

June 29, 2007

Paul Sprout
Regional Director General (Pacific)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
200 - 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5G3

Dear Mr. Sprout,

We are writing on behalf of the Pacific Marine Conservation Caucus (MCC) groundfish committee regarding the creation of a stakeholder advisory process overseeing the integrated groundfish fishery. The groundfish fishery is the single largest fishery on Canada's Pacific coast in terms of number of species fished, spatial extent of the fishery, and landed value. It is also a fishery with significant conservation concerns including species at risk, outdated or non-existent stock assessments, and large-scale habitat impacts.

The MCC has given its qualified support for the integration of the groundfish fishery but it is critical that ongoing conservation concerns are addressed. Integrated management of a fishery, guided by the *Oceans Act*, requires participation from all interested stakeholders, not only fishing interests. To achieve greater participation from all stakeholders, and to continue to further the goals for integrated groundfish fisheries, it is necessary that an inclusive and effective multi-stakeholder advisory process be established immediately.

The MCC met with Diana Trager and the Commercial Industry Caucus on May 3, 2007 in Nanaimo to discuss next steps for the creation of an advisory committee. At this meeting it was agreed to by all parties, including DFO, that a process to establish an advisory committee was not only a good idea, but that it should commence immediately. Participants at the meeting agreed to a tentative date in late June for the first general meeting. This date has now passed and there is no indication of any plans to get this process started.

We would like to see a commitment by the Department to establish an advisory process for the integrated groundfish fishery. First steps will require that a meeting be held in early September to move the advisory process forward. On July 3, Scott Wallace from the David Suzuki Foundation will be meeting with you to discuss our concerns. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Groundfish Committee, Pacific Marine Conservation Caucus



Sabine Jessen
Canadian Parks and
Wilderness Society, BC
Chapter



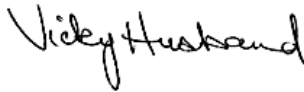
Scott Wallace
David Suzuki Foundation



Brenda Reid-Kuecks
Ecotrust



Dorthea Hangaard
Living Oceans Society



Vicky Husband
Watershed Watch Salmon
Society

Cc:
Diana Trager, Groundfish Manager, Pacific Region