



April 6, 2023

Honourable Joyce Murray
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Murray:

Canada's New Democrats appreciate your government's commitment to creating a vibrant future for wild Pacific salmon. In addition to protecting and restoring habitat, we must work together to ensure fisheries are well managed and that the economic benefits of sustainable fisheries are maximized for the benefit of fish harvesters and coastal communities.

In this regard, we are troubled by the fact that Canada neither limits foreign ownership of commercial fishing licenses and quotas in the Pacific Region, nor tracks citizenship when fishing licenses and quotas are bought and sold.

Foreign owners of Canada's commercial fishing licenses and quotas are increasingly displacing Canadian owner-operators. Because there are no restrictions on foreign ownership of commercial fishing licenses and quotas, the economic viability of Canadian-owned fishing operations, harvesters and their families, and coastal communities is at risk. This trend harms Canadian food security and has resulted in the loss of domestic fish processing capacity and jobs in Canada.

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans' 2019 report *West Coast Fisheries: Sharing Risks and Benefits* calls on the federal government to halt the future sale of fishing quota and licenses to non-Canadian beneficial owners. The Committee's recommendation reads:

"That based on the principle that fish in Canadian waters are a resource for Canadians (i.e. common property), no future sales of fishing quota and/or licences be to non-Canadian beneficial owners based on the consideration of issues of legal authority, and international agreement/trade impacts,"



While your government indicated in a response to an Order Paper Question last June that a study was conducted on the Licence and Quota Registry proposal, there has been little to no movement from your government on making licence and quota ownership transparent or prohibiting foreign ownership.

With the support of UFAWU/UNIFOR, we urge you to immediately ban any further transfer of Canadian commercial fishing licenses and quotas to foreign ownership or foreign beneficial interest, in the interest of our wild salmon and the communities that depend on them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Marie Barron".

Lisa Marie Barron
MP, Nanaimo Ladysmith
NDP Fisheries Critic

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Bachrach".

Taylor Bachrach
MP, Skeena-Bulkley Valley
Deputy NDP Fisheries Critic