



Hon. Steve Thomson MLA,  
Minister Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations  
PO Box 9049,  
STN Provincial Government  
Victoria, BC,  
V8W 9E2  
15<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

Via e-mail: [FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Thomson,

We would like to commend both the provincial government and First Nations for supporting the development of the Marine Planning Partnership and for the leadership that you have shown in bringing the initial phase of this process – the development of the plans – to a successful conclusion.

As a conservation organization our mandate is to evaluate the plans to fulfill conservation outcomes. While we remain convinced that we need to provide more protection in the MaPP area we strongly support the plans as a solid foundation for moving forward. All of the plans enable improved ocean management in response to current and future threats. While the ocean environment is currently in a relatively healthy condition and supports many uses including a growing recreation and tourism sector, the plans will help to address the many challenges to maintaining a healthy ocean in the region.

We believe that these plans have been achieved as a result of the close and effective working relationship between the provincial government, the Nanwakolas Council First Nations, Coastal First Nations and the Haida Council together with stakeholders to achieve common goals. By following the ecosystem-based management approach, agreed upon by sectors who participated in the planning process, we will help to maintain and support coastal and ocean ecosystem services that all British Columbians depend upon.

We look forward to assisting with effective plan implementation and working towards continued plan improvements, through continued collaboration between the province, First Nations, the federal government and all sectors.

Sincerely,

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