



# News Release

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## **ISLANDS TRUST WELCOMES BETTER ANCHORAGE MANAGEMENT but disappointed industrial transfers in Plumper Sound to continue**

VICTORIA – After ten years of [calling](#) for better federal oversight of anchored freighters, the Islands Trust welcomes [news](#) that Transport Canada has implemented an [interim protocol](#) for the management of freighters anchoring in the Southern Gulf Islands.

Transport Canada announced the protocol on February 16, 2018 and will implement it for an initial trial period of six months. The protocol is intended to evenly distribute vessels using south coast anchorages as much as possible, and reinforce the need for most freighters to use good practices and comply with legal requirements while at anchor. During the trial period, industrial transfers from ships to barges in Plumper Sound will be able to continue.

“While there is still a big conversation to be had about whether freighters should be anchoring in the Gulf Islands at all, we welcome this interim step towards improved management,” said Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair. “We hope that this protocol will provide welcome relief to both Gulf Island residents and the natural environment of the region which the Islands Trust is mandated to preserve and protect. However, we are very disappointed that on-water transfer of materials will be allowed to continue in Plumper Sound. This type of industrial activity is not appropriate within our region and should be done within the boundaries of a port.”

For years, island residents have voiced concerns about freighters anchored in the Trust Area. The industrial levels of noise and light from freighters are incompatible with the rural character of the islands. Residents have also raised concerns about impacts of these vessels to the natural environment. The Islands Trust Council has dedicated significant resources to advocating on behalf of island communities and the environment for improvements in anchorage management and oil spill prevention and response.

“The Islands Trust Council has asked Transport Canada for a moratorium on any new freighter anchorages. At our Trust Council meeting in December, we were pleased to learn that Transport Canada has suspended plans to create new anchorages in our region,” added Luckham. “I met with the Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport, and Members of Parliament Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, Elizabeth May and Sheila Malcolmson about this topic in Ottawa last week. I expressed that it is our hope that continued strong leadership by Transport Canada will eliminate the need for vessels to go to anchor in our region. The Islands Trust Council looks forward to being consulted as part of the upcoming Ocean Protection Plan review processes.”

Concerns with any of the specifics related to the responsibilities of freighters at anchor in the Islands Trust Area can be reported to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Operations Center at 604-665-9086 or [harbour\\_master@portvancouver.com](mailto:harbour_master@portvancouver.com).

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Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

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The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres.

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