February 13, 2014

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: FA/2/2014]

On January 23, 2014, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA) received your request for access to the following records:

_I am requesting, under the Access to Information Act, details of each method of effluent treatment at each south coast plant in our province that handles salmon and trout (now and in the future). This should include details (and/or a summary report) from testing and inspections of effluent carried out from 2009-2013 (and what was being tested)._ 

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted.

The attached document provides details of each method of effluent treatment at each south coast plant in our province that handles salmon and trout, and a summary from testing and inspections of effluent carried out from 2009-2013.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72-hour period after the response is sent electronically to you, or five days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Office of Public Engagement’s website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Beth Bartlett, ATIPP Coordinator, at (709) 729-3712.

Sincerely,

David Lewis
Deputy Minister (A)

Attachment
SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ON EFFLUENT TREATMENT AT SOUTH COAST PLANTS

Effluent treatment at the two South Coast plants that handle salmon and trout include the Barry Group at St. Alban’s and Cooke Aquaculture, Harbour Breton.

These processing operations have similar systems based on the Norwegian Nomi Des system which was specifically designed to deal with the challenge of disinfecting wastewater against class 1 pathogens such as Infectious Salmon Anaemia virus, Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis virus, and certain bacterial species.

This particular design for both plants involves a primary and secondary collection and treatment system to remove solids which are than ensiled using formic acid and a chlorination system which treats the remaining liquid (water). The treatment tanks are computer operated and monitored for Oxygen Reduction Potential (ORP). Once the water has been successfully treated it is then de-chlorinated and discharged.

Between 2009-2013, testing and inspections of effluent was carried out 19 times. Inspections included an examination of the effluent. Testing of the effluent included residual concentration verification, verification of neutralization, and confirmation of operational equipment using in situ effluent testing (using a phage or pathogen testing).

Effluent testing summary:

Between 2009-2013, in situ effluent/pathogen testing and equipment inspections showed that systems were effective and within expected parameters for 17 visits. There were two inspections that demonstrated suboptimal performance. These two events were determined to be mechanical in nature, were rectified, and then verified as operating within expected parameters by using in situ effluent testing.

The processing plant in Hermitage is currently under construction and is not yet operational. Once in operation however, it will be equipped with the same system as two South Coast plants mentioned above.