



Reference: 272006

September 26, 2022

VIA EMAIL: lfoster@islandstrust.bc.ca; pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

Peter Luckham, Chair
Islands Trust Council
200-1627 Fort Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8R 1H8

Dear Peter Luckham:

Thank you for your letter of August 4, 2022, to Minister Josie Osborne, regarding the Islands Trust Executive Committee's concerns about improper disposal of derelict marine docks in British Columbia. I have been asked to respond as dock authorizations, which include conditions for decommissioning, are managed by the Ministry of Forests.

Commercial and private dock tenure holders are subject to provincial and federal laws and regulations intended to regulate waste and contamination in the environment, including marine surroundings. The disposal of derelict docks must be done in accordance with Section 6 of the *Environmental Management Act* which prohibits introducing waste into the environment in such a manner or quantity as to cause pollution without a permit, approval, order, regulation, or Waste Management Plan approved by the Minister. In addition, tenure holders must adhere to the terms of their tenure contracts which require them to keep the site and associated infrastructure in a safe, clean, and sanitary condition, and upon the end of a tenure, to return the land to such condition.

I realize the existence of these legal requirements is unfortunately not always enough to prevent the occurrence of environmental debris and pollution. The Ministry of Forests relies upon the public and local government bodies such as the Islands Trust to report any observed violations of the laws and regulations that govern the disposal of derelict docks. Our natural resource officer teams investigate violation reports and are responsible for the compliance and enforcement of such laws and regulations. To submit a Natural Resource Violation Report, please visit: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hen/nrv/report.htm>.

Peter Luckham, Chair

Concerted action from all levels of government and stakeholders is required to tackle marine pollution and its impact on the coastal resources that all British Columbians cherish and want to see protected for the benefit of future generations.

Again, thank you for writing to share your concerns.

Sincerely,



Sharon Hadway
Regional Executive Director
West Coast Natural Resource Region

pc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests
Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship