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February 24, 2022

File No.: 0110-20

Via Email: [min@dfo-mpo-gc.ca](mailto:min@dfo-mpo-gc.ca)

The Honourable Joyce Murray  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
200 Kent St Station 15N100  
Ottawa ON K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Murray:

**Re: Announcement to Reduce Herring Quota**

I am writing on behalf of Islands Trust Council to express thanks for the [December 16, 2021](#), announcement that, for most commercial fisheries, the herring quota will be reduced to a 10% harvest rate. In [2018](#) we wrote to ministry staff followed by a [2019](#) joint letter, written with Bowen Island Municipality to Minister Wilkinson, on the topic of herring protection. We are pleased now to see this reduction in the harvest rate to preserve and protect this key marine species.

Pacific herring is the dominant forage fish in the Salish Sea and a fundamental food source for many species of seabirds and fish including Chinook salmon which, in turn, is the main food source of the Southern Resident killer whale. Herring is also a vital part of the marine food web for Coast Salish peoples who have resided here since time immemorial.

Islands Trust Council encourages actions and programs of other government agencies which place priority on the side of protection for Islands Trust Area ecosystems. We encourage you to take further steps to protect herring in the Salish Sea and to collaborate with local governments and First Nations to ensure this protection.

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***Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea***

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

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Located in the islands and waters of the Salish Sea, between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island, the Islands Trust Area encompasses 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands, covering 5,200 square kilometers. The area is home to the highest density of species at risk in Canada and some of the most diverse and sensitive marine ecosystems in the world.

Yours sincerely,



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

cc: Islands Trust Area MPs  
Bowen Island Municipal Council  
Islands Trust Council  
Islands Trust website

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