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April 6, 2011

Mayor Bob Turner
Bowen Island Municipality
981 Artisan Lane
Bowen Island BC V0N 1G0
Via e-mail: bob.turner7@gmail.com

Mayor Janet Evans
District of Sooke
2205 Otter Point Road
Sooke BC V9Z 1J2
Via e-mail: jevans@sooke.ca

Councillor Adam Olsen
District of Central Saanich
1903 Mt. Newton Cross Rd
Saanichton BC V8M 2A9
Via e-mail: tsunup@gmail.com

Dear Mayors Turner and Evans and Councillor Olsen:

Re: Update on derelict vessels, barges and docks

I am writing to thank you for attending our meeting regarding derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks with Minister Pat Bell on September 29, 2010 at the UBCM Convention and to advise you of progress on this topic.

Finding solutions to the issues of derelict vessels, barges and docks remains a high priority for the Islands Trust, but we cannot do it alone. On December 10, 2010, I wrote to the Honourable Pat Bell, then Minister of Forests, Mines and Lands, and to the Honourable Steve Thomson, then Minister of Natural Resource Operations to convey our appreciation for ongoing cooperative efforts to address this topic. I advised them that Islands Trust is working with the AVICC (Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities) to support this important work.

On December 7, 2010, I wrote to the Honourable Murray Coell, then Minister of Environment. In that letter I mentioned that we are working with Minister Thomson's staff and AVICC on the issue and asked for his support for efforts to develop solutions. Minister Coell's reply on February 15, 2011 mentions that the Premier and the Governors of Washington, California and Oregon have created a coast-wide marine debris alliance and will be developing a detailed marine debris strategic plan that will include derelict vessels, barges and docks.

At the request of AVICC, Islands Trust is participating in the new Joint Working Group for the Removal of Derelict Vessels in British Columbia. This working group met on January 13 and February 14, 2011 and will meet again in May. Currently, the membership of the working group includes staff representatives of the Province of British Columbia, Transport Canada, Islands Trust, and UBCM (Union of British Columbia Municipalities). UBCM is responsible for representing the interests of BC local governments to the working group. The working group may be expanding its membership in the coming months. The working group is cooperating to find short and long-term solutions; explore funding options to manage derelict and abandoned vessels; and consider disposal options for derelict and abandoned vessels across the province.

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Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment

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

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We are aware that Transport Canada has commissioned a study to understand the magnitude of the derelict vessel problem and create a database of derelict vessels in Canada. The study will inform any efforts to develop a national framework for derelict and abandoned vessels that can be used to support and encourage communities to act. In the next month or so, UBCM will support this study by sending out a survey on derelict vessels to its members and communicating the survey results to Transport Canada.

I hope this update is useful. This is a complex problem requiring the cooperation of all stakeholders to bring about lasting solutions. Please feel free to contact me at smalcolmson@islandstrust.bc.ca if you would like to discuss this topic further.

Sincerely,



Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc: AVICC Derelict Vessel Subcommittee

Attachments:

1. December 10, 2010 letter to the Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Forests
2. December 10, 2010 letter to the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Natural Resource Operations
3. December 7, 2010 letter to the Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Environment
4. February 15, 2011 reply from the Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Environment