



Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.  
Cowichan–Malahat–Langford  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

*Dear Alistair,*

Thank you for your correspondence of September 13, 2017, regarding the review of the *Fisheries Act* and the Report of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans entitled *Review of Changes Made in 2012 to the Fisheries Act: Enhancing the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat and the Management of Canadian Fisheries*. I also acknowledge your concerns about potential habitat impacts from works on the Cowichan River.

I assure you that your comments regarding the *Fisheries Act* review are being carefully considered. It is expected that legislative changes will be tabled later this fall, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) plans to continue to engage with Canadians as it moves forward on the development and implementation of changes to policies and programs to support the amended legislation.

Regarding works done in the Cowichan River you reference: DFO Conservation and Protection and Fisheries Protection Program officials attended and assessed the site in late August. I am pleased to report that the site is undergoing remediation, including removing the berm and starting site stabilization works. DFO officials continue to work with the responsible parties to ensure adequate measures are in place to protect the Cowichan River and the fisheries resources it supports.

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The Department recognizes the importance of the Cowichan River and it is working closely with local First Nations, provincial regulatory agencies and community stewards to conserve and protect the fisheries resource. Fishery officers continue to utilize the *Fisheries Act* authorities to protect fish from serious harm. Additionally, the Government of British Columbia has specific regulations and controls that are helpful in supplementing that response.

Thank you for writing. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns, and hope that the information I have provided is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dominic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

c.c.: Mr. Fin Donnelly, M.P.  
Port Moody – Coquitlam