



August 14, 2014

BC Seafood Alliance

E-Mail: [cburridge@telus.net](mailto:cburridge@telus.net)

Attention: Ms. Christina Burridge

**RE: Mount Polley Mine Tailings Pond Breach – Fraser Sockeye Salmon for Commercial Export**

This letter is in response to your enquiry on August 7, 2014 that was received by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regarding commercial export of Fraser River bound fish related to the Mount Polley Mine tailings pond breach.

As with all fish and seafood products destined for international markets, the CFIA is responsible for regulating the export of these products. As set out in the *Fish Inspection Regulations*, to be eligible for export or inter-provincial trade, fish and seafood destined for human consumption must originate from a federally registered fish processing establishment and meet defined standards.

The Quality Management Program (QMP) is a regulatory-based system that requires all federally registered fish processing plants in Canada to develop and implement an in-plant quality control program. The QMP uses the principles of "HACCP" (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point), an internationally recognized system for ensuring safe food production, to provide a high level of assurance that fish and seafood products produced in Canada are safe and wholesome to eat.

Canada's international trading partners often require certification from CFIA attesting that commercial exports of fish and seafood products comply with Canadian and/or their food safety requirements. Therefore, prior to issuing a certificate, CFIA must have reasonable assurance that the product meets both the importing country's and Canada's requirements. Compliance is determined by auditing the processor's and/or exporter's food safety and export certification systems.

The CFIA appreciates that you have taken the time to contact us with your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

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Andrea Dropko, A/ Regional Chief Inspector  
BC Mainland Interior Region