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February 12, 2020

File Number: 11-5020-30
Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

Via Email: DFO.GGFund-Fonddesef.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Contribution Program (Ghost Gear Fund)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Re: Support for the Dead Boats Disposal Society's Application for Ghost Gear Removal Funding

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Islands Trust Council, I wish to extend our sincere thanks for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's leadership in developing the **Sustainable Fisheries Solutions & Retrieval Support Contribution Program (Ghost Gear Fund)** to help preserve and protect the marine environment. I would particularly like to extend my support to the application being put forward by the **Dead Boats Disposal Society** for funding to pursue ghost gear cleanup projects in the Islands Trust Area of the Salish Sea.

As Chair of the Islands Trust Council, I can tell you that the Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies elected by 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and approximately 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. Located between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island, the Islands Trust Area includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands, covering approximately 5,200 square kilometers of the Salish Sea. The mandate of Islands Trust is to preserve and protect the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, and education. We fulfill this role in cooperation with First Nations and other agencies, and through advocacy with organizations and community.

Islands Trust Council commends the Dead Boats Disposal Society and its partners on their success in removing over 300,000 metric tons of derelict vessels and marine debris from coastal waters to date. The Society is now applying for funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Ghost Gear Fund to strengthen its capacity to locate and remove ghost gear from sensitive marine environments. We strongly encourage this initiative that will support our common interests in the conservation, protection and restoration of fish stocks and ecosystems, as well as species-at-risk, in the Salish Sea.

Once again, let me reiterate our strong support for the Dead Boats Disposal Society application for funding from the Sustainable Fisheries Solutions & Retrieval Support Contribution Program (Ghost Gear Fund).

Thank you for considering this request and for your continued leadership on this initiative.

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Ghost Gear Fund, DFO
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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Pluckham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "P" being large and prominent.

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

cc. Penelakut Tribe
Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website