



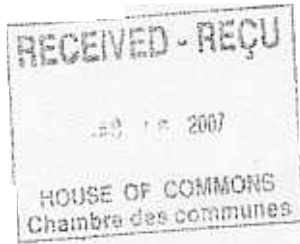
BCWF

B.C. Wildlife Federation

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February 9, 2007

Hon. Loyola Hearn
Minister of Fisheries
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6



Transmitted via facsimile
Hard copy to follow
Fax: (613) 995-7858

Dear Honourable Minister,

On behalf of the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) membership I am writing regarding Bill C-45, the re-write of the *Federal Fisheries Act*.

In reviewing your press release of February 1, 2007 accusing the NDP of "Playing Politics" regarding the draft re-write of the *Act*, and in light of the response by Peter Stoffer on February 2, 2007, the BCWF is of the opinion that Mr. Stoffer is correct in his assertions.

The BCWF members have reviewed the draft *Federal Fisheries Act* re-write Bill C-45 and are not prepared to support the draft in its present form.

While our organization accepts that there are some positive amendments addressing habitat protection for fish we are horrified that you have not entrenched the "public right to fish" nor embraced the fact that fish are a common property resource to be shared by all Canadians.

Further the BCWF is of the opinion that the draft *Federal Fisheries Act* re-write does not embrace or recognize the importance of recreational fishing and leaves the door open to a complete privatization of any and all fisheries through the process of commercially owned individual transferable quotas.

The BCWF has prepared a more detailed brief outlining our concerns that you will receive in the near future. Unless those concerns are addressed and additional amendments made to Bill C-45 we cannot support this document.

The BC Wildlife Federation represents 127 clubs and more than 30,000 members and is the largest and longest standing, province wide conservation organization in British Columbia.

Yours in Conservation

Wilf Pfeleiderer
President, B.C. Wildlife Federation

Cc All sister Federations
Cc All MP's
Cc Honourable Stephen Dion, Leader of the Official Opposition
Cc Gilles Duceppe
Cc Jack Layton
Cc Colin Metcalfe, Director Regional Affairs, Minister' Regional Office-Vancouver
Cc BCWF Membership
Cc All Media