



Reference: 262358

April 7, 2021

VIA EMAIL: schroederc@saskpolytech.ca

Curt Schroeder, President
Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists
PO Box 962, Station F
Toronto, ON,
M4Y 2N9

Dear Curt Schroeder:

Thank you for the letter dated March 9, 2021, submitted on behalf of the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists, outlining your collective support for the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Center and WWF Canada's proposed Shoreline Protection Act. As the Executive Director of the Marine and Coastal Resources Unit at the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development (FLNRORD), the agency responsible for leading the Coastal Marine Strategy, I have been asked to provide the Province's response on behalf of Minister Heyman.

The province shares your concerns about the marine environment and takes its role as a marine steward seriously as evidenced by our decades long work to improve the management of our foreshore and submerged lands over which we have jurisdiction. For example, under the Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP), the province and our First Nations partners developed and are now implementing four marine spatial plans on the North Coast (i.e. the marine area north of Bute Inlet/Quadra Island up to the Alaska border). The MaPP plans inform provincial resource management decisions by helping ensure compatibility with local and regional values and objectives for stewardship, conservation, sustainable use, and economic development and diversification.

Where the province's interests in protecting our tidal waters fall under federal jurisdiction, we have partnered with the federal government to advance actions through several ongoing initiatives. Currently, and in partnership with Indigenous groups, the parties are working to develop an ecologically comprehensive, resilient, and representative Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network on the north coast to help protect the biological diversity and health of the marine environment for present and future generations. Other federal initiatives in which the province plays a key supporting role is the Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force, the Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping Initiative, the Anchorages Initiative, among others.

Curt Schroeder, President

As part of the government's recent mandate commitments, the Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations, in partnership with First Nations, and with support from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries, will lead work to develop a Coastal Marine Strategy that will seek to better protect coastal habitat while growing coastal economies. Initial work on the scope of the Coastal Marine Strategy is underway internally and future engagement on a draft strategy will enable local and regional values to be reflected. The development of a Coastal Marine Strategy may provide an opportunity to explore issues such as the protection and restoration of forage fish habitat and assess proposals for future action.

On behalf of the province, we appreciate your input and I look forward to future engagement on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Charlie Short
Executive Director, Coast Area

pc: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy