



Fisheries
and Oceans
MINISTRY OF FOREST
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Pêches
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QUESTNEL FOREST DISTRICT
OCT 10 2000

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

Cris Guppy
Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks
322 Johnston Avenue
Quesnel, BC V2J 3M5

Dear Mr. Guppy:

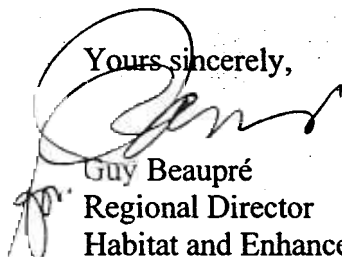
SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF CULVERTS IN FISH STREAMS

I have reviewed your letter of September 12, 2000 in which you request clarification regarding the conclusions drawn in the report titled "*No Net Loss of Fish Habitat: An Audit of Forest Road Crossings of Fish Bearing Streams in British Columbia, 1996-1999* (Harper and Quigley, 2000).

The purpose of the audit was to determine whether DFO's Guiding Principle of No Net Loss of Productive Capacity of Habitats was being achieved at stream crossings installed post Forest Practices Code (FPC). Determining compliance with the FPC was not the central purpose of the audit. All of the stream crossings audited within both the Port McNeill and Prince George Forest Districts were installed post FPC. All of the post FPC Corrugated Metal Pipes (CMPs) assessed in the audit resulted in harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat (HADD). The fact that these crossings were also non-compliant with the FPC as suggested in your letter, underscores and supports DFO's position that we no longer endorse the installation of CMPs on fish bearing streams unless authorised under Section 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*.

I thank you for sharing DFO's concern for habitat protection at stream crossings and will ask Jason Quigley, of my staff, to call you should you have any further concerns in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Guy Beaupré
Regional Director
Habitat and Enhancement Branch

cc: P. Delaney
 N. Winfield
 J. Quigley

CT# 7214

Canada

