



PACIFIC PRAWN FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

March 8, 2017

The Hon. Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coastguard
15th flr, 200 Kent Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0E6

Via email

Dear Minister LeBlanc:

Re: Central Coast Herring Decision

The Pacific Prawn Fishermen's Association represents 245 license holders in BC. The commercial prawn fishery in BC contributes to healthy coastal communities up and down the entire coast and generates over \$50M of annual economic value.

I am writing in support of the recent letter from the BC Seafood Alliance because my members share the dismay at your recent decision to restrict the Central coast commercial roe herring TAC to 215 tons despite solid science showing stronger stocks and allowance for a much higher harvest.

Your government was elected on promises of decisions based on science and evidence. The Central Coast roe herring decision ignores peer reviewed science. Your government promised collaboration and open, transparent processes and consultation. This decision followed bilateral negotiations with the Heiltsuk from which industry was excluded. Your government talks about helping the middle class. This decision takes millions of dollars from the middle class—from commercial fishermen, plant workers and their families, many of whom in the herring fishery are Aboriginal, and from communities up and down the coast.

My members want to know what this means for them and their families—does this decision mean that commercial fishermen will have access to the resource taken away from them without compensation in order to advance the government's Reconciliation agenda?

It's important that you meet with industry leaders, as requested by the BC Seafood Alliance, soon to explain this decision.



PACIFIC PRAWN FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Yours truly,

Steven Richards
Executive Director

cc. Terry Beech, Parliamentary Secretary
Catherine Blewitt, Deputy Minister
Kevin Stringer, Association Deputy
Rebecca Reid, Regional Director General