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February 8, 2013

File No.: 0410-30; 0420-20

The Honourable Peter Kent
Environment Minister and
Minister Responsible for Parks Canada
Minister@ec.gc.ca

The Honourable Terry Lake
BC Minister of Environment
env.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Kent and Minister Lake:

Re: Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve

I am writing to you on behalf of the Islands Trust Council to convey our continued support for the establishment of the Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve to protect the Salish Sea's globally significant marine ecosystem.

At its December 2012 meeting, the Islands Trust Council voted unanimously to reaffirm its support for a National Marine Conservation Area Reserve in the Southern Strait of Georgia, and to support enacting the entire perimeter (or larger) as currently proposed in the attached map. This reaffirmation of support comes exactly ten years after the Islands Trust Council first indicated its support for a national marine conservation area in the Islands Trust Area.

The Islands Trust Council also voted in favour of recommending that local trust committee zoning be used by Parks Canada as the basis for defining the zoning in the National Marine Conservation Area Reserve Interim Management Plan. I believe using existing local zoning as the starting point for NMCA zoning will save federal taxpayer dollars and will increase certainty for shoreline residents. Existing Islands Trust zoning over the foreshore and marine zones is based on extensive public consultation and statutory review and the Islands Trust legislated "preserve and protect" mandate is compatible with that of the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*.

In addition, the Islands Trust Council voted to propose that the Islands Trust be included in a joint management approach to the National Marine Conservation Area Reserve. The Islands Trust Council looks forward to exploring possible joint management approaches with Parks Canada, First Nations and other governments with overlapping jurisdictions.

Thank you for your work to advance the creation of the Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

Attach – map

cc: Islands Trust Area MPs and MLAs in NMCA study area
Islands Trust Area First Nations in NMCA study area
AVICC members
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website

Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

**Boundary Concept for a
National Marine Conservation Area Reserve
in the Southern Strait of Georgia**

**Concept de limites pour une
réserve d'aire marine nationale de conservation
dans la région sud du détroit de Georgia**

