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November 3, 2015

Honourable Dan Crummell, Minister  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
P.O. Box 8700  
4th Floor, West Block  
Confederation Building  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

**Re: Marystown Atlantic Salmon Hatchery (Reg. 1814)**

Dear Minister Crummell:

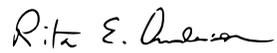
We ask that you call for an Environmental Assessment of the proposed Marystown Atlantic salmon hatchery (Reg. 1814). Since the proposed hatchery is a closed cycle, land based operation, it should have only minor effects on wild fish in marine or freshwater habitats while providing needed jobs in the region. Thus we are not concerned with the facility itself. However, we are very concerned that having a local source of salmon smolt will encourage additional open ocean cage rearing of Atlantic salmon. We hope that this problem can be incorporated within the scope of this assessment.

An unfortunate correlation has been found between open ocean salmon farming and nearby salmon rivers showing over 50% reduction in wild salmon stocks (e.g. Ford, J.S. & Myers, R.A. 2008. A global assessment of salmon aquaculture impacts on wild salmonids. *Plos Biology* **6** (2), e33 doi:10.1371/journal.pbio D060033; Thorstad, E.B., Christopher, D.T., Uglem, I., Bjorn, P.A., Gargan, P.G., Vollset, K.W., Halttunen, E., Kalas, S., Berg, M., & Finstad, B. (2015). Effects of salmon lice *Lopeophtheirus salmonis* on wild sea trout *Salmo trutta* – a literature review. *Aquaculture Environment Interactions* **7**, 91-113). Open ocean rearing of salmon should be at least 30 km away from salmon rivers. Wild salmon stocks have shown precipitous declines in recent years.

As you are aware, within Newfoundland and Labrador, angling for salmon remains an important part of our recreational culture that we must conserve. In some locations socio-

economic factors and politics have unfortunately over-ridden conservation of the wild fish. We urge that the construction and size of the juvenile salmon hatchery at Marystown be considered with the plan of not building open ocean salmon farms close to salmon rivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita E. Anderson".

Rita E. Anderson, President  
Nature Newfoundland and Labrador

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