



Tuesday, February 25, 2014

The Honourable Gail Shea
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
200 Kent Street, 8th Floor
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0E6

Re: Salmon Science in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA)

Dear Minister Shea,

The TJFB is established by the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (2005) and is empowered to make recommendations on fish, fish habitat, and fisheries in and adjacent to the LISA. Pursuant to Part 13.11, we write this letter in strong support of Salmon research in the region.

The Nunatsiavut salmon harvest has also come under international focus at recent meetings of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, and any reduction to science in this region would be frowned upon by local, national, and international stakeholders.

Specifically, English River is the only counting fence in Salmon Fishing Area 1, and Science Advisory Reports released annually since 2003 have included recommendations for its continued operation. The Board endorses these recommendations, and recommends further that Departmental spending on Salmon science in SFA 1 be maintained at current levels, or increased, and that the English River counting fence continue to operate.

It is critically important that we find ways to enhance our collective understanding of Salmon in and adjacent to the LISA. To that end, the Board itself is investing in Salmon science, with a multi-year contribution to genetics work being led by the Labrador Institute. Salmon have been, and continues to be, an integral part of the social-economic landscape in Nunatsiavut, and we invite our co-management partners to join with us in recognizing this fact through the allocation of appropriate resources. We look forward to working with you, and we are available, as always, at your convenience.

Yours truly,

John Mercer
Chair
Torngat Joint Fisheries Board