



Cowichan Tribes

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File No.: RTS (714) e560-220615

Cowichan Bay Ship Watch Society
4411 Kingscote Road
Cowichan Bay V0R 1N2

Via email: cbsws820@gmail.com

Dear Cowichan Bay Ship Watch Society:

Re: Your Request for a Letter of Support from Cowichan Tribes

Cowichan Bay is the centre of our cultural and traditional practices. The majority of Cowichan Tribes' villages surround Cowichan Bay because until the last couple of decades it was our "grocery store" where clams, oysters, crabs, seals and sea lions, and numerous fish were harvested. As our Elders say, "when the tide goes out, our table is set". Many sources of pollution into the bay have changed our traditional ways, but Cowichan Tribes is working together with many partners, including local governments to restore it, with the goal of safe shellfish harvest by 2020.

As you can imagine, the unacceptable threat of catastrophic marine fuel or cargo spill, anchor drag and grounding, or even the cumulative effects of continued bilge discharge into Cowichan Bay are of great concern to Cowichan Tribes. This is why we support the work of groups like the Cowichan Bay Ship Watch Society (CBSWS) who are bringing awareness to the local community and local governments, as well as to Transport Canada. Cowichan Tribes applauds the progress your group has made in eliminating two (2) of the eight (8) designated shipping anchorages in Cowichan Bay and Satellite Channel, as well as adjusting the anchorage positioning and setting a maximum ship length at each anchorage.

Cowichan Tribes looks forward to working with the CBSWS over the coming months to affect more changes to this unacceptable practice of anchoring enormous ship in our bay.

Yours truly,

Chief William C. Seymour

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