from this lab suggesting they have known since 2008 that piscine reovirus is causing disease in BC, while publishing science which flatly states the opposite. The Minister of Fisheries has relied on this information to exempt this virus from testing prior to farm salmon transfer into marine pens. As a result, tens of millions of infected fish have poured into the Broughton Archipelago as recently as on October 16 - the day you accepted Marine Harvest's application to renew the licence at Port Elizabeth.

The Heiltsuk, Haida and other nations traveled south to support the Musgamagw / Namgis fight to remove salmon farms and to announce that **the Heiltsuk have cancelled their agreement with Marine Harvest.**

Wild salmon stocks are in far too critical condition for us to let up for a moment.

We are here for you and we will support you, but you have to deny Marine Harvest, Cermaq and Grieg renewal of any farm salmon tenures in the Broughton Archipelago or you make it clear to the 100,000 people who recently marched in the streets of Vancouver demanding reconciliation with First Nations - that you are not the government who can deliver.

One culture cannot reconcile with another culture while destroying their most important food resource and disrespecting their territory. You are the landlords of the salmon farming industry, this is your decision.

And so please explain:

- a.) why you have accepted applications for salmon farm tenure renewals in the Broughton Archipelago and
b.) why you say you are reviewing the bloodwater samples Tavish Campbell collected, but you have not even requested those samples.

Respectfully,

Alexandra Morton

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| GATOR Interest Details | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Search Criteria: Effective Date: 10/16/2017, File Number: 1404381, Tenure History: On | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Legal Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Unsurveyed foreshore or land covered by water being part of the bed of Knight Inlet, Range 1 Coast District, shown outlined on sketch below, containing 24.80 hectares more or less</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Legal Description | Unsurveyed foreshore or land covered by water being part of the bed of Knight Inlet, Range 1 Coast District, shown outlined on sketch below, containing 24.80 hectares more or less | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Images</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Crown Grant: No Images Available</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Images | Crown Grant: No Images Available | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Subtype | Licence Of Occupation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Purpose | Aquaculture | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Subpurpose | Fin Fish | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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