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August 4, 2022

File No.: 11-5020-30-10

Via email: LWRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca; josie.osborne.MLA@leg.bc.ca

The Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Land, Water, and Resource Stewardship
PO Box 9012 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8M 9L6

Re: Proper Disposal of Derelict Docks

Dear Minister Osborne:

On behalf of Islands Trust Executive Committee, as requested by resolution at its May 25, 2022 meeting, I am writing to advocate for the proper disposal of derelict docks in British Columbia.

In the process of replacing marine docks, old derelict docks are often not disposed of properly. These derelict docks, and the Styrofoam and other materials that escape from them, are compromising the ecological health of the Salish Sea, Indigenous food harvesting sites, and aquatic species at risk in the Islands Trust Area and across British Columbia. In recent years, many derelict docks, and/or components of them such as rubber tires, Styrofoam blocks and pellets, and creosote-covered wood have been washing up on Islands Trust Area shorelines, a phenomenon that is likely to increase with climate change driven storms and sea level rise. There is a need for the Province to enact a “cradle to grave strategy” to address the entire life cycle and proper disposal of derelict docks.

Islands Trust is a special-purpose government with a provincial mandate to preserve and protect over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea. The Islands Trust 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. We rely on support from other government agencies, including the Ministry of Land, Water, and Resource Stewardship, to help us fulfill this special mandate for the benefit of all British Columbians. As such, we call on the Ministry to enact a strategy to address the proper disposal of derelict marine docks.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We would appreciate your leadership on this longstanding issue.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Luckham
Chair, Islands Trust Council
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

Cc: Minister of Municipal Affairs
Islands Trust Area MLA's
Islands Trust Council
Bowen Island Municipality
Islands Trust website

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