

Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans  
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6  
Sent by email to: [Fopo@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Fopo@parl.gc.ca)

cc: Honourable Dominic Leblanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

Mr. Terry Beech, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

March 7, 2017

**Re: Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans report on *Fisheries Act***

Dear Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Committee:

We are writing to express our sincere thanks to you and to the entire membership of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans for your report presented to the House of Commons on February 24, 2017 on the review of changes made in 2012 to the *Fisheries Act*. We believe that the recommendations included in the report provide a sound basis for the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to move forward on his mandate to restore lost protections and introduce modern safeguards to the Fisheries Act.

The organizations signatory to this letter greatly appreciate having had the opportunity to offer our perspectives, ideas and recommendations as part of this important process. We also appreciate the hard work and long hours that went into hearing testimony from 50 witnesses and reviewing 189 written submissions from a wide range of interests and sectors, and we recognize the challenges associated with synthesizing all of that information into the final report. Given the critical role that the *Fisheries Act* plays in protecting our oceans, rivers, and lakes, in ensuring we have clean water, and in safeguarding fish and fish habitat as essential elements of Canada's irreplaceable natural capital, we believe the time and effort that went into this study were well spent.

We wish you and the committee membership all the best with future studies and we thank you for the important work you do on behalf of Canadians, our fisheries, and our environment. Please direct any follow-up correspondence on this letter to [tony@flowcanada.org](mailto:tony@flowcanada.org).

Sincerely,

**Bill Taylor, President & CEO**  
Atlantic Salmon Federation

**Lois Corbett, Executive Director**  
Conservation Council of New Brunswick

**Jeffery Young, Senior Science and Policy Analyst**  
David Suzuki Foundation

**Susanna Fuller, Marine Conservation Coordinator**  
Ecology Action Centre

**Margot Venton, Staff Lawyer**  
Ecojustice

**Tony Maas, Project Director**  
Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW)

**Nikki Skuce, Program Director**  
Northern Confluence Initiative

**Kim Elmslie, Campaign Director**  
Oceana

**ZoAnn Morten, Executive Director**  
Pacific Streamkeepers Federation

**Brie Edwards, Freshwater Research Associate**  
Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

**Elizabeth Hendriks, VP- Freshwater Program**  
WWF-Canada