



May 29, 2023

The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
80 Wellington St
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

RE: DFO Minister's Actions Undermine All Resource-Based Economic Opportunity in Canada

Dear Prime Minister:

Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans Minister Joyce Murray's desire to eliminate modern, sustainable, in-ocean salmon farming in British Columbia is contrary to your government's principles of evidence-based policy, Indigenous reconciliation and economic reconciliation, advancing rural and coastal communities, combating climate change and making life more affordable for families. Due to government decisions, 40 per cent of the BC in-ocean salmon farming sector is now closed down, **and where Canadians can find Canadian salmon in stores, salmon prices for families have spiked by over 20%.**

You and all Canadians trusted our Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada scientists during the COVID-19 pandemic. We trust our Agriculture Canada and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) scientists daily to ensure that our food is safe. We trust our Environment Canada scientists on climate change. **We must also trust DFO scientists and their advisory process.**

Your Chief Science Advisor very recently led a review of the DFO Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) process on aquaculture science with international experts that found the process to be fundamentally sound. However, Minister Murray has rejected the advice from the DFO CSAS process, that has found minimal or negligible impacts through over ten years of numerous CSAS formal reviews. **She is instead relying on advice from other scientists connected to her activist friends outside the federal review process.**

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was similarly developed to review and synthesize thousands of scientific papers in order to provide sound policy advice for action to non-scientist world leaders. We ask you to imagine if world leaders rejected the findings of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) **in favour of a small group of loud and activist scientists arguing for no action.**

Email: info@aquaculture.ca **Website:** www.aquaculture.ca

PO Box 1369, Station B, Ottawa, ON K1P 5R4



Prime Minister, no resource-based sector in this country is able to operate with the level of uncertainty that has been created by Minister Murray's rejection of a government science evaluation and advisory process. **This is a very dangerous precedent.**

We ask you Prime Minister, Minister Murray and other Ministers the following questions:

- 1) Canadians are being asked to trust government science. Why is Minister Murray being allowed to ignore evidence-based and peer-reviewed DFO science advice on salmon aquaculture?**
- 2) What science advice is Minister Murray basing her decisions on and why is this advice deemed more reliable than government-reviewed science advice?**
- 3) Closing farms has devastating impacts on coastal and Indigenous communities, food prices and food availability for Canadians, and increased carbon emissions. Have studies been undertaken to understand the scope of negative social and economic impacts and is there any serious peer-reviewed evidence that shows that shutting down farms will bring back wild salmon?**

As you have said several times, science and evidence are the basis for your government's policy. We applaud this. It is imperative for the health of our country's economic vitality that you continue in this commitment.

The answer is to follow the lead of First Nations with salmon farms in their territories, who have been engaged in deliberations with salmon farming companies about innovation and enhanced sustainable farming in their waters. Setting clear and stretch goals for improvement is the path forward, but shutting down further sites is simplistic, regressive and will have massive unforeseen consequences.

We support the development of a progressive, innovative policy for BC in partnership with BC First Nations that further enhances sustainable salmon farming practices. We support programs that effectively recover wild salmon populations. We ask you and your government to support a smart and balanced pathway to a long term, sustainable in-ocean salmon farming future for BC.

We appeal to you: stop closing BC salmon farms.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Kennedy
President & CEO
Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance



CC:

Hon. Pierre Poilievre, P.C., M.P., Leader of the Official Opposition

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

The Hon. Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P., Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health

Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities

Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The Hon. Diane Lebouthillier P.C., M.P., Minister of National Revenue

Hon. Harjit Sajjan, P.C., M.P., Minister of International Development and Minister Responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada

Hon. Carla Qualtrough, P.C., M.P., Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion

Hon. Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P., Minister of Indigenous Services

Hon. Jean-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P., Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

Hon. Ahmed D. Hussen P.C., M.P., Minister Housing and Diversity and Inclusion

Hon. Seamus O'Regan Jr, P.C., M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Ginette Pettipas Taylor, P.C., M.P., Minister of Official Languages and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Hon. Mary Ng, P.C., M.P., Minister of International Trade

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Natural Resources

Hon. Joyce Murray, P.C., M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

The Hon. Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P., Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Hon. Marc Miller, P.C., M.P., Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

The Hon. Randy Boissonnault, P.C., M.P., Minister of Tourism and Associate Minister of Finance

The Hon. Sean Fraser, P.C., M.P., Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

The Hon. Mark Holland P.C., M.P., Leader of the Government in the House of Commons

Hon. Gudie Hutchings, P.C., M.P., Minister of Rural Economic Development

Hon. Pascale St-Onge, P.C., M.P., Minister of Sport and Minister Responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Region of Quebec

Provincial Ministers of Finance and Agriculture/Fisheries

Goldy Hyder, President and Chief Executive Officer, Business Council of Canada

William Robson, CEO, C.D. Howe Institute

Gary G. Mar, President and CEO, Canada West Foundation

Mark Scholz, President & CEO, Canadian Association of Energy Contractors

Lisa Baiton, President and CEO, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers



Hon. Perrin Beatty, President & Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Scott Ross, Executive Director, Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Dan Kelly, President, CEO and Chair, Canadian Federation of Independent Business
Bob Larocque, President & CEO, Canadian Fuels Association
Timothy M. Egan, President and CEO, Canadian Gas Association
Mark Pearson, Executive Director, Canadian Institute of Forestry
Dennis Darby, President & CEO, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters
Dan Allan, President & CEO, Canadian Society for Evolving Energy
Robin Campbell, President, Coal Association of Canada
Susan Black, President and CEO, Conference Board of Canada
Stephanie Gadbois, Executive Director, Economic Club of Canada
Gurpreet Lail, President and CEO, Enserva
Tristan Goodman, President and CEO, Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
Derek Nighbor, President and Chief Executive Officer, Forest Products Association of Canada
Niels Veldhuis, President, Fraser Institute
Jennifer Ditchburn, President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute for Research on Public Policy
Brian Lee Crowley, Managing Director, McDonald-Laurier Institute
Pierre Gratton, President and CEO, Mining Association of Canada
Soheil Asgarpour, President & CEO, Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada
Edward Greenspon, President & CEO, Public Policy Forum