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Alistair MacGregor

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May 03, 2016

The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
13th Floor, Station 13E228
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Tootoo,

I am writing on behalf of constituents who have raised concerns over an open-pit mine quarry application for gravel extraction with the BC Ministry of Energy and Mines in my riding of Cowichan-Malahat-Langford. The applicant is the Pastula Farm on Richards Trail in North Cowichan. While I respect the fact that gravel extraction licencing is under provincial jurisdiction, I am writing to enquire if the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has completed necessary environmental and fish habitat impact studies in the area nearby.

There has been an ongoing study over the years on water quality and the use of habitat by Coho Salmon and trout species in the Somenos Basin, which Richards Creek is a part of. This study is being conducted by Dr. Dave Preikshot at DFO's Pacific Biological Station. A water management plan is needed to ensure the continuation of the spawning habitat and life cycle of the Coho salmon native to this area. Local residents are concerned that run-off from a cistern at this particular gravel quarry site may make its way to Richards Creek and pollute this ecologically sensitive waterway.

As you are aware, Coho Salmon return numbers are alarmingly low. We need to be proactive in protecting these ecologically sensitive areas and to ensure the continuation of spawning Coho Salmon in Richards Creek.

I appreciate your time on this matter and look forward to your reply. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor".

Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

cc: Constituents

AM/If