

Pêches et Océans SCHEDULE 2 TO THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007.

Pacific Region Suite 300 - 555 West Hastings St. Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5G3 Région du Pacifique Pièce 300 - 555 rue Hastings ouest Vancouver (C.-B.) V6B 5G3

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

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Mr. Harold Steves City Councillor, Richmond 7577 Elmbridge Way RICHMOND, BC V6X 2Z8

Dear Mr. Steves:

Thank you for your letter of August 18, 1999 in response to my August 10, 1999 letter to you regarding the proposed placement of fill in Cannery Channel of the Fraser River associated with the BC Packers' development in Steveston.

I note that you mention "problems" with FREMP's definition of shoreline and of mudflat. In most cases, Fisheries and Oceans Canada considers intertidal mudflat to be important as fish habitat. However, in the case of the BC Packers site, the mudflat to be filled has limited productivity as it is covered by a pile-supported structure that prevents light from reaching the mudflat. Departmental staff observed that the mudflat is totally devoid of vegetation (algae or vascular plants). They also noted that the substrate under the pile supported structure consists of rubble, cobble and broken pavement with a thin layer of mud and that a search under the substrate failed to find invertebrates (e.g. amphipods) which are a food supply for juvenile salmonids. It is, therefore, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's view that the mudflat to be filled at the BC Packers site has limited productivity and value as fish habitat.

Given the lack of fish habitat at the site, the proposed filling would not be contrary to or require an Authorization pursuant to the *Fisheries Act*. Further, given that the proposed filling will not impact fish habitat, Fisheries and Oceans Canada is not required to conduct an environmental assessment, and include public input, under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.





Thank you for advising me of your concerns. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Dale Paterson, Area Chief, Habitat and Enhancement Branch, Lower Fraser Area of my New Westminster office at (604) 666-0315. I am also willing to meet with you and discuss this matter further if you wish.

Yours sincerely,

M.A. Henderson

Regional Director

Habitat and Enhancement Branch

Mil Henda

cc: D. Paterson