

August 7, 2007

The Honourable Loyola Hearn
Minister, Fisheries and Oceans
Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, K1A 0A6

RE: Need to consult conservation community on \$175 million initiative to support environmentally and economically sustainable integrated Pacific commercial fisheries

Dear Minister Hearn:

The Pacific Marine Conservation Caucus (MCC) was encouraged to see the financial commitment promised on July 16th to move cooperatively toward a fishery with conservation priorities.

The MCC would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of consulting with the conservation community as Fisheries and Oceans Canada moves forward with this initiative. Proposed changes will have major implications for commercial fishing, conservation, as well as monitoring and compliance. The MCC has been engaged on many of these issues as stakeholders at the Integrated Harvest Planning Committee (salmon and herring), through Wild Salmon Policy consultations, and on issues of monitoring and compliance through the Sigurdson-Stewart process, and has played a major role in groundfish integration. It is imperative that we remain a stakeholder in this new initiative.

We look forward to hearing from your Department so that we might arrange a meeting to discuss our involvement further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Orr". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Craig Orr, Ph.D.
MCC Chair

cc. Ron Kadowaki, Director, Pacific Fisheries Reform
Paul Sprout, Regional Director General