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July 31, 2014

File No.: 0420-20

Via Email: env.minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment
PO BOX 9047 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Polak:

Re: Sinking of HMCS Annapolis

On behalf of the Islands Trust Council, I am writing to reiterate our opposition to the sinking of the HMCS Annapolis in Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park as an artificial reef.

In 2011, we wrote to Minister Lake to convey our opposition to the sinking of this vessel and the reasons for our concerns. Since Minister Lake's reply in 2011, we have not been informed of any updates regarding the project, but have learned from recent media articles that the vessel could be sunk this year in Halkett Bay, off Gambier Island.

The Islands Trust Policy Statement reflects our provincial mandate and was approved by the Minister responsible for the Islands Trust. The Policy Statement reflects the values and concerns of our communities, and guides our decision-making as a Council. Policy 3.4.3 of the Islands Trust Policy Statement states:

Trust Council holds that artificial reefs should not be developed in the Trust Area.

Urging you to reflect this policy.

Sincerely,

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc: Nicholas Simons, MLA, Powell River – Sunshine Coast
Squamish Nation
Tseil-Waututh Nation
Bowen Island Municipality
Sunshine Coast Regional District
Artificial Reef Society of BC
Gambier Island Local Trust Committee
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website