



January 16, 2004

Renee Racette  
Woodward & Company  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 844 Courtenay Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1C4

Dear Renee Racette:

**Re: Archaeological site visit, DfRu 2, Walker Hook, Saltspring Island**

I am replying to your letter of January 7, 2004, requesting an investigation of complaints alleging unauthorized disturbance, including substantial ploughing, to archaeological site DfRu 2 by Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. I visited the site on January 13, 2004, in the company of Margaret Rogers of IR Wilson Consultants Ltd, the archaeological consulting company retained by proponent Gidon Minkoff to monitor land-altering activities at DfRu 2 associated with the development.

There was no evidence of any development-related excavation or disturbance beyond the portion of the property covered by Mr. Minkoff's lease, which is clearly marked by stakes on the portion of Walker's Hook covered by the site. Also, the only sign of ploughing near the site is the apparent result last month of bulldozing beach sand against the landform by property owner Henry Caldwell in order to form a protective barrier against ongoing winter storm erosion. Visual examination of the bulldozed material indicated the lack of any cultural deposits affected by this activity and no disturbance to the site appears to have occurred.

That being said, you are correct that ten wellheads are currently located on the property, six more than are allowed for under Minkoff's permit. However, two of these are inspection wells which Sablefin Hatcheries was required to install by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection in June 2002 before Minkoff was aware of the existence of the site. The other four are wellheads installed last fall when it became apparent that the first four were performing inadequately. Although these were installed outside the authority of Minkoff's Alteration Permit, I am convinced, after questioning him and his archaeological consultant Ian Wilson, that this was the result of unclear communication between the two parties and the mistaken assumption by Minkoff that, in applying for and receiving an extension to the term of his permit last September, he was receiving the authorization he needed to install the additional wells. Mr. Minkoff has been apprised of the correct process for any future amendments he may require, and I fully expect that such an error will not reoccur. Furthermore, it should be recognized that any impact to the site from the drilling of these four 6-inch diameter holes would have been minimal, as

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evidenced by the negative monitoring results of the first four holes, and the fact that all four holes were placed in largely disturbed deposits.

Therefore, as this minor disturbance is the only unauthorized activity identified during my site visit, I will not be making a recommendation for suspension of the permit nor will I be requesting that a follow-up investigation be initiated.

Thank you for bringing these concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,



Dave Hutchcroft  
Archaeological Planning and Assessment

Pc: Justine Batten  
Ray Kenny  
Gidon Minkoff, Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd  
Ian Wilson, IR Wilson Consultants Ltd

by fax to: 250-537-4109  
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