

Fines & Additional Penalties Imposed on 3 Companies for Fisheries Violations



Three companies were charged with violating the *Fisheries Act* as to logging and road construction that resulted in the harmful alteration, destruction or disruption of fish habitat. The court convicted them, rejecting their argument that the project supervisor they'd hired had exceeded his directions. At sentencing, the Crown asked the court to fine each defendant \$300,000. The court fined one defendant \$300,000 because it was the "main player" and the most responsible for the damage, but fined the other two \$180,000 and \$120,000. In addition, the court ordered the defendants to pay \$400,000, \$800,000 and \$400,000 to the government for the purposes of promoting the proper management and control of fisheries or fish habitat or the conservation and protection of fish or fish habitat on Haida Gwaii [*R. v. Gwaii Wood Products Ltd.*, [2017] BCPC 6 (CanLII), Jan. 9, 2017].