



March 4, 2016

Honourable Hunter Tootoo
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard

Honourable Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport

Dear Ministers,

The Pacific Marine Conservation Caucus supports your commitment to strengthen environmental legislation that was weakened under the previous federal government and to offer a course of action in meeting these commitments in the immediate and longer term.

As you have identified, the passing of Bills C-38 and C-45 removed and/or altered important sections of the Fisheries Act, Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and the Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA) that furthered the health of Canada's aquatic ecosystems.

Your respective mandate letters acknowledged these changes and identified the need to work with each other to 'review the previous government's changes to the Fisheries and Navigable Waters Protection Acts, restore lost protections, and incorporate modern safeguards.'

We support this undertaking through a two-step process:

- 1) Table as law the previous pre-C-38 and pre-C-45 NWPA and habitat provisions of the Fisheries Act, followed by re-enactment and removal of regulations as needed.
- 2) Engage in a robust, multi-stakeholder consultation for long-term strengthening of the Fisheries Act and NWPA.

This process should begin immediately and we look forward to your engagement on consultation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aaron Hill'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aaron Hill
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On behalf of the Pacific Marine Conservation Caucus with support from the following member organizations: Pacific Streamkeepers Federation, SkeenaWild Conservation Trust, Steelhead Society of British Columbia, Living Oceans Society, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, David Suzuki Foundation.

c. Members of Parliament Fin Donnelly, Mark Strahl, Kelly Block, Linda Francis Duncan, and Elizabeth May