

From: Jack Elliott <jackelliott@shaw.ca>
Subject:
Date: March 26, 2010 12:02:56 PM MDT (CA)



From: jackelliott@shaw.ca
Subject: **Re: Current Committee Agenda**
Date: March 16, 2010 5:19:36 PM MDT (CA)
To: Donnelly.F@parl.gc.ca

Dear Fin,

Thanks for your prompt & detailed reply. Each member of your committee received the same email & attachments that you did. I had intended to send this submission to the independent Commission, and would still like to do so, but am unable to get any contact information or timeline for the Commission. If you have such info. please advise. I wrote your committee because DFO still has not answered my basic question:

I'm assuming that if you can say that the coastwise decline of Pacific salmon stocks is ... *associated with much larger ecological events than localized salmon farming ... includ[ing] climate change and changes in ocean productivity along our West Coast*, then I think it is fair to ask you if your department has done sufficient baseline scientific research to reasonably validate such broadbased conclusions?

It's easy to throw facile statements like this around. DFO should have to reference their assertion with sound science to back up such a statement. Larger ecological events may or may not be the cause of wild salmon decline to some degree or another, but DFO so far has not shown it can make any sort of a case to validate their claim. This begs the question of just what DFO research money is being used for?

Sincerely,
Jack Elliott

On 16-Mar-10, at 4:39 PM, Donnelly.F@parl.gc.ca wrote:
Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter regarding the need for the Fisheries and Oceans Committee to discuss and address the threats facing West Coast salmon in this session of Parliament.

As the New Democrat Fisheries and Oceans Critic, I commit to you that I will continue to raise in Committee and the House, the concerns you write about.

On a personal note, I have worked to protect our wild salmon and watersheds in British Columbia for the past two decades. Before stepping into the political arena as a City Councillor I twice swam the 1,400 km length of the Fraser River to draw attention to impacts on salmon and salmon habitat.

So, I share your concerns with regard to the need for protection of our wild Pacific Salmon and agree that immediate steps to safeguard them must be taken before irreversible damage is done, and I have made my views known to the Committee.

As you know, the Government recently called for and has now struck an independent Commission to investigate and determine the cause of the collapse of the 2009 Fraser River Sockeye Salmon run.

The Fisheries and Ocean Committee has established its annual work plan, but questions have been raised regarding the mandate of the Inquiry and the work of the Committee, so your letter is timely in encouraging the Committee to focus on the plight of the Pacific Salmon. I encourage you to share your letter and concerns with all members of the Committee.

For your information, in the coming weeks I intend to bring forward a Private Members Bill that would ban open net aquaculture on the West Coast and I have also written to the Fisheries Minister calling her to work with Marine Harvest and other companies to assist with the transition to closed containment farming.

I want to assure you that I take these issues very seriously.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Fin Donnelly
MP New Westminster-Coquitlam
and Port Moody

From: Jack Elliott [<mailto:jackelliott@shaw.ca>]

Sent: March 10, 2010 10:56 PM

To: ~Fisheries & Oceans/Pêches et océans

Cc: Weston, Rodney - M.P.; Blais, Raynald - Député; MacAulay, Lawrence - M.P.; Donnelly, Fin - M.P.; Kamp, Randy - M.P.

Subject: Current Committee Agenda

The Standing Committee on Fisheries & Oceans

Dear Sir:

I was advised yesterday that an agenda is currently being formed for the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Fisheries & Oceans.

As background I've attached four items of correspondence in a PDF file below, in which I personally wrote the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans last summer (item #1) about my concerns on the state of Canada's wild salmon fishery on the Pacific coast relative to the salmon fish farms currently operating on that same coast. I received a reply (item #2) which I then queried with a specific question (item #3) hoping for further clarification. Rather than a coherent answer to my question, instead I received a pretty lame DFO sales pitch promoting the fish farming industry from a Trevor Swerdfager, Director General, Aquaculture Management (item #4).

Now, all this correspondence with DFO bureaucrats and ministerial representatives may be fine stuff, but it most certainly did not answer my question. In fact, it seems I received the perfect bureaucratic response -- essentially a non-answer to the question I asked DFO on Aug. 26th - which artfully brought the issue full circle right back to a particular view of fish farming, rather than back to wild salmon decline, the concern I originally raised with the minister back on June 12th.

So far, DFO has appeared either unable or unwilling to offer a full and knowledgeable answer to what was an honestly asked question.

Therefore, I have finally decided on a new approach and ask that you place my question (and attached correspondence) on your committee agenda, in the hope that your committee can more adequately answer my very real question and my concerns.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. I look forward to a positive reply and am

Yours sincerely

Jack Elliott
Magrath, Alberta