

September 10th, 2020

To: The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health

Dr. Siddika Mithani
President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

As someone who values knowing where and how my seafood was produced, I would like to express my full support for a boat-to-plate traceability program as you promised. I ask that this program include all seafood sold in Canada, tracking at least the geographic origin, scientific name and method of production for a product from harvest to point of sale. Improved seafood labelling as a result of this program is also critical so that I can make informed, sustainable choices that support local businesses.

A robust traceability program for Canada's seafood brings many benefits. By implementing traceability, the industry will reduce mislabelling instances, improve health and safety practices and be better equipped to follow international trade regulations. Increasing seafood transparency through traceable labels will help me choose sustainable and socially responsible seafood products, and support local producers in Canada.

Specifically, a boat-to-plate traceability program would allow me to know where my seafood was caught or farmed. Most seafood labels now show only where the product was last processed. This is not enough information for me to have confidence in the seafood I buy.

Given the importance of seafood to our economy, food security, culture, health and marine ecosystems, I am asking you to fulfil your promise of boat-to-plate traceability to improve seafood transparency and labelling.

Sincerely,

5671 Canadians (as of Sept 10, 2020)