

Aug 30, 2019

Interim Anchorages Protocol

On behalf of Trevor Heryet:

Dear Peter,

Thank you very much for your detailed response to my letter of May 24th asking for feedback on the proposed extension of the Pacific Region Interim Anchorages Protocol. Our region and the National Anchorages Review team appreciate your candid comments. We also acknowledge the frustration you expressed on behalf of your community that the protocol is no longer 'interim', and that you had hoped for more rapid progress on permanent changes.

I am writing to advise you that while the National Review continues its work, the protocol's management practices will remain in place to reduce disturbance from noise and light, ensure that complaints are heard and acted upon, and support more balanced distribution of vessels across the sites. We have heard that your community expects regulation and enforcement of noise and sound levels (which are currently only guidelines), and that you would like to see more publicly-available information about ships arriving to anchor, their activity, and their proposed length of stay. I want to assure you that your input is being considered.

As you know there is considerable work underway, and still to be done, by our national review team before we have final recommendations on a new regime for the management of vessels anchoring outside public ports. Economic activity and shipping volume in southern British Columbia continues to grow, and we will need to work together to find approaches that work for as many interests as possible, to 2030 and beyond. The Interim Protocol is just a small first step. The resulting Working Group has brought government and industry together to focus on a single issue, and has significantly increased awareness of the impact of commercial anchorages on communities. The issues are already being incorporated into long-term planning by ports and marine agencies and businesses.

We look forward to expanding our early discussions with you later this year as our National Team begins its community engagement and detailed analysis. In the meantime, I urge you to take advantage of the background information about anchorages posted on our Regional Engagement Website, and assisting us by sharing it with your constituents.

Once again, thank you for writing and your commitment to collaborate.

Best regards,

Trevor

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