December 29, 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: FA/20/2014]

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

A copy of the entire consultant’s report produced in 2014 on the commercial viability of seal meat, as paid for by the department. [REDACTED] was provided the executive summary in early October 2014, but a copy of the full report is requested.

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted in part. Disclosing some of the details of the severed information could jeopardize the third party’s competitive position. The report contains trade secrets, as well as commercial, financial, scientific, and technical information which has been supplied in confidence and is treated as such by the third party. It also contains some personal information. Portions of the attached document, as well as pages 47-77, 94-97, and 138-144 have been severed in accordance with Sections 27(1)(a), 27(1)(b), and 30(1) as specified in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act):

Disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party

27. (1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal
   (a) trade secrets of a third party;
   (b) commercial, financial, labour relations, scientific or technical information of a third party, that is supplied, implicitly or explicitly, in confidence and is treated consistently as confidential information by the third party; or
Disclosure harmful to personal privacy

30. (1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

As required by subsection 7(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is excepted from disclosure and have provided you with as much information as possible.

In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

Section 43 of the Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this partial refusal of access or you may appeal the refusal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall be made in writing within 60 days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL
A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

In the event that you choose to appeal to the Supreme Court, you must do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. Section 60 of the Act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

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

Sincerely,

David Lewis
Deputy Minister (A)

Attachments