



MHSS and Ahous Business Corporation

PO Box 1245 Tofino BC V0R2Z0

August 11, 2015

**Elected Chief and Council
Ahousaht Members
Ahousaht First Nation**

(Via Email and Social Media)

Dear Council Members and Ahousaht Citizens:

RE: Cermaq Canada and the Yaakswiis Site

It has come to the recent attention of the Hawiih that certain members of the Ahousaht Nation have expressed their concerns regarding recent decisions by both DFO and the Province of BC to issue a salmon net cage tenure to Cermaq for Yaakswiis (in Millar Channel).

The Chiefs want to assure the community that we have been studying these applications for sometime and have recently recommitted to our efforts to seek sustainable solutions for the salmon aquaculture industry operating within our collective Ha Hahoulthlee. To this end we recently recommitted to a new 5 year protocol agreement with Cermaq Canada (signed in January 2015) that clearly outlines the process to be followed regarding tenure applications including re-siting of existing farms that are operating in what are referred to as "Pristine Areas". One such site is the Dixon Pass site and we have requested Cermaq to invoke the "replacement" provision within the Protocol Agreement that will move the Dixon Farm to the recently tenured Yaakswiis site.

This is good news for the Dixon Bay ecosystem and fulfills a commitment that the Chiefs had made to the Ahousaht community to remove the historically poorly sited Dixon site to a preferred well flushed, biophysically more suitable site like Yaakswiis. More importantly it also enables Cermaq to continue to live up to their corporate commitments on sustainability and community partnership.

To set the record straight it is important for the community to realize that the Hawiih continue to be concerned about striking an ongoing balance between modern economic development and traditional lifestyles and the principles of Hiistalktsawaak. As part of this commitment we are also formally announcing plans to begin the business feasibility for an on -shore aquaculture operation that could be sited at the private property held by MHSS at Maatsquiaht. We believe this model operation could become the new face of sustainable aquaculture in Clayoquot Sound. For more information please contact our offices at 250-726-2169.

With care and respect,

Maquinna on behalf A-in-chut and John Keitlah