



Reference: 208824

January 20, 2015

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair
Islands Trust Council
200 – 1627 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Dear Ms. Malcolmson:

Thank you for your letter of July 31, 2014, regarding the placement of artificial reefs in the Trust Area. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I appreciate the Islands Trust Council providing their input on the development of an artificial reef in Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park. The Ministry of Environment and BC Parks remain committed to the Artificial Reef Society of British Columbia (ARSBC) project to sink the HMCS Annapolis ship in Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park as an artificial reef.

Both the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Squamish Nation have been consulted and are in support of the artificial reef project at Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park. Based on previous experience with artificial reef projects, such as Porteau Cove, it is believed that an artificial reef will create enhanced fish stock habitat and greater marine life diversity, while also creating socio-economic benefits for local diving companies.

The HMCS Annapolis is being prepared for sinking now that all polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other potential contaminants have been removed, all authorizations have been approved by the federal government and a Park Use Permit has been issued by BC Parks.

I have asked the Assistant Deputy Minister for BC Parks, Mr. Jim Standen, to ensure you are apprised of developments on this topic as the project progresses.

I would also like to thank you for your letter from September 24, 2014, providing support for the expansion of Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park to protect glass sponge reefs off the Halkett Point. I am pleased that the Islands Trust Council supports the efforts of the Marine Life Sanctuary to add the foreshore area encompassing the glass sponge bioherms to Halkett Bay Park.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Polak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Polak
Minister

cc: Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service,
Ministry of Environment