



**SEAFOOD
PRODUCERS**
-ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA-

September 21, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Robin Silvester
President & Chief Executive Officer

Judy Rogers
Chair, Port Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC V6C 3T4

Dear Mr. Silvester, Ms. Rogers and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Board of Directors:

WEST COAST REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD PRODUCTION

The Seafood Producers Association of British Columbia (SPABC) was formed in 2009 as a non-profit, industry trade organization to represent companies engaged in harvesting, processing and marketing wild fish and seafood from British Columbia. Our association is the largest organization of seafood processors on Canada's Pacific coast. Our members operate vessel offloading and seafood processing facilities in communities throughout the coast and are involved in almost every major commercial fishery in BC.

Our industry provides safe and sustainable food to Canada and the world, with much of the economic benefits generated flowing to commercial fishing families and First Nations in BC coastal communities. West Coast Reduction Ltd. (WCRL) is a key partner in our member's production and ensuring a sustainable resource. Our members are concerned about the lack of certainty over the continued operation of WCRL in the Port of Vancouver.

Our industry, and thus our ability to produce food, is heavily dependent on the services provided by WCRL. WCRL handles by-products from fish processing operations in the Greater Vancouver Regional District and other regions of the province. Disposing of organic waste in landfills not only wastes valuable nutrients and takes up precious landfill space but also creates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Governments at all levels are trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. WCRL is a critical part of the process as it takes the quantities and types of fish processing by-products that landfills do not want, and in some cases will not take, and instead turns them into product forms with

*PO Box 16046, 617 Belmont Street • New Westminster, BC • V3M 6W6
Phone: 604-725-2524 • Fax: 604-648-8737
Email: seafoodproducers@telus.net*

a variety of uses. Not only does WCRL pay fish processing plants for their by-product, thereby improving the financial viability of these operations, it also ensures our fishery resources are fully utilized.

WCRL recently wrote to the Port of Vancouver about its tenure and ability to operate at its current location. Uncertainty surrounding WCRL operations is a serious concern to our members and many participants in BC's seafood supply chain. We strongly encourage the Port of Vancouver to assess the implications of any disruption to WCRL's operations or impediments to the company's ability to invest. Specifically, we ask that the Port of Vancouver work with WCRL to secure certainty over their operating tenure and, by extension, provide certainty to the many families and businesses in our industry that rely on WCRL – from Indigenous and non-Indigenous commercial fish harvesters in coastal communities to seafood processing companies in the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

If you require further information or have any questions, please contact the SPABC office. We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

SEAFOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



John Nishidate
President

- cc. Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy PM and Minister of Finance
Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport
Hon. Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (B.C.)
Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (B.C.)
Hon. Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture (B.C.)
Hon. Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources Canada
Sav Dhaliwal, Chair, Metro Vancouver Regional District sav.dhaliwal@burnaby.ca