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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of BC
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
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Honourable Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and
the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent Street, Station 15N100
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
200 Sacre-Coeur Boulevard
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Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
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Victoria, BC V8W 9T5

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9360 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M2

Re: Islands Trust Public Statement Regarding the Use of Southern B.C. Anchorages

As the Chair of the Islands Trust Council I am writing to inform you that at our September 2018 meeting the Islands Trust Council voted to make the following public statement regarding the use of Southern B.C. Anchorages:

“Islands Trust Council calls upon the federal government to take all measures possible to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the use of the 33 commercial freighter anchorage sites throughout the Southern Gulf Islands collectively referred to by Transport Canada as the South Coast of British Columbia.

These anchorage sites were designated without consultation with local First Nations and coastal communities.

First Nations rights and title have not been adequately addressed when it comes to anchorages and large vessel traffic within their traditional territories as is required under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 32.

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The acoustic disturbance of freighters excessively transiting the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales' foraging areas is a significant factor in contributing to their extinction.

The use of these anchorages has resulted in a significant increase in noise, light, and air pollution; damage to the local marine ecosystems; a threat to local economies and most worrisome, an increased risk of catastrophic bunker-fuel spills."

Since 2008 the Islands Trust has been expressing concerns regarding the use of anchorages within the Islands Trust area for commercial freighters, and the transfer of Gypsum and other materials utilizing barges for export.

Over the past 10 years, the number of coal, grain and break bulk cargo ships anchoring in the Gulf Islands region while waiting to access the Port of Vancouver has increased dramatically. Residents have had enough of the increased number of vessels, the increasing size of these vessels and the longer periods of time that ships spend at anchor. Ships end up sitting at anchor due to a lack of sufficient port infrastructure and long-standing supply chain problems. While at anchor these ships generate significant amounts of unnecessary noise, light, and air pollution. There are many local concerns about the potential risks these vessels pose to the marine environment, marine species, and oil spills.

Industry and government predict anchorage use will continue to increase unless the federal government and the Port of Vancouver implement solutions. For ten years, the Islands Trust has worked collaboratively with industry and the federal government on resolving anchorage issues. The Islands Trust has asked for a twenty-year mitigation plan that would reduce the need for vessels to go to anchor.

Despite Transport Canada's Ocean Protection Plan and the Interim Protocol for the Use of Southern B.C. Anchorages we believe more needs to be done. We are committed to continue to work collaboratively and constructively with you and industry to resolve this issue which is critical to First Nations, residents and visitors of the islands in the Salish Sea.

The preservation and protection of the Islands Trust Area is a provincial interest and in the national interest. I ask for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



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

September 24, 2018

Page 3

cc: Islands Trust Area MPs
Islands Trust Area MLAs
Cowichan Tribes
Esquimalt First Nation
Halalt First Nation
Homalco First Nation
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
K'omoks First Nation
Klahoose First Nation
Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society
Lake Cowichan First Nation
Lyackson First Nation
Malahat Nation
Musqueam First Nation
Nanwakolas Council
Pauquachin First Nation
Penelakut Tribe
Qualicum First Nation
Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation
Semiahmoo First Nation
Shíshálh (Sechelt) First Nation
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation
Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) First Nation
Songhees First Nation
Squamish First Nation
Stz'uminus (Chemainus) First Nation
Te'mexw Treaty Association
Tla'amin (Sliammon) First Nation
T'Sou-ke (Sooke) First Nation
Tsartlip First Nation
Tsawout First Nation
Tsawwassen First Nation
Tseil-Waututh (Burrard Inlet) First Nation
Tseycum First Nation
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge First Nation)
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River First Nation)
Gabriolans Against Freighter Anchorages
Anchorages Concern Thetis
Cowichan Bay Ship Watch Society
Plumper Sound Protection Association
Stuart Channel Anchorages Protection
Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia
Shipping Federation of Canada
CSL Americas (CSL)
Nanaimo Port Authority
Pacific Pilotage Authority
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
Cowichan Valley Regional District Board
Town of Ladysmith Mayor and Council
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website