

June 27, 2011

Susan Farlinger
Pacific Region Director General
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
200-401 Burrard St.
Vancouver, BC., V6C 3S4

Dear Ms. Farlinger:

Re: DFO Habitat Consultations with the MCC:

As you are aware the MCC was established several years ago after lengthy discussions between DFO and fishery interested ENGO groups. The initial purpose of the MCC stemmed from DFO's interest in having a focal consultation contact to obtain input into DFO fisheries management and related matters. We feel that the process, although with some problems, has provided us with a better framework to work with various DFO organizational units related to the salmon fishery, rockfish conservation and several other fisheries issues.

When the MCC was formed it was our hope and plan that habitat would become a more significant topic for consultation and we had to develop a mechanism to allow better input by our ENGO groups into DFO habitat considerations and decisions. Several years have now passed since the formation of the MCC and we feel that the inadequate transparency in habitat planning and decision making is a significant issue that must be improved upon. We respectfully request that you consider and comment on how a better habitat consultation process can be developed as part of the MCC-DFO consultation mechanisms we have jointly developed to date. SEHAB is also looking to develop a MOU with the MCC where issues from the SEP community that directly relate to issues MCC is involved in can be brought to MCC. Partnering with others involved with salmon and their habitat will make us all stronger.

We are concerned that avenues of habitat dialogue (i.e. at the national level) are not providing the overall Pacific Region consultation and transparency mechanism that is adequately inclusive in nature. The DFO slogan of "No habitat – No fish" is more relevant now than at any time in the past. We are prepared to meet with you and your staff to further pursue this matter. We look forward to your early thoughts on this issue.

Sincerely yours,



Craig Orr
MCC Chair

CC: Minister Keith Ashfield
Marine Conservation Caucus