



The Honourable Keith Ashfield
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
200 Kent Street, 15th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
sent by e-mail to: Min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

March 20, 2012

Dear Minister Ashfield:

The CNGO Collaborative on Fish Habitat Management, representing more than one million Canadians, is concerned over potential changes to Section 35 of the Federal *Fisheries Act*. We would like to meet with you and your senior staff to discuss these potential changes as soon as possible.

The *Fisheries Act* is one of the national pillars of wildlife conservation in Canada. It sustains direct and indirect economic benefit of billions of dollars. It also supports health, cultural and environmental benefits to all Canadians. For example, over the last 25 years implementation of Section 35 of the *Act* has stimulated the development of watershed planning, best management practises for agriculture and urban development, enhancements to storm water management, better pipeline crossings and guidelines for working around water. These practices and techniques are now being exported to other countries by consultants and entrepreneurs creating jobs and wealth for Canadians.

And while we recognize that this *Act*, like any other, can and should be reviewed and improved over time, this should be done through discussion with organizations such as ours. The goal of improving outcomes for wildlife and their habitat while providing clarity and certainty to industry can be achieved, likely through simple shifts in implementation.

We look forward to discussion with you and your department. We hope to find the common area in which development proceeds in a timely fashion in a way that recognizes that all types of fish are important and that different types of habitat have their place at different times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack G. Imhof".

Jack G. Imhof, Chair
CNGO Collaborative

160-6712 Fisher St. SE, Calgary, AB T2H 2G9 519-824-4120 Ext. 53608 jimhof@tucanada.org