



FRASER RIVER SPORTFISHING ALLIANCE
34150 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 2C6

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Fisheries & Oceans

"URGENT"

Dear Sir:

July 23, 2018

Congratulations on your new appointment as Minister. As a west coast MP we know you will be well briefed on issues of particular concern to B.C. residents. We appreciated the support of Minister Leblanc & particularly the support of his Parliamentary Secretary Terry Beech. Terry recently presented the National Recreational Fisheries award to the Fraser River Peacemakers which represent many of our member organizations. We certainly anticipate & appreciate the same cordial relations with your staff.

We would anticipate that you are aware of the tremendous number of unauthorized net fisheries on the Fraser River. It has been reported that your C&P staff are seizing dozens of illegal nets daily & all species including endangered chinook & potentially SARA listed Fraser interior steelhead are being retained & sold in these illegal fisheries. It is imperative that maximum enforcement be assigned to the Fraser to stop this activity. The recreational fisheries is currently closed to protect endangered chinook & rolling net closures have been instituted to help protect Fraser interior steelhead. To allow these illegal Fraser net fisheries to continue makes a mockery of all other conservation efforts.

We have through various venues such as the Fraser River Peacemakers achieved some success working with Fraser River First Nations. We are respectful of their constitutional rights & hopefully can create a Fraser River Round Table which can continue that dialogue & promote safe respectful fisheries for all sectors. We know that many respected leaders within Fraser River First Nations do not condone these illegal fisheries.

We are requesting that you as Minister immediately ensure the required measures are instituted to stop these activities. I know you have the support of all sectors in this issue. You should be aware that we have also contacted RDG Rebecca Reid recently expressing our serious concerns. Thank you for your consideration & we look forward to positive working relations with you & your staff.

Rod Clapton
Co Chair Fraser River Sport Fishing Alliance

Fred Helmer
Co Chair Fraser River Sport Fishing Alliance

cc. B.C. Federation of Drift Fishers
Fraser Valley Salmon Society
Sport Fishing Institute
B.C Wildlife Federation