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November 8, 2021

Honourable Joyce Murray, MP
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

Re: Fisheries in Northwest B.C.

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. I am hopeful you will bring the perspectives and concerns of the West Coast back to the cabinet table as only the second MP from British Columbia to serve as Fisheries Minister in the past 20 years. I know British Columbians are looking to your department for decisive action to address the pressing issues facing our coast.

I am writing to raise the urgent crisis facing northwest BC's wild salmon and steelhead stocks. Recent commercial fisheries closures on the North Coast came without warning for fishermen who invested tens of thousands of dollars preparing for the season. While many people recognize the need for conservation measures, the federal government needs to support fishermen through these difficult times.

At the same time, the lowest-ever returns of Skeena River steelhead have resulted in another difficult season for commercial angling businesses and the recreational fishing community. We need to see more collaboration between federal and provincial agencies and a redoubling of efforts to rebuild these valuable populations.

Finally, there is the matter of two large derelict vessels in Port Edward. These vessels broke their mooring last month and washed ashore where they posed a significant environmental hazard. They have since been secured and stabilized, and the Port of Prince Rupert has tendered the removal of one of the vessels. However, there is no plan for the costly removal of the second vessel.

I would like to request a meeting in Ottawa at your earliest opportunity to discuss these challenges. As I'm sure you're aware, the riding I represent comprises a significant portion of British Columbia's coastline. Over the course of the next Parliament, I look forward to working closely with you and your department towards sustainable, long-term solutions to the challenges our region faces.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to sitting down with you in the very near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Taylor Bachrach'.

Taylor Bachrach, MP, Skeena-Bulkley Valley