November 12, 2013

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/29/2013]

On October 24, 2013, 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, whether or not farmed salmon in our province is tested for banned chemicals or any other dangerous toxins? If so, what are the results?

Please be advised that our records indicate that DFA has no records responsive to your request in that the department has not tested for banned chemicals or any other dangerous toxins. However, in 2011, the province did test for a therapeutant named Cypermethrin in farmed fish and the results were all negative, meaning the product was not found in farmed fish. Cypermethrin is an approved product in Canada but is not currently approved for use in farmed fish in Canada. The product is approved for use in farmed fish in other countries. This testing was initiated due to concerns raised in New Brunswick.

Food safety issues are investigated by federal entities. Therefore, I would refer you to Environment Canada, Health Canada, and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency for testing of products in farmed fish. Environment Canada conducts testing for Cypermethrin in Atlantic Canada.

Section 43 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act) provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request or you may appeal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the 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 Information and Privacy Commissioner.
The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner are as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner  
34 Pippy Place  
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 Elizabeth Bartlett, ATIPP Coordinator, at (709) 729-3712.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David Lewis  
Deputy Minister (A)