



Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council

Conseil pour la conservation des ressources halieutiques du pacifique

13 June 2005

Minister John van Dongen  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Room 137, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

via courier

Dear Minister Van Dongen:

**Re: Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council Report on Conflicts  
Between Agriculture and Salmon in the Eastern Fraser Valley**

On behalf of the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC) I am writing to provide you with a copy of the PFRCC's latest report entitled, **Conflicts Between Agriculture and Salmon in the Eastern Fraser Valley**.

The Council report examines how more than 100 years of farming activity in the area between Mission and Hope has impacted salmon and steelhead habitats. While the public may be aware of some of the water quality issues associated with agriculture this report fills an important role in providing information on how agriculture has historically impacted physical fish habitat. However, the report goes beyond documenting past impacts and current pressures and also gives credit to new initiatives now implemented and designed to resolve fish-agriculture conflicts.

We believe that sustainable agriculture and sustainable fisheries are compatible. Investing time and resources to address impacts would be very beneficial; the consequences of not making those investments would be severe. Our report makes a number of recommendations designed to make progress in the joint sustainability of the resources. These include measures such as tax incentives to farmers; expansion of environmental farm plans; and the preservation of key fish habitats - via purchase or similar mechanisms.

We believe opportunities for sustainable development are greater in farm lands than elsewhere and we would like to arrange a meeting with you and the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection to discuss these approaches and possibilities in more detail. We will be in touch with your office in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Paul LeBlond  
Interim Chairman  
Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council

Encl.

cc: Hon. Bill Barisoff, WLAP/Bud Graham, ADM, MAFF/Council Members