



January 16, 2020

Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister  
Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans & the Canadian Coast Guard  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Jordan,

**Re: Resolution L1) Moratorium on Hornby and Denman Fishery**

On behalf of the members of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Fisheries, Oceans & the Canadian Coast Guard. AVICC members are elected officials who represent 53 local governments on Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast, Powell River (qathet), the Central Coast and the North Coast of British Columbia.

Our members are keenly interested in, and impacted by, the policies and operation of your Ministry. We strive to have strong working relationships with your representatives. Currently AVICC has several members appointed to DFO advisory groups and committees including: the Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee for Shellfish; the Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee for Finfish; the inaugural Indigenous and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Body (IMAB); the Technical Working Group on Area-Based Approaches to Aquaculture Management; and the Southern Resident Killer Whale Indigenous and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group. Our local government members cover the time and expenses for our representatives to participate on these DFO groups, and we are pleased to be consulted in our role as another level of government.

Given this relationship, we were concerned that we had not received a response to a letter sent to the previous Minister in July 2019. I have enclosed a copy of that letter that advised the Ministry of a fisheries related resolution endorsed by AVICC members at our 2019 Convention for your consideration.

The resolution endorsed by AVICC members proposes either a moratorium or a substantial reduction in the catch for the herring fishery at Hornby and Denman Islands. The resolution reads as follows:



*WHEREAS coastal communities rely on the sustainable management of our oceans and the Salish Sea in particular, as well as the protection of species at risk;*

*AND WHEREAS 4/5 of the herring fisheries have already been closed due to poor returns, with the last remaining fishery being located around Hornby and Denman Islands;*

*AND WHEREAS over 70,000 signatures have been gathered against this particular fishery;*

*AND WHEREAS the K'ómoks First Nation, whose unceded territory this fishery occurs on, has expressed concerns about current harvest levels:*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities request that the Department of Fisheries consider a moratorium on the Hornby and Denman Islands fishery, or a substantial reduction in the allowable catch volume effective in 2020.*

Given the relationship between your Ministry and AVICC members I would request a response on this resolution by the end of February so that we may distribute it to our members in time for our 2020 Convention.

Thank you for your Ministry's continued support of the AVICC, and I look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Carl Jensen,  
President, AVICC