



OCT 09 2018

Mr. Rod Clapton
President
British Columbia Federation of Drift Fishers
Co-Chair
Fraser River Sportfishing Alliance
< RClapton@shaw.ca >

Dear Mr. Clapton:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 23 and 24, 2018, regarding fisheries enforcement on the Fraser River. I am also responding to your correspondence of July 16 and August 3, 2018, addressed to Rebecca Reid, Regional Director General, Pacific Region.

I appreciate your kind words on my appointment as Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard.

As you are aware, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for enforcing the *Fisheries Act* and regulations, as well as other natural resource legislation. Enforcement activities in the approaches to the Fraser and on the Fraser River are ongoing. Conservation and Protection (C&P) fishery officers carry out these activities by patrolling on foot and by vehicle, vessel and aircraft.

In light of the significant conservation concerns in the Fraser River and approach areas, DFO is focusing significant enforcement resources on ensuring compliance with the various fisheries restrictions that are in place in those areas. Chinook and steelhead conservation is a priority, and patrols are directed to protect any stocks of concern. The Department is also promoting compliance through education and awareness activities that encourage all Canadians to protect fishery resources and habitats.

DFO's first priority in the management of all fisheries is conservation. After conservation, the Department gives priority to harvest opportunities for Indigenous fisheries for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes, which are carefully regulated. Through various catch monitoring and reporting programs, the Department monitors the amount of fish harvested by Indigenous groups. These fishing opportunities are provided in a manner that ensures proper conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat.

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C&P monitors all fisheries, including Indigenous fisheries. Where unauthorized activities are undertaken by anyone, including First Nations, DFO fishery officers will investigate and take appropriate enforcement measures. Illegal sales are a concern for DFO, and fishery officers are monitoring and addressing reports of possible illegal sales. C&P fishery officers are also conducting compliance inspections wherever fish may be sold or transported, including borders and air cargo locations.

DFO encourages anyone who observes what they believe is a violation—including suspicious activity and possible impacts to fish or fish habitat—to contact the toll-free, 24-hour Observe, Record and Report (ORR) line at 1-800-465-4336. Reports made to the ORR line are forwarded immediately to fishery officers. More information is available on DFO's [Report a fisheries violation](#) website.

I hope that the information provided clarifies Fisheries and Oceans Canada's position on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard