



Fisheries  
and Oceans

Pêches  
et Océans

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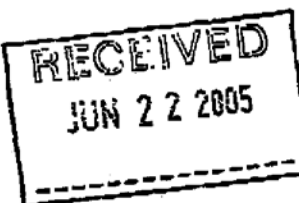
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JUN 15 2005

FAKED



Mr. Arnie Bellis  
Vice President  
Council of the Haida Nation  
Box 98  
Skidegate, Haida Gwaii  
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Dear Mr. Bellis:

**SUBJECT: NORTH COAST TROLL FISHERY**

Thank you for your letter of April 12, 2005, wherein you express concern regarding the on-going planning for the upcoming salmon season, and your opposition to moving the fishing fleet to an individual quota management system.

On April 14, 2005, in response to the Joint Task Group report on Post-Treaty Fisheries, and the First Nations Panel Report, *Our Place at the Table*, Fisheries Minister Geoff Regan announced a vision from which changes to the fishery will stem, and a list of principles that will provide an overall framework for change. In announcing the vision and principles, Minister Regan also laid out a blueprint that articulated 4 key themes. These include:

- Sustaining strong salmon populations,
- Strengthening DFO programs that are critical to salmon conservation (habitat protection, enforcement and scientific fisheries assessments),
- Making progress over time on increasing First Nations access to economic fisheries, and
- Improving the economic performance of fisheries so they provide certainty and optimize harvest opportunities.

In that announcement he also stated that 2005 will be a transition year for salmon fishery reforms, with the objective to improve the biological and economic performance of the salmon fishery by reforming the commercial fishery.

The Area F demonstration fishery that is being conducted is an experiment to see if Individual Transferable Quotas will work on a highly migratory species such as chinook, while maintaining necessary protection for weak stocks of West Coast Vancouver Island chinook that are co-migrating with other, stronger stocks. We

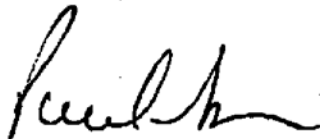
Canada

will also be conducting the traditional troll chinook fishery, to enable north coast trollers to determine which fishery they wish to participate in.

An evaluation will be carried out at the end of the season to determine the success of this experiment. DFO will be seeking the views of the Haida regarding the results of this experiment, as well as any advice on moving forward with implementing more permanent change in 2006 and beyond.

Again, thank you for expressing your concern regarding the proposed north coast troll demonstration fishery. I am confident that, working through existing processes such as the cooperative management meeting structure, we will be able to work together to reform the fishery.

Yours truly,



Paul Sprout  
Regional Director General  
Pacific Region

cc: Ron Kadowaki  
David Einarson