From:	Minister / Ministre (DFO/MPO)
To:	MacGregor, Alistair - M.P.
Cc:	ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca; env.minister@gov.bc.ca
Subject:	Reply from Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Date:	June 13, 2016 2:32:23 PM
Attachments:	MECTS-#3615333-v1-Main_Docs_2016-001-01371.PDF

========le français suit========
Attached is the signed response to your correspondence addressed to the Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. For your convenience, the response is reproduced in the text below.
==========
Veuillez trouver ci-jointe la réponse à votre correspondance adressée à l'honorable Hunter Tootoo, Ministre des Pêches, des Océans et de la Garde côtière canadienne. Pour votre commodité, la réponse est produite ci-dessous.

Ministerial Correspondence Control Unit
Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Government of Canada
200 Kent Street / Ottawa ON K1A 0E6
min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca / Tel: 613-992-3474 / Fax: 613-990-7292

Unité de contrôle de la correspondance ministérielle
Pêches et Océans Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
200, rue Kent / Ottawa ON K1A 0E6
min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca / Tél : 613-992-3474 / Téléc : 613-990-7292

==========

Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.
Cowichan–Malahat–Langford
< Alistair.MacGregor@parl.gc.ca >

Dear Mr. MacGregor:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 3, 2016, addressed to my predecessor, the Honourable Hunter Tootoo, pertaining to the concerns of your constituents regarding Pastula Farms' application for an open-pit mine quarry.

The conservation and protection of Canada's fisheries resources is a top priority for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The role of DFO's Fisheries Protection Program (FPP) is to provide for the sustainability and ongoing productivity of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries, and to make regulatory decisions under the fisheries protection provisions of the Fisheries Act.

Regarding your concerns for mining practices near fish habitats, you are correct that proposals for these types of projects are not approved by DFO, but instead fall within the jurisdiction of British Columbia's Ministries of Energy and Mines; of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; and of Environment. DFO will review proposed resource development plans when the risks to fish and fish habitat associated with the proposed activity are identified under an environmental assessment review process, or when plans are submitted directly to the DFO's FPP for review or authorization.

To date, FPP has not been engaged in an environmental assessment, nor has it reviewed or received a request to review or authorize the project you reference; as such, the Department is unable to comment on it.

Regarding your concerns about potential run-off, Environment and Climate Change Canada is the federal authority responsible for managing any deposits of deleterious substances into waters frequented by fish through the pollution prevention provisions of the Fisheries Act, section 36. As such, I have forwarded your correspondence to my colleague, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, for her consideration.

Pollution prevention is also the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Division of British Columbia's Ministry of Environment. Accordingly, I have also provided a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Mary Polak, British Columbia's Minister of Environment.

Thank you for writing. I trust that my response has addressed your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed by

Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
The Honourable Mary Polak, M.L.A.
British Columbia Minister of Environment