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April 18, 2011

Capt. To For (John) Yeung
Regional Director
Transport Canada, Marine
700 – 800 Burrard Street
Vancouver BC V6Z 2J8
Via Email: ToFor.Yeung@tc.gc.ca

Robin Silvester
President and Chief Executive Officer
Port Metro Vancouver
100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place
Vancouver BC V6C 3T4
Via Email: robin.silvester@portmetrovancover.com

Dear Capt. Yeung and Mr. Silvester:

Re: Request for consultation on anchorages and the Container Capacity Improvement Program

I am writing on behalf of Islands Trust Council's Executive Committee to express our concerns regarding the Plumper Sound anchorage and our interest in being consulted on any proposed new anchorages in the Islands Trust Area, and the Container Capacity Improvement Program.

1. Plumper Sound Concerns

In mid-January, 2011, Keith and Tilly Smith, residents of North Pender Island, wrote to the Pacific Pilotage Authority, the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and Islands Trust staff to outline their concerns with the amount of light and noise created by the large vessels anchored in Plumper Sound. They also wrote that they have noticed an increase in the number of vessels anchored in Plumper Sound and that they have witnessed vessels dragging their anchors during storms in November and December 2010.

While we welcome the Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia's newly issued *Memo to Masters of Vessels using Plumper Sound Anchorages* asking vessels to take steps to minimize noise and lights while at anchor in Plumper Sound, we remain concerned about the increasing use of Plumper Sound as a regular anchorage, given the risks created by its unique geographical challenges and the disruptions to the lives of local residents.

It seems that the Transport Canada Plumper Sound Anchorage Advisory is not having the intended effect of reducing the risks in Plumper Sound. On March 2, 2011, the *Cape Vanguard* dragged anchor in Plumper Sound during a forecasted wind storm and came within 200 metres of shore. We do appreciate that the ship's crew, the ship's agent, Coast Guard's Marine Communications and Traffic Services staff, and Joint Rescue Coordination Centre staff worked cooperatively to prevent the grounding of this vessel, but are concerned that the incident happened in the first place. Residents have informed Islands Trust staff that they have also witnessed several other vessels dragging anchor in Plumper Sound over the last few months. We believe there should be an evaluation of the Advisory's effectiveness.

We understand that the Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia has put together a task force composed of Port Metro Vancouver, the pilots, shipping lines and shipping agencies to look at the anchorage situation within Port Metro Vancouver's jurisdiction. We respectfully request that the Port Metro Vancouver and Transport Canada consult with the Islands Trust if planning any new anchorages in Islands Trust Area. Please see the attached map showing our boundaries.

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2. Container Capacity Improvement Program

The Islands Trust is also interested in being consulted on Port Metro Vancouver's proposed Container Capacity Improvement Program. We understand that this program is intended to increase container handling capacity in the Lower Mainland to meet future growth and demand in Canadian international trade, and that this program will have an emphasis on investment and infrastructure improvements at Roberts Bank in Delta.

As container traffic through Canada's Pacific Gateway is expected to double over the next 10 to 15 years, and nearly triple by 2030, we are concerned about the growing risks to the Salish Sea. We request that in addition to making plans to handle these vessels and their products at the port, that Port Metro Vancouver and Transport Canada also assess the risks posed by this increase in shipping traffic from the time the vessels enter Canadian waters until they are at the dock.

Thank you for your attention to these important topics and for working with us to preserve and protect this special area, home to a rich diversity of species. The Islands Trust Policy Statement, required by the *Islands Trust Act* and approved by the Province of British Columbia states: *responsibility for stewardship of the Trust Area rests with many.... Cooperative actions are required of other agencies, organizations and individuals to ensure that activities are carried out in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of Trust Area ecosystems and island communities.*

We look forward to participating in your consultation processes. Please coordinate information sharing and consultation with our Policy Analyst, Clare Frater cfrater@islandstrust.bc.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc: Islands Trust Executive Committee
Yoss Leclerc, Director, Operations and Security and Harbour Master, Port Metro Vancouver
Stephen Brown, President, Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia
Keith and Tilly Smith
Islands Trust website

Attachment: Islands Trust Area map (purple lines denote foreshore boundaries)

Islands Trust Area

