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Your file Votre référence

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JUN 16 2005

2005-501-00400

Louise Mandell, Q.C.
Barrister and Solicitor
Mandell Pinder, Barristers & Solicitors
500 - 1080 Mainland Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6B 2T4

Dear Ms. Mandell:

SUBJECT: NORTH COAST TROLL FISHERY

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 2004, on behalf of the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) regarding an Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) demonstration fishery being conducted in Area F of the North Coast for 2005. You also sent this letter to the Honourable Geoff Regan, Minister of Fisheries and Occans. I am replying on behalf of Minister Regan and the Department.

As you note in your letter, 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*, Minister Regan announced a vision from which changes to fisheries in the Pacific Region 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 four key themes:

- 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, Minister Regan also stated that 2005 will be a transition year for salmon fishery reforms, with the objective of improving the biological and economic performance of the salmon fishery by reforming the commercial fishery.

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The demonstration fishery that is being conducted in Area F is an experiment to see whether ITQs will work in a troll fishery for 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. I want to emphasize that this is an experiment for one year only and that it will involve only those fishers who choose to participate in the experiment. Those Area F fishers who do not wish to participate in the experiment will be able to fish in the usual "competitive" troll chinook fishery.

The Area F demonstration fishery has been approved for the 2005 season only. The demonstration fishery does not involve the granting of any new licences or interests in the Area F fishery. An evaluation will be carried out at the end of the season to determine whether or not this experiment has been a success. DFO will be consulting with the Haida Nation regarding the results of this experiment and any plans for the Area F fishery for 2006 and beyond.

My office is currently organizing a meeting that will bring together Mr. Russ Jones, Mr. Arnie Bellis, Ms. Jennifer Guscott, Associate Regional Director General, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, British Columbia Region, and myself to discuss a process to respond to Haida issues concerning Haida title and rights and fisheries. I look forward to that meeting.

Yours truly,



Paul Sprout
Regional Director General
Pacific Region

cc: Ms. Jennifer Guscott, Associate Regional Director General, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, British Columbia Region
Mr. Ron Kadowaki
Mr. David Einarson