

**PROTOCOL AGREEMENT  
ON  
TRANSBORDER MARINE PROTECTION AREA**

**AMONG:**

**ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL  
("Islands Trust")**

**AND:**

**SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
("San Juan County")**

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**WHEREAS:**

Both Parties have acknowledged their spirit of partnership and friendship concerning island communities in the Puget Sound, Georgia Basin and Howe Sound by way of a Transborder Island Agreement; and

Both Parties wish to promote the establishment of a transborder network of marine protected areas within the above area, also known as the Salish Sea, recognizing that marine ecosystems transcend international boundaries or the limits of individual government agency jurisdiction.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Islands Trust and San Juan County agree as follows:

**1.0 PRINCIPLES**

Both Parties share the following principles to:

1. Acknowledge the jurisdictional authority of other agencies;
2. Nurture a spirit of shared decision making among relevant jurisdictions;
3. Involve the public with meaningful engagement and stewardship;
4. Utilize a precautionary approach to the use of resources in the face of uncertain knowledge;
5. Develop a diverse range of cooperative management strategies suitable for different situations;
6. Reflect the values and interests of indigenous peoples, and island communities;
7. Take the initiative to act now and provide a model for cooperative Marine Protected Area initiatives; and
8. Recognize the important effects of our decisions or future generations.

## **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

Both Parties wish to pursue the follow objectives to:

1. Protect the biological diversity, representative ecosystems and special natural features;
2. Conserve fish and their habitats;
3. Promote understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of the region;
4. Recognize marine resource values for recreation, tourism and commerce;
5. Pursue scientific research opportunities; and
6. Promote increased public education and awareness of the marine environment.

## **3.0 AREA OF INTEREST**

The boundaries of the “Salish Sea” Marine Protected Area, on either side of the United States/Canadian international boundary, is shared by both San Juan County and the Islands Trust within their respective jurisdictions (see map – Schedule A).

## **4.0 PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS**

Both Parties wish to consult and work with other organizations that have jurisdiction or an interest in the Area of Interest:

- Other levels of government including local, Provincial, State and Federal agencies;
- First Nation and Tribal Councils;
- Non-government organizations; and
- Island community citizens, groups and visitors.

## **5.0 SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES**

It is the intent of both parties to use best efforts to maintain a work program to undertake the following potential scope of activities:

- To promote further research of the nature of marine ecosystems;
- To develop criteria to designate habitats and areas most important for protection;
- To establish co-management guidelines and programs to achieve shared goals for marine protected area designations;
- To enlist the input and involvement of other entities for designations, co-management and monitoring activities;
- To undertake consultative processes to engage public awareness and involvement;
- To facilitate the sharing of information on data, activities and plans of various citizens and agencies;
- To promote the voluntary application of best practices concerning human activity in the marine environment; and
- To encourage the establishment and enforcement of regulations as appropriate.

## 6.0 PARAMETERS

Both Parties acknowledge the following conditions:

- This agreement may be amended upon mutual consent of both parties;
- This agreement may be endorsed by other entities with the consent of both parties;
- Nothing in this agreement shall be construed so as to fetter the legislative discretion of either Party or other entities;
- The officials responsible for administration of this agreement are:
  - Islands Trust - Executive Director
  - San Juan County - Planning Director
- This agreement is not intended to be legally binding, nor interfere with any international laws or treaties.