



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

FEB 13 2018

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



Dear Mr. MacGregor:

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 2017, expressing your support for the proposed national marine conservation area reserve in the Southern Strait of Georgia.

This is indeed an ecologically exceptional area with significant human activity, and I welcome your support for its protection. I am pleased to hear that you are receiving strong feedback in support of the proposal and that you are receiving support from Parks Canada staff. Given the number of First Nations communities with interests in the area and the variety of stakeholders, it is a challenging task that has been accepted by the Agency with great dedication and a commitment to collaboration.

Parks Canada continues to work in partnership with the Province of British Columbia and First Nations, and hopes to reach a decision on the feasibility of establishing a national marine conservation area reserve in the Southern Strait of Georgia in the near future.

The Government of Canada is committed to increasing the protection of Canada's coastal and marine waters, and the Southern Strait of Georgia is an important part of that objective.

I appreciate your support for the protection of Canada's natural heritage.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.