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March 20, 2018

File Number: 5450-30

via e-mail: [mintc@tc.gc.ca](mailto:mintc@tc.gc.ca)

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

Dear Minister Garneau:

**Re: Thank you for meeting with Islands Trust and follow-up on anchorages**

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on short notice to discuss our shared interest in the Islands Trust Area which covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It was a genuine pleasure to meet you.

I am writing to follow-up on the anchorage portion of our conservation and to express our gratitude for your support for including the Anchorages Initiative in the Ocean Protections Plan.

As you know anchorages have been a major concern to islanders for many years. Recently, due to increased frequency of use and longer stays, the concerns have reached an untenable state of anxiety and distress for many.

I am pleased to report from my own observations that, since the interim protocol was announced on February 16, 2018, a greater number of anchorages are being utilized than I have observed before. That said, there also appears to be a significantly greater number of vessels at anchor than I have observed previously at this time of year. We look forward to seeing the data about anchorage usage to be able to compare with previous years.

I am aware that lighting and engine noise continue to be a problem and that community members have reported concerns to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.

When we met you expressed a genuine interest in sites that I mentioned I thought were inappropriately designated as anchorages due to the significant long-term noise, light and air emissions impacts on adjacent communities. I am reaching out to our communities to confirm these locations and will provide our recommendations to senior staff with Transport Canada.

With respect to excessive noise the interim protocol specifies 7:00 to 19:00 hours as permitted. Many of our islanders would be pleased to have this reduced to 8:30 to 16:30 hours.

The final issue I would like to raise is the materials offloading site in Plumper Sound (PS-D Plumper Sound D). This anchorage has been used for an at-sea gypsum transfer operation for at least twenty-five years. The significant noise and light pollution created by this operation disturb the residents as well as marine-fish, mammals and birds for hours. This is a long standing issue for our communities. In 2007, the Islands Trust Council passed a motion objecting to the offloading of industrial freight such as gypsum in Plumper Sound. The response from Minister Cannon was that Transport Canada was not in a position to control or prevent the industrial use of anchorages in this area.

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We sincerely appreciate that CSL International has, at our request, invested significant money into reducing the dust and noise created during their offloading operations in Plumper Sound. Certainly, it has helped. However, the transfers continue to be unacceptable industrial activity happening, without oversight, and often at night, in a tranquil, rural area. In the short-term, as a goodwill measure, our communities want night transfers to stop. I ask you to work with industry to amend the interim protocol to implement daylight-only transfers. In the long-term, I hope that through the Anchorages Initiative of the Oceans Protection Plan, Transport Canada can find a regulatory solution which will ensure this activity cannot be conducted within the Southern Gulf Islands.

Your consideration of these points is greatly appreciated. If Transport Canada could implement these suggestions as part of the interim protocol agreement in the short term it would go a long way to creating a better environment for meaningful dialogue with residents with respect to the long term outcomes of the anchorages project.

I look forward to reviewing the monthly reports and being engaged in the review process. I will be attending the Spring OPP Forum in Vancouver and hope for an update then.

I thank you again for meeting with me and sincerely hope that you will accept my invitation to join me on the Gulf Islands to see the anchorage situation in the Islands Trust Area.

I wish you all the best for spring, which we all hope is around the corner.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Luckham  
Chair, Islands Trust Council  
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cc: 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  
CSL Americas (CSL)  
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority  
Bowen Island Municipal Council  
Islands Trust Council  
Islands Trust website