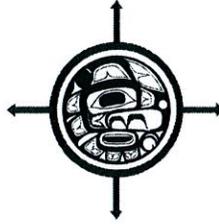


OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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March 30, 2010

OPEN LETTER

Honourable Gail Shea
Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Dear Minister Shea,

We are writing with respect to Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) Resolution no.2010-14, Aquaculture – Rejection of *Federal BC Aquaculture Regulation and Strategic Action Plan* which was carried at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Council on March 18, 2010 (enclosed).

The UBCIC Chiefs Council has affirmed its rejection of the Federal Initiative because it does not meet Canada's legal and constitutional obligations to First Nations. The UBCIC insists that the Federal government abandon this Initiative. Although, this is a fundamentally flawed process, there is some useful information coming from the process which could be used to inform a more meaningful consultation process that fully embraces the Crown's obligations. It is with this expectation, the UBCIC urges Canada to meaningfully engage with all affected First Nations about the appropriate process to develop Regulations and Strategic Action Plan for aquaculture. The Federal government must recognize First Nations land use and marine use plans in the criteria in the determination of sites.

The UBCIC Chiefs Council strongly feels that Canada's Regulations and Strategic Action Plan must give expression to First Nations laws, authority, and traditional knowledge and must incorporate the economic component of Aboriginal Title and Rights and Treaty Rights in order to adequately address and develop a regulatory framework and policies around aquaculture.

If there are any questions or comments please contact Bob Chamberlin, Secretary-Treasurer at 604-684-0231 or 778-988-9282.

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
President

Chief William Charlie
Vice-President

Chief Bob Chamberlin
Secretary-Treasurer