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July 19, 2019

File No. 0400-70

BC Assembly of First Nations  
1004 Landooz Road  
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3  
Via email: [patricia.rojas@bcafn.ca](mailto:patricia.rojas@bcafn.ca)

First Nations Summit  
1200 – 100 Park Royal South  
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2  
Via email: [cbraker@fns.bc.ca](mailto:cbraker@fns.bc.ca)

Union of BC Indian Chiefs  
401 – 312 Main Street  
Vancouver, BC V6A 2T2  
Via email: [andrea@ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:andrea@ubcic.bc.ca)

Dear Respected Leaders & Chiefs:

**Re: Climate Change Emergency & First Nations Engagement**

Thank you for your letter dated June 27, 2019. On behalf of the Islands Trust Executive Committee and myself, we look forward to collaborating with the First Nations Leadership Council on this critical and vital work of climate change.

The mandate noted in your letter is fundamental to the work that the Islands Trust Council is undertaking over the next four years. On March 14, 2019, the Council unanimously passed the Islands Trust Reconciliation Declaration (attachment 1), and on June 19, 2019, the Council unanimously passed a Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2022. Over the next year, we plan to begin reviewing the Islands Trust Policy Statement to ensure that it supports and is guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. In addition, as part of the impacts we are seeing due to climate change, Islands Trust Council is seeking a moratorium on Pacific herring fishing in the Salish Sea (attachment 2). First Nations Leadership Council advocacy to accomplish these goals would be greatly appreciated.

The Islands Trust would welcome the opportunity to meet to foster dialogue and have our work informed by the First Nations Leadership Council. There are many challenges facing the lands and waters of the Salish Sea and we feel it is vital to begin this important work together to strengthen our voices and to share knowledge and technical expertise to ensure that we preserve and protect this place now and for our children's children.

I would welcome an invitation to meet with your leadership and attend a BC First Nations Climate Change Session. Again, thank you for your letter and we look forward to engaging in this important work to advance recognition and reconciliation.

With great respect,

Peter Luckham  
Chair, Islands Trust Council  
250-210-2553  
[pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca)

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Respected Leaders and Chiefs

July 18, 2019

Page 2

Attachments:

1. Islands Trust Reconciliation Declaration
2. Draft Letter to The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson on Pacific Herring Moratorium

cc:

BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation  
Cowichan Tribes  
Halalt First Nation  
Homalco First Nation  
Klahoose First Nation  
K'ómoks First Nation  
Lake Cowichan First Nation  
Lekwungen (Songhees) Nation  
Lyackson First Nation  
MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation  
Penelakut Tribe  
Qualicum First Nation  
Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation  
SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) First Nation  
shíshálh First Nation  
Snuneymuxw First Nation  
Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation  
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation  
SḶÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation  
Stz'uminus First Nation  
SXIMEŁEŁ (Esquimalt) Nation  
Tla'amin (Sliammon) Nation  
Tsawwassen First Nation

Tsleil-Waututh Nation  
T'Sou-ke Nation  
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River) First Nation  
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge) First Nation  
WJOLEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation  
WŚIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation  
x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm Musqueam  
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group  
Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society  
Nanwakolas Council  
Naut'sa mawt Tribal  
Te'mexw Treaty Association  
Bowen Island Municipal Council  
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing  
Minister of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation  
Bowen Island Municipal Council  
Islands Trust Trustees  
Islands Trust Website



## Islands Trust

*The Islands Trust Council acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and honours the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage that embody this place we all call home.*

*The Islands Trust Council is committed to establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Islands Trust states a commitment to Reconciliation with the understanding that this commitment is a long-term relationship-building and healing process.*

*The Islands Trust Council will strive to create opportunities for knowledge-sharing and understanding as people come together to preserve and protect the special nature of the islands within the Salish Sea.*

*Adopted: March 14, 2019 Trust Council on Gabriola Island*



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Attachment 2.

XX XXXX, 2019

File Number: 5020-30 Fisheries-Herring

**DRAFT for review and comment**

via e-mail: [jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca)

**Commented [CF1]:** The letterhead will reflect the logos of any First Nation signatories.

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

**Re: Moratorium on the Herring Fishery in the Salish Sea**

We are writing to request that you place a moratorium on the herring fishery in the Salish Sea until an ecosystem-based management plan is in place that considers the current and future effects of climate change and the potential impacts of the fishery on predator species, in particular, Chinook Salmon and Southern Resident killer whales. We are asking for this preventative action to ensure we are being precautionary in our management of herring, a keystone species in the Salish Sea.

**Commented [CF2]:** Along with any other requested edits, this introductory sentence may clarify the signatories.

We are concerned with herring management issues because Pacific herring are foundational to the food web of the Salish Sea. Herring play a critical role in the functioning of the ecosystem. Pacific herring are the dominant forage fish in the Salish Sea and a vital food source for species of seabirds, and for many species of fish; including Chinook salmon, which in turn, is the main food source of the Southern Resident orcas. As well, herring are a fundamental part of the marine food web for Coast Salish peoples who have resided within this landscape since time immemorial.

We are concerned that the annual removal of 20% of the herring population may not support the needs of predator species, especially as populations struggle to recover. We note that your mandate letter includes the direction to "use scientific evidence, traditional Indigenous knowledge, and the precautionary principle, and take into account climate change, when making decisions affecting fish stocks and ecosystem management". We question whether there is sufficient scientific evidence available on the population, habitat, and ecosystem, and the fishery dynamics of the BC Pacific Herring to support current management decisions. We are not aware of information being available about appropriate conservation limits for Pacific Herring based on ecosystem considerations in the context and cumulative effects of climate change.

We ask for your leadership to protect one of the foundational species – the BC Pacific herring - for language, cultural, and spiritual understanding of this area of the Salish Sea for First Nations, and conversely for all British Columbians and Canadians. A moratorium is needed until ecosystem based management plans are developed for the herring fishery that consider community and the pivotal role this species plays in the vitality and health of this region. The health of the Salish Sea and its complex food webs are too crucial to risk. Collaboration with all levels of government from First Nations, local government, federal and provincial agencies to protect the herring from fisheries impacts is vital in this time of climate change. We ask for your support in enacting initiatives and policies that would put this moratorium in place until these management plans and herring health and sustainability as a keystone species is determined.

Preserving *island* communities, culture and environment

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

.../2

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
XXXX XX, 2019  
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Thank you for considering this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Commented [CF3]:** The signature block will contain the signatures of all signatories

Peter Luckham  
Chair, Islands Trust Council  
[pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca)

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES HERE

cc: Islands Trust Area MPs  
BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation  
Cowichan Tribes  
Halalt First Nation  
Homalco First Nation  
Klahoose First Nation  
K'ómoks First Nation  
Lake Cowichan First Nation  
Lekwungen (Songhees) Nation  
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STÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation  
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Tsawwassen First Nation  
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