



Office 8236  
200 – 375 Water Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 0M9  
Phone: 604-398-3236  
Email: [office@watershedwatch.ca](mailto:office@watershedwatch.ca)  
Web: [www.watershedwatch.ca](http://www.watershedwatch.ca)

February 8, 2017

Terry Beech, MP  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and Canadian Coast Guard  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A6  
Sent via email to: [Terry.Beech@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Terry.Beech@parl.gc.ca)

Subject: Federal management and conservation of wild Pacific salmon

Dear Mr. Beech,

On behalf of the Salmon Committee of the Pacific Marine Conservation Caucus, congratulations on your recent appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and Canadian Coast Guard. Given the primary cultural importance of wild salmon to British Columbians, we are pleased to that the Government of Canada has appointed a Member of Parliament from British Columbia to this important role.

The Pacific Marine Conservation Caucus (MCC) was formed under the previous Liberal government as an officially recognized stakeholder in consultations with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. We represent a broad public interest in conservation, which was not officially recognized in DFO management processes prior to our formation, despite strong public support for marine conservation. The MCC's member groups are listed below, with members of the salmon committee marked "SC":

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, BC Chapter  
David Suzuki Foundation (SC)  
Living Oceans Society  
Pacific Streamkeepers Federation (SC)  
Raincoast Conservation Foundation (SC)  
SkeenaWild Conservation Trust (SC)  
Steelhead Society of British Columbia  
Watershed Watch Salmon Society (SC)  
World Wildlife Fund Canada

The Salmon Committee consists of those MCC groups active on matters of wild Pacific salmon management. We participate in numerous management processes, such as the Integrated Harvest Planning Committee for Salmon and the South Coast Chinook Strategic Planning Initiative. Our collective work as a committee currently includes the following priorities:

- Ensuring recovery of at-risk salmon species
- Improving transparency and openness, ensuring precautionary management, and reducing overfishing of at-risk stocks in Pacific salmon fisheries
- Implementing the recommendations of the Cohen Inquiry
- Implementing Canada's Policy for the Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon (a.k.a., the Wild Salmon Policy or WSP), which is a key focus of the Cohen recommendations
- Improving compliance and monitoring in Pacific salmon fisheries

At your earliest opportunity we would like to meet with you to discuss these matters, which are also current policy priorities for your Department. We would also like to discuss two particularly pressing matters: (1) DFO's current efforts to weaken the Wild Salmon Policy, which was brought in by the previous Liberal government, and (2) the coastwide crisis in stock assessment funding for Pacific salmon, which hit a historic low in 2016.

Along with this letter, we are also providing a copy of a recent letter we sent to Minister LeBlanc, outlining our concerns over the future of the Wild Salmon Policy.

We look forward to your response to our meeting request and to working with you in your new role.

Sincerely,



Aaron Hill  
Executive Director  
Watershed Watch Salmon Society

C. Jeffery Young, David Suzuki Foundation  
ZoAnn Morten, Pacific Streamkeepers Federation  
Misty MacDuffee and Andy Rosenberger, Raincoast Conservation Foundation  
Greg Knox, SkeenaWild Conservation Trust  
Greg Taylor, Stan Proboszcz, and Craig Orr, Watershed Watch Salmon Society