

*Note: The following form letter was submitted 9 individuals (listed on the following page) as part of a letter writing campaign to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.*

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

I am writing today about the Woodfibre LNG export project in Squamish, BC, as part of the IAAC's public comment period. I have serious concerns around the proposed changes to the environmental conditions for the project. These conditions placed on the project are critical to protecting delicate marine ecosystems and ocean mammals, and I urge you to leave them in place without changes.

Currently, Woodfibre is required to implement underwater noise mitigation efforts to reduce impacts on marine mammals, including whales, orcas, dolphins, seals and sea lions. These require them to halt activities if sound levels exceed a certain level and marine mammals are in the designated area.

But I understand that now the IAAC's draft report would approve a change in the environmental conditions that would drastically reduce the size of the area being monitored for underwater noise disruption for mammals such as seals and sea lions - from 7,322 metres to 125 metres. Stellar sea lions in particular are already listed as a species of "special concern" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

Decreasing the monitoring area so drastically will most certainly have an adverse impact on these species of concern, and should not be changed simply because it creates an inconvenience for Woodfibre's construction plan.

Underwater noise could also impact prey in the surrounding area, forcing marine mammals to relocate from their critical habitat. Another issue is the creation of different noise mitigation requirements for whales and orcas, and one for seals and sea lions. The proposed amendments also exclude any reference to the impact of underwater noise on fish, birds, and other species. But this site is very important for supporting herring spawn and is very close to one of the most important salmon spawning habitats in Howe Sound and the central Strait of Georgia.

These changes provide no additional benefit for the species themselves, and serve only to benefit Woodfibre by giving it a free pass on its responsibility to reduce harm to marine life. For all these reasons and more, the environmental conditions for Woodfibre LNG should remain in place in order to protect Howe Sound's critical species.

From: (Name)

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