



Hecate Strait Streamkeepers

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January 7, 2005

Geoff Regan, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
House Of Commons
Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Sir,

It has come to our attention that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is initiating budget cuts of \$4.5 million to their Salmon Enhancement Program (SEP). These cuts are not based on biology, strategic enhancement or stewardship of the fisheries resource.

The proposed cuts fulfill a political commitment made in the past to curb budget deficits. In this era of budget surplus and specific threats to the health of the salmon resource it is extremely foolish to cut the SEP budget simply to meet previous political commitments.

We commend the Pacific Region of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for its continued efforts to support education, community involvement and stewardship of our salmon resources through Oceans Habitat and Enhancement Branch (OHEB) and SEP. It is unfortunate that politicians (with no connection to our region or the salmon resource) force DFO staff to cut the support for the enhancement of salmon for reasons outside a strategic plan.

Please advise when this foolish cut will be replaced by a strategic adjustment of funds that will enhance salmon.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glen Davies". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glen Davies
Chairperson

cc. NDP Member of Parliament Skeena-Bulkley Valley – Nathan Cullen
Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board ✓