



Pasco Seafood Statement of Fact on Seized Sockeye Salmon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 9, 2012

RICHMOND, B.C.—Pasco Seafood would like to clarify the facts regarding Larry Pynn’s article entitled “Richmond ‘Sustainable’ Seafood Supplier Netted in Federal Fish Investigation” that appeared in the *Vancouver Sun* on Saturday, January 7, 2012.

Throughout this incident, Pasco Seafood performed the necessary due diligence and reporting as required by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) regarding the purchase and transport of the fish lot in dispute.

This case ultimately involves a dispute between a First Nations band and the DFO. The facts in the case are as follows:

- 1) This First Nations “Economic Opportunity Fishery” was negotiated by the DFO and a First Nations band.
- 2) The case pertains to a dispute between the DFO and the First Nations band with regard to the interpretation of their fishing agreement, specifically whether it permitted the First Nations band to catch the sockeye salmon in the Johnstone Strait, where the First Nations band made a protocol agreement to harvest in the traditional territory of another First Nations band.
- 3) In purchasing this fish and in accordance with the law, Pasco obtained all proper legal documents, including a copy of a permit to fish, lawfully issued to the First Nations fisherman; a copy of the Aboriginal Communal Fishing License issued by the DFO to the First Nations band permitting an Economic Opportunity Fishery; a copy of a protocol agreement between the First Nations bands permitting the fishing in the Johnstone Strait; and copies of First Nations fishery landing slips for all the fish purchased, signed by the appropriate delegated authority of the DFO. With all of the above licensing and paperwork in order, Pasco understood that the fish had been lawfully caught and diligently ensured compliance with the Fisheries Act.
- 4) When the fish was being processed and distributed at the Pasco processing plant in Richmond, the DFO inspected the documents confirming that all required paperwork was complete and in order. At that time, Fisheries

Officer Trevor Tomlin notified Pasco that "you have done nothing wrong," but that there was a question as to whether or not the First Nations band had the right to fish in the Johnston Strait area. Therefore the fish was seized. Pasco has made available all documentation.

- 5) In all circumstances, Pasco Seafood conducted its business wholly above board and acted with due diligence to ensure that all proper documentation and permits required were in place for the purchase of this sockeye salmon from a First Nations Economic Opportunity Fishery.
- 6) The DFO has not called into question the legality of any action taken by Pasco Seafood, which conducted its business in accordance to the law on the purchase, transportation and processing of seafood.

Pasco Seafood is fully cooperating with the DFO's investigation and is committed to meet or exceed the required laws and regulations as to the purchase, transport and processing of seafood. We also are continuing to work with our partners to develop our innovative tracking and handling programs and provide reliable, real-time data for seafood consumers and the agencies that oversee us.

Signed,



Jason Ogilvie

President, Pasco Seafood Enterprises Inc.