



FEB 22 2013

Ms. Sheila Malcolmson
Chair
Islands Trust Council
jchonk@islandstrust.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Malcolmson:

Thank you for your e-mail of February 8, 2013, regarding the proposed national marine conservation area (NMCA) reserve in the Southern Strait of Georgia.

In October 2011, the governments of Canada and British Columbia were pleased to announce a proposed boundary for an NMCA reserve in the Southern Strait of Georgia. Since that announcement, representatives of Parks Canada and the Province of British Columbia have engaged in consultations with local First Nations and local/regional governments, seeking their input on the proposed boundary.

This beautiful ocean area holds diverse natural marine values, including eel grass beds, seabird habitat and a significant portion of critical habitat for the endangered population of southern resident killer whales. The importance of protecting these natural values is the driving force behind Parks Canada's efforts to establish an NMCA reserve in the area.

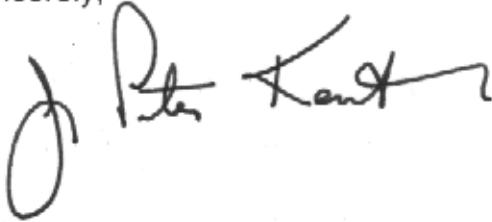
The Agency is firmly committed to protecting the natural wonders of the Southern Strait of Georgia as well as ensuring a strong economic future for local communities, First Nations and the many others who are dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of this region. Current discussions with local First Nations and local/regional governments, as well as feedback from groups, communities and concerned citizens like you, provide valuable input. These perspectives contribute to the making of a final determination on the feasibility of establishing a NMCA reserve and advising on a preferred boundary.

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Thank you for your interest in protecting Canada's rich marine heritage.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

FEB 2 2013

Mr. Steve Malouf
Chair
Atlantic Fuel Council
1000 West Street
Halifax, NS B3H 2Y4

Dear Mr. Maximin:

Thank you for your e-mail of January 8, 2013 regarding the proposed marine conservation area (MCA) in the Atlantic region.

In October 2011, the government of Canada announced a proposed marine conservation area in the Atlantic region. Since that announcement, the provinces of British Columbia have engaged in discussions with the federal government and local regional governments regarding the proposed boundary.

The beautiful ocean area along the coast of the Atlantic region is a rich and diverse environment. It is home to a wide variety of marine life, including many species that are at risk of extinction. Protecting these natural values is the driving force behind the proposed MCA.

The Agency is fully committed to protecting the marine environment of the Atlantic region as well as ensuring the sustainable use of the region's resources. The Agency and the Atlantic region's communities are working together to ensure the protection and sustainable use of the region's resources. The Agency and local regional governments are working together to ensure the protection and sustainable use of the region's resources.