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September 13, 2018

File Number: 5450-30

via e-mail: mintc@tc.gc.ca

The Honourable Marc Garneau, MP
Minister of Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Garneau:

Re: Concerns re Interim Protocol for the Use of Southern B.C. Anchorages – communications and processes

I am writing to draw your attention to concerns with communications and processes related to the Interim Protocol for the Use of Southern B.C. Anchorages. We are hearing strong and continuing concerns from residents about Transport Canada's lack of community engagement and consultation related to the implementation and extension of the Interim Protocol and ask that Transport Canada review ways to enhance engagement methods and staffing levels to address concerns.

Islands Trust Area residents that are experiencing discomfort due to the light and noise pollution emanating from vessels are not feeling heard or even acknowledged when advising the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Operations Centre and/or Transport Canada. Residents are also expressing frustration that their e-mails to Transport Canada staff and the TC.PacificAnchorages-Ancragesdupacifique.TC@tc.gc.ca about the protocol or noise and light complaints are not being answered. Some community members have found more satisfactory responses by communicating directly with the ships' agents. Those complaints and remedial actions may not be captured in Transport Canada's reporting. We appreciate that the monthly reports are a transparent method of communicating but they are not a timely way of reporting.

Further, residents are expressing dismay at the lack of consultation by Transport Canada in general with the Salish Sea community on the topic of anchorages and specifically the Interim Protocol. We are aware that Transport Canada is working closely with its partners in the Protocol, the Vancouver Fraser and Nanaimo port authorities, the Pacific Pilotage Authority, the Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia, and the Shipping Federation of Canada. We believe that there is a need for more dialogue on this topic with stakeholders in the Salish Sea in a location on Vancouver Island.

To that end, we are preparing to assist by hosting an invite-only roundtable in October or November for community groups, First Nations, industry and government representatives to promote dialogue and problem solving on Southern Gulf Island anchorages. We will be issuing invitations soon. We expect that topics of conversation will include, among other topics:

- Communication processes;
- Noise, light, and air quality impacts and how those are impacting residents, habitat, and wildlife (including Species at Risk such as the Southern Resident Killer Whale); and
- Assessment of cumulative risks and impacts.

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Finally, we look forward to an invitation to engage soon in the National Anchorage Initiative which we understand is working towards “a national framework for selection and use of anchorage locations which will be sensitive to environmental, social, economic and cultural considerations and promote best practices”. It is our desire that Transport Canada also develop a 20-year mitigation plan that addresses the cumulative risks and impacts associated with projected vessel traffic increases in the Salish Sea.

There are many First Nations who have asserted Aboriginal interests in the Salish Sea region and many who have established harvesting rights; although we have copied First Nations on this letter, we have not directly heard their positions on the interim protocol. Given our commitment to establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship with First Nations, we offer this position while being ready to respectfully consider their positions.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Luckham

Chair, Islands Trust Council

pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

cc: BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change
BC Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Islands Trust Area MPs
Cowichan Tribes
Esquimalt First Nation
Halalt First Nation
Homalco First Nation
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
K'omoks First Nation
Klahoose First Nation
Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society
Lake Cowichan First Nation
Lyackson First Nation
Malahat Nation
Musqueam First Nation
Nanwakolas Council
Pauquachin First Nation
Penelakut Tribe
Qualicum First Nation
Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation
Semiahmoo First Nation
Shíshálh (Sechelt) First Nation
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation
Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) First Nation
Songhees First Nation
Squamish First Nation
Stz'uminus (Chemainus) First Nation
Te'mexw Treaty Association
Tla'amin (Sliammon) First Nation
T'Sou-ke (Sooke) First Nation
Tsartlip First Nation
Tsawout First Nation
Tsawwassen First Nation
Tseil-Waututh (Burrard Inlet) First Nation
Tseycum First Nation
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge First Nation)
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River First Nation)
Gabriolans Against Freighter Anchorages
Anchorages Concern Thetis
Cowichan Bay Ship Watch Society
Plumper Sound Protection Association
Stuart Channel Anchorages Protection
Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia
Shipping Federation of Canada
CSL Americas (CSL)
Nanaimo Port Authority
Pacific Pilotage Authority
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
Cowichan Valley Regional District Board
Town of Ladysmith Mayor and Council
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website