



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

Parliamentary Office
925 Confederation Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

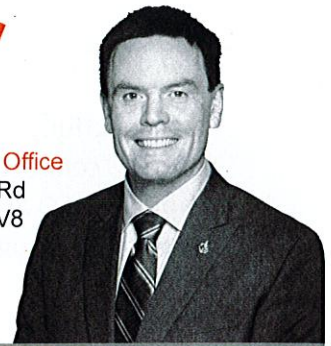
Duncan Community Office
101-126 Ingram St
Duncan, BC V9L 1P1

Langford Community Office
3202B Happy Valley Rd
Langford, BC V9C 2V8

Ottawa Tel: 613-943-2180

Community Office Toll Free Tel: 1-866-609-9998

Email: Alistair.MacGregor@parl.gc.ca **Web:** alistairmacgregor.ca



March 23, 2021

SENT VIA EMAIL: FOPO@parl.gc.ca

Ken McDonald, Chair
Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Canada

Dear Mr. McDonald and members of the committee,

Two weeks ago, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) re-interpreted the fishery regulation under Section 36(2) of the Fishery (General) Regulations:

No person who catches and retains a fish under the authority of a licence issued for the purpose of commercial fishing shall have the fish in possession if the fish is skinned, cut, packed or otherwise dealt with in such a manner that (d) where size limits are applicable, the size of the fish cannot be readily determined.

The reinterpretation, which asserts that frozen-at-sea spot prawn tails do not meet the requirement of readily available for measurement, has the potential to impose immeasurable economic damage to prawn fishers on our country's west coast.

Unfortunately, and instead of taking a proactive, innovative approach to improving food security, this decision by DFO will make things worse. If the sale of frozen-at sea prawns is made illegal, BC spot prawn harvesters will be unable to earn an income in an industry they've invested so much in, and over 600 families will be seriously impacted. This will also disrupt our coastal communities' wishes to support our locally based commercial fishers.

I respectfully ask that the committee, on behalf of the many people whose livelihoods are now at risk, conduct an emergency study into this matter. The committee plays an important role in holding DFO and the minister to account, and I believe they must be made to answer for this decision through a parliamentary inquiry.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford