



January 26, 2022

Mr. John Rich
Director
Bowen Island Conservancy
< john.rich@bowenislandconservancy.org >

Dear Mr. Rich:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 6, 2021, and January 10, 2022, regarding the protection of Pacific herring in the Strait of Georgia.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is firmly committed to the conservation, protection, and regeneration of our marine environment and the lifeforms they sustain. Pacific herring is an important species. It is vital that we manage it cautiously, with the objective of promoting stock growth, while supporting fishing opportunities where possible.

To protect future stock health, DFO is planning to close most commercial fisheries for Pacific herring for the 2021–22 fishing season. The Strait of Georgia will be open with a 10 per cent harvest rate to support fisheries for food and bait, special use, and roe herring. This decision was made with the goal to provide renewable fishing opportunities and increase stock abundance, to benefit the entire ecosystem. This is in line with the cautious approaches taken in recent years, with additional limits on harvest.

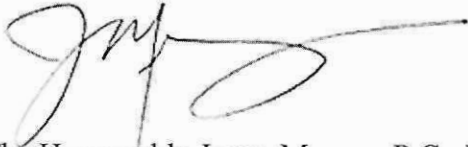
On December 21, 2021, the Department released the draft 2021–22 Pacific Herring Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for a 30-day public consultation period. The consultation process provides opportunities to share information and discuss perspectives with Indigenous communities, harvesters, environmental organizations, and the public. I have shared your letter with DFO officials who will be conducting the annual consultation on the IFMP.

The Department's priority in fisheries management is conservation, based on the best available scientific information. DFO is committed to effectively managing the Pacific herring fisheries coast wide to ensure the sustainability of the stocks into the future.

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Thank you again for providing me with Conservancy Hornby Island's thoughts on this important matter. I am grateful for the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Joyce Murray, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Mr. Patrick Weiler, M.P.
West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country
Mr. Jordan Sturdy, M.L.A.
West Vancouver–Sea to Sky