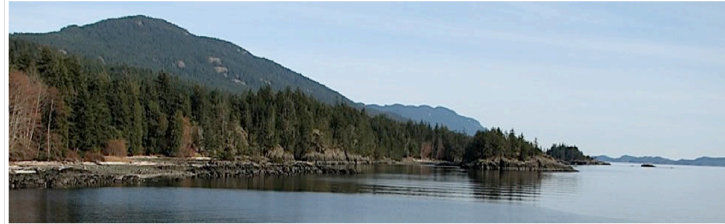


F R I E N D S O F D A V I E B A Y .



<http://daviebay.com/>

BY E-MAIL TO:

Hon John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities.

Hon Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment.

Hon Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Dear Ministers,

**Re: Lehigh Northwest Minerals Ltd. Texada South Quarry. Barge Loadout and Conveyor, Davie Bay, Texada Island. Transport Canada, CEAR reference number 09-01-49595.**

**Federal Inquiry.**

Friends of Davie Bay understand that B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cohen will head a federal inquiry into the decline of the Fraser River sockeye salmon stocks and to investigate the reasons for the collapse of the once thriving sockeye run and to report by May 1, 2011. He is to make recommendations for improving the sustainability of the fishery in the Fraser River, including any required changes to the operations of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Lehigh Northwest Minerals Ltd has filed an application for the Texada South Quarry under CEAR reference number 09-01-49595. The barge loadout and conveyor at Davie Bay is firmly within a rockfish conservation area (RCA) established and managed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

There is evidence of substantial eelgrass beds in Davie Bay. As you know it is accepted science that eelgrass provides valuable forage, spawning and refuge areas for a number of marine species. Eelgrass fills an important function in the marine foodweb at two levels; eelgrass is directly consumed by organisms such as waterfowl, urchins, worms, snails, and microorganisms and in addition, many other species (such as salmon, crabs, and heron) consume the organisms that live in the eelgrass colonies. Eelgrass provides a spawning habitat for Pacific herring, which lay their eggs on the blades of eelgrass. Eelgrass beds are also a critical nursery area for juvenile salmon and cod which seek protection within the beds from predators.

[http://www.whatcom-mrc.whatcomcounty.org/Fact\\_Sheets/common\\_eelgrass.htm](http://www.whatcom-mrc.whatcomcounty.org/Fact_Sheets/common_eelgrass.htm)

The DFO have stated "the RCA network will only work if the designated areas are kept in a somewhat pristine condition to ensure maximum productivity from those fish spawning within the closed areas..... and in order to maintain the high level of productivity, industrial activity such as those proposed should be avoided". There are no barge loading facilities located in RCA's in BC as joint or shared use would be highly incompatible to the principle of the RCA's.

The full economic value of the capacity of the facilities to be installed is about 5 million tonnes per annum, rather than the 240,000 tonnes per annum, filed by the applicant. This calculation assumes one shift of 8 hours per working day, 52 weeks of the year at the applicant's loading rate of 2,500 tonnes per hour---8 x 5 x 52 x 2,400 = 4.9m tonnes per year. So any assessment by the DFO must include an appraisal of the barge movements and quarrying activity on the eelgrass and rockfish habitat within the RCA at this economic loading rate. As you are aware the Davie Bay area experiences high winds on frequent occasions, so the DFO assessment must take into account how the company intends to prevent limestone dust permeating the area.

Please take notice that Friends of Davie Bay will be making representations to B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cohen that he recommend that salmon habitats including eelgrass beds and rockfish conservation areas in the Georgia Strait be fully protected as part of initiative to preserve salmon stocks in the Fraser River, and that the DFO must act to defend these habitats, and in particular, the Davie Bay rockfish conservation area. Accordingly we ask that the DFO not approve any action at Davie Bay that may prejudice Justice Cohen's recommendations.

The economic value of preserving the Davie Bay area, the caves and karst, the islands, the CDF zone, and the fish habitat far outweighs the "benefits" of resource extraction. A park at Davie Bay would complement the Shelter Point Regional Park, the Shingle Beach campground and South Texada Island and Jedediah Island Marine provincial parks. Conservation is a moral and economic imperative.

Yours truly,

Richard Fletcher  
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<http://daviebay.com/>

By e-mail to:

Hon John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities.

Hon Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment.

Hon Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Cc Nicholas Simons MLA  
John Weston MP  
Scott Fraser MLA  
Rebecca Reid, Regional Director, Oceans, Habitat and Enhancement Branch Pacific Region  
Robert Sisler, Regional Manager, Environmental Services, Transport Canada.  
Scott Northrup DFO  
Karen Christie, Project Assessment Director, Ministry of Environment  
Andrea Cowgill. ILMB  
Laura Walz. Powell River Peak  
Larry Pynn. Vancouver Sun