



Ref. 60295

April 12, 2005

Mr. Gord Pincock  
President  
Gwaii Haanas Tour Operators Association  
303 – 5855 Cowrie Street  
Sechelt, British Columbia  
V0N 3A3

Dear Mr. Pincock:

Thank you for your letter outlining your concerns regarding the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) proposed candidate Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) in the outside water areas of West Coast of Vancouver Island, Central and North Coast and Queen Charlotte Islands and the impact this may have on tourism in your area.

Sport fishing is an important part of British Columbia's tourism industry, especially for coastal and rural communities. The need to balance conservation with a growing tourism industry continues to be a challenge, given the predominant role the federal government plays in Pacific fisheries management. In this regard, the government of British Columbia is committed to securing a larger influence over the future management and development of British Columbia's marine fisheries, while at the same time, growing tourism throughout the province.

At this time, the legislated responsibility for marine fisheries rests within the jurisdiction of the federal government's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), not within the jurisdiction of the provincial government. Mr. Gary Logan, Rockfish/Lingcod Team Leader at DFO, is the best person to discuss your interests and concerns at telephone 604-666-6810. Mr. Sandy Argue, Senior Policy Advisor, Fisheries and Seafood Development Branch, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has been involved in the inter-agency Rockfish Conservation Strategy consultation process and may be contacted at 250-356-7015.

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**Ministry of  
Small Business  
and Economic Development**

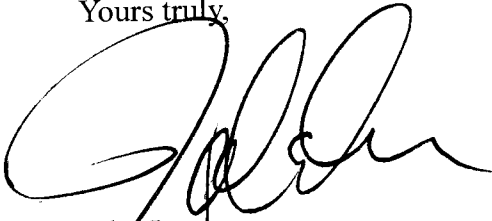
Office of the  
Minister

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Victoria  
website: [www.gov.bc.ca/sbed/](http://www.gov.bc.ca/sbed/)

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Les'.

John Les  
Minister

cc: Mr. Gary Logan  
Rockfish/Lingcod Team Leader  
Pacific Regional Headquarters  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mr. Sandy Argue  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Fisheries and Seafood Development Branch  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods