



Canadian Veterinary
Medical Association
Association canadienne
des médecins vétérinaires

June 4, 2025

Hon. Joanne Thompson P.C. M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Via email - Joanne.Thompson@parl.gc.ca

RE: Congratulations from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

Dear Minister Thompson:

The veterinary professionals of Canada, including over 25,000 veterinarians, technologists and technicians, look forward to working closely with you and your department for the betterment of animal health and welfare and the economic wellbeing of our animal production industries. Congratulations on your appointment as Canada's Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard of Canada.

Since 1948, the CVMA has proudly served as the national voice for Canada's veterinary profession. Our members are deeply engaged in protecting public and animal health, supporting food safety and security, and advancing animal welfare. We work closely with federal departments and agencies, including Health Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada, to promote science-based policy and practice.

Canadian veterinarians remain concerned about the decision taken by DFO to ban open net-pen salmon aquaculture in British Columbia's coastal waters by June 30, 2029. We are particularly concerned that this decision does not appear to align with the scientific assessments conducted by DFO. We believe that this action may have substantial implications not only for British Columbia, but also for the erosion of science-based decision-making in other regions in Canada and across other animal sectors.

Veterinary specialists in salmon health and fish diseases have been actively involved in various government-led scientific review processes. They have expressed concerns that the proposed ban lacks scientific justification, a view also shared by some federal scientists.

While acknowledging the contentious nature of the issue, the CVMA emphasizes the importance of evidence-based policymaking in food animal production. The CVMA recommends halting the proposed ban and re-engaging with the scientific community—particularly veterinarians with expertise in salmon



339, rue Booth Street
Ottawa (Ontario) K1R 7K1

t 800-567-2862
f 613-236-9681

admin@cvma-acmv.org

canadianveterinarians.net

veterinairesaucanada.net



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health—to ensure that the methods used to study the relationship between wild and farmed salmon are scientifically robust, validated, and held to high standards of evaluation.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the well-being of Canadians. As the national association representing the veterinary profession, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this important issue further and request your leadership to help meet the needs of all Canadians.

Once again, congratulations, and we look forward to building a productive relationship with you over the course of this Parliament.

Sincerely,

Tim Arthur, DVM
President

W. Joel Neuheimer
CEO

