



July 7, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Trudeau Must Stop Ignoring British Columbia's Public Fishery

Salmon Arm, British Columbia – Mel Arnold, Member of Parliament for North Okanagan-Shuswap and Conservative Shadow Minister for Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, issued the following statement in response to Monday's rally in Vancouver protesting the Trudeau government's failures with respect to British Columbia's public fishery:

"For over four years, the Trudeau government has failed to deliver any results for Pacific salmon and the British Columbians and coastal communities that depend on the shared resources of our fisheries.

"As Pacific salmon populations continue to decline, the federal government refuses to take the actions required to conserve and restore salmon while also ignoring viable and balanced proposals from British Columbians.

"The Trudeau government continues to ignore proposals such as a mark selective fishery that would uphold conservation necessities while also allowing the public fishery to be open for the benefit of British Columbians and our coastal communities. Instead, the government has repeatedly added layers of restrictions for our public fishery, the sportfishing sector and related businesses that help drive B.C.'s economy.

"In 2019, the Trudeau government imposed major restrictions on B.C.'s public fishery. Conservatives promptly proposed that the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans undertake a study of the social and economic impacts of the restrictions, but this proposal was blocked by the Trudeau Liberals.

"This year, Conservatives proposed that the fisheries committee work through the summer months to study Pacific salmon and the impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries, including B.C.'s public fishery. However, once again, the Trudeau Liberals rejected this proposal because they know they have failed Pacific salmon, B.C.'s public fishery and the people that depend on them.

"Yesterday's rally in Vancouver demonstrates that British Columbians will not be silenced in their efforts to restore access to what are meant to be the shared resources of our public fisheries. Conservatives will continue to stand up for our public fisheries and the British Columbians and communities that depend on them."

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More information:

Joel Taguchi, Office of MP Mel Arnold, mel.arnold.a1@parl.gc.ca, 613-222-6855