



200 – 1627 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8R 1H8
Telephone **(250) 405-5151** Fax (250) 405-5155
Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 660-2421
Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**
Email information@islandstrust.bc.ca
Web www.islandstrust.bc.ca

July 9, 2026

File No.: 11-5020-30-BCCMS

Via email: WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Randene Neill
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
PO Box 9012 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8M 9L6

Dear Minister Neill:

Re: Enshrining Coastal Marine Strategy into Law

I am writing, on behalf of the Islands Trust Council, to express our strong support for enshrining Coastal Marine Strategy into legislation.

The Islands Trust Area spans more than 450 islands and includes over 1,300 km of shoreline. This ecologically significant coastal and marine environment is of immense importance not only to islands residents, but to all British Columbians.

Islands Trust Council believes that legislating the Coastal Marine Strategy is essential to ensuring its long-term implementation and success. Embedding the Strategy in law will provide the policy certainty, accountability, and regulatory tools necessary to achieve its objectives over time. We also advocate to the Province to provide sufficient and sustained funding to support implementation and ensure that the Strategy can deliver meaningful outcomes.

The Strategy addresses a number of issues that are of importance in the Islands Trust Area and that have been focus of past Islands Trust Council advocacy such as removal of abandoned and derelict vessels; reducing polystyrene pollution in the marine environment; strengthening post-spill environmental monitoring and shoreline remediation standards; addressing marine contamination from failing septic systems; and mapping, protecting, and restoring current and future habitat for seagrass meadows, salt marshes and kelp forests.

Healthy marine ecosystems are also fundamentally linked to community well-being. The protection and restoration of coastal waters supports local economies, food security, cultural values, recreation, and climate resilience. Safeguarding marine ecosystems therefore directly contributes to the long-term well-being of island communities and British Columbians more broadly.

.../2

Minister Neill
July 9, 2026
Page 2

We are particularly encouraged that the Strategy has been co-developed with First Nations and support its implementation through ongoing collaboration among First Nations, the Province, local governments, and other partners. A coordinated and inclusive approach will be critical to protecting and restoring the health of British Columbia's coastal and marine ecosystems.

Islands Trust is a special-purpose government representing over 30,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and 10,000 non-resident property owners. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment through conservation-oriented land use planning and regulation, education, and cooperation with First Nations and other agencies.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Patrick', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Laura Patrick
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc: Islands Trust Council
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Area MLAs
Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs