



**MAY 27 2021**

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.  
Cowichan–Malahat–Langford  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. MacGregor:

Thank you for your letter of February 19, 2021, regarding your Private Member's Bill C-250 to amend the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*. I regret the delay in responding.

I share your appreciation for the incredible richness of the waters of the southern Strait of Georgia and the variety of marine life these waters support. Indeed, these are some of the characteristics that have led to the proposal to establish a national marine conservation area reserve in the region. I have read with interest your remarks on the area that is proposed for the prohibition of large vessel anchorages, and the fact that it overlaps the proposed boundary identified by Parks Canada for this national marine conservation area reserve.

Parks Canada has been conducting consultations regarding the feasibility assessment for this establishment project, and has heard significant concerns from First Nations with regard to tanker anchorages. As you point out, many local residents share the same concerns. However, the Agency does not have any jurisdiction over an area until a site is established.

Within an established national marine conservation area reserve, Transport Canada maintains jurisdiction over the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, while the *Canada Marine Conservation Areas Act* also adds the following specific provision to decisions affecting national marine conservation areas:

*4(3) Marine conservation areas shall be managed and used in a sustainable manner that meets the needs of present and future generations without compromising the structure and function of the ecosystems, including the submerged lands and water column, with which they are associated.*

As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am committed to conserving 25 percent of Canada's land and 25 percent of Canada's oceans by 2025, working toward 30 percent of each by 2030.

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50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire d'Environnement et Changement climatique Canada  
Environment and Climate Change Canada's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Service météorologique du Canada  
Meteorological Service of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary



At present, Parks Canada is collaborating with the Province of British Columbia and with Indigenous governments and communities to establish the proposed national marine conservation area reserve. A decision on the feasibility of the proposal is still pending.

I have taken the liberty of sharing our exchange of correspondence with the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport, as they have the regulatory authority to address the issues you have underlined.

I appreciate your commitment to the protection of the waters of the Salish Sea, and your bringing forward the concerns of your constituents.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable Omar Alghabra, P.C., M.P.