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<u>And</u>

Marian Ngo, Executive Director Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association (SSIGA) 4116 Georgia Street Burnaby, BC V5C 2T4

August 4 2022

<u>Re: Birds Canada Support for a Phased Indigenous Led Regional Assessment for Fraser River Estuary and</u> <u>Salish Sea</u>

Birds Canada is, in principal, supportive of the request from the Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association for a phased, Regional Assessment of the Salish Sea so long as the Terms of Reference clearly articulate a commitment to Indigenous leadership in the process. Twenty-two years of community-based monitoring of coastal birds indicates declining populations of fish eating and bottom feeding birds in the Salish Sea. Birds Canada believes this is an indication of more systemic declines in the ecological condition of the Salish Sea. The Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association has suggested an initial focus on traditional food sources and Birds Canada is supportive of this focus as it both addresses past, current and future impacts on Coast Salish rights but also links to a more holistic understanding of ecological condition of the Salish Sea. A multi-year Coast Salish led Regional Assessment has the potential to shift the current project-by-project approach to one able to support longer-term stewardship of this globally significant and locally treasured ecosystem.

Birds Canada is aware of the complexity behind determining whether or not to proceed with a Regional Assessment. As such, this submission contains three sections addressing a range of issues that need to be considered. The first section reflects Birds Canada's views on the factors to be weighed as outlined in the Operational Guide: Requesting a Regional or Strategic Assessments. The second section recommends elements that need to be included in the Terms of Reference and subsequent process if a Regional Assessment is to be a useful tool for addressing the ecological health of the Fraser Estuary and Salish Sea. In the final section Birds Canada has provided a table of monitoring programs and research projects we are aware of that may be of use to the Impact Assessment Agency and Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association should a Regional Assessment proceed.

The original submission from the Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association indicates concern about the status of the Fraser River estuary and the comparative impacts of the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) project and the DeltaPort 4 (DP4) project. The recommended comparative study of the potential impacts between RBT2 and DP4 provides a good example of the type of potential impacts to federally managed migratory birds from development on federal lands that a Regional Assessment could help the P.O. Box 160, 115 Front Road

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Government of Canada avoid. Environment and Climate Change Canada scientists have warned of immediate, un-mitigatable, species-level risks to migratory birds such as the Western Sandpiper and other shorebirds should RBT2 proceed as currently designed.¹ While the full impacts of DP4 have yet to be assessed, the DP4 project would not alter the salinity of water flowing across Brunswick Point and therefore would not put the world's population of Western Sandpiper at risk. This type of information about trade-offs between projects is not considered in the existing project focused Impact Assessments. Therefore, Birds Canada is supportive of the establishment of a phased, Indigenous led, Regional Assessment so long as meaningful public participation resulting in science and Indigenous knowledge-based thresholds are built into the process.

Factors to be weighed in support of a Regional Assessment as outlined in the Operational Guide: Requesting a Regional or Strategic Assessments

As per the Operational Guide: Requesting a Regional or Strategic Assessment² under the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Minister will be considering a number of factors when deciding whether to proceed with a Regional Assessment, including if:

- the regional assessment could inform future federal impact assessment decisions;
- there is the potential for effects from development within federal jurisdiction, including cumulative effects, in the region;
- there are opportunities for collaboration with jurisdictions in the region;
- there is the potential for impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the rights of Indigenous people in the region; and
- there has been considerable public interest related to development or cumulative effects in the region.

Birds Canada believes a Regional Assessment would be deliver on all the identified factors within the Operational Guide.

A Regional Assessment could inform current and future Impact Assessment processes for a large number of projects proposed in the region. The request for a Regional Assessment from the Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association lists at least 17 current and foreseeable projects likely to trigger Impact Assessment criteria. In addition to the projects listed the National Trade Corridors Fund has committed more than \$2.1 billion towards marine, air, rail and road projects with funding intended to

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¹ Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2022, Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Review of Information Request 2020-4: Biofilm and Effects to Migratory Birds, and Appendix IR2020-4, Online: <u>Highlighted_RBT2_ECCC_comments_on_final_IR_response_final.pdf</u> (againstportexpansion.org) Accessed 2022-08-04.

² Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, <u>Operational Guide: Requesting a Regional or Strategic Assessment under</u> <u>the Impact Assessment Act - Canada.ca</u>, Accessed 2022-07-25.



continue until 2028.³ It is unknown by public organizations such as Birds Canada which projects may eventually be supported by this fund but local media has identified additional foreseeable projects, such as the planned Vancouver International Airport runway expansion⁴ and new cruise ship terminals⁵ that are also likely to trigger federal impact assessments should they proceed. The long term vision to further build out the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority as a trade gateway for the Asia Pacific means many more projects likely to trigger federal Impact Assessment will be proposed for this region, all of which could benefit from a Regional Assessment and the baseline data collected in support of such an assessment.

The Federal Review Panel Report for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project stated "...it is evident that the marine ecosystem of the Fraser River estuary is increasingly being threatened by the cumulative effects of development and human activities" and "The Panel further agrees that the requirement for a regional assessment is overdue and needs to be given serious consideration by governments, as well as how the outcome of such an assessment will be tied to management objectives."⁶ The panel went on to recommend, "The Panel recommends the Government of Canada undertake two regional environmental assessments for the Fraser River estuary and the Salish Sea to establish an environmental baseline, identify environmental and cumulative effects of the areas, and mitigation and follow-up requirements. The regional assessment should be used to develop and implement Intergovernmental Management Programs of the Fraser River estuary and the Salish Sea (See Recommendation 68)."⁷ As identified by the Federal Review Panel for Roberts Bank Terminal 2, the Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association and a number of other relevant parties it is time Canada take a more regional approach to the management of impacts in the Salish Sea.

As the conclusions from the Federal Review Panel for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project confirms, there are past and potential future effects, including cumulative effects from development within federal jurisdiction and on federal lands taking place within the Fraser River estuary and Salish Sea. The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority manages federal lands as defined in *the Impact Assessment Act* where a number of these projects are being proposed. In addition to being the entity proposing the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project the Port Authority also manages federal lands that are the source of additional potential effects such as those associated with the DP4 and Tilbury Island LNG projects. The Vancouver Airport Authority, an entity under federal jurisdiction, is another potential source of cumulative effects through planned runway expansion. Lastly, rail corridors are federal lands and are contributing to

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³ Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund. Online: <u>National Trade Corridors Fund (canada.ca)</u> Accessed 2022-07-25.

⁴ Vancouver International Airport, YVR 2037 Master Plan, Online:

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjRno7z95T5AhX5GTQIHek4 C2cQFnoECB4QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.yvr.ca%2F-%2Fmedia%2Fyvr%2Fdocuments%2Fmasterplan%2Fyvr-2037-master-plan.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2MPX1v-BRAVVMC2BwgQ4tM Accessed 2022-07-25

⁵ Sandor Gyarmati, Will Delta be home to new cruise ship terminal? *Delta Optimist* Online: <u>Port looking at Delta as</u> <u>potential new stop for cruise ships - Delta Optimist (delta-optimist.com)</u> Accessed: 2022-07-25

⁶Review Panel for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project, Federal Review Panel Report for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project, Online: https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p80054/134506E.pdf Accessed: 2022-07-25

⁷ Review Panel for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project.



cumulative environmental effects across the Fraser River delta by contributing to impacts on Species At Risk⁸, as well as impacting air quality.⁹

Other jurisdictions in the region are suffering the consequences of impacts originating from within federal jurisdiction or on federal lands, and have reached out to the federal government requesting collaboration across jurisdictions in the region. Locally, both the City of Delta and the City of Richmond have reached out to the federal government requesting engagement. The City of Delta specifically requested "the federal and provincial governments to undertake a regional environmental assessment of the Fraser River estuary and Salish Sea, and develop a long-term environmental management plan for the region to guide conservation efforts and sustainable development, consistent with recommendations in the Federal Review Panel Report."¹⁰ Metro Vancouver has made a similar request for participation from relevant federal agencies in a taskforce exploring the re-establishment of a Fraser River Estuary Management Plan. At the provincial level, the BC Government has expressed a willingness to work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to find alignment between the BC Government's commitment to a Coastal Marine Strategy and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans commitment to develop a Marine Spatial Plan for the Salish Sea.

The request from SSIGA also highlights the international transboundary nature of impacts occurring in the region. Within the context of the RBT2 project there is a request from the State of Washington and the US Environmental Protection Agency for engagement in addressing potential effects arising from proposed development; "Given the national significance of the Puget Sound ecosystem to the United States and our constituents and the sovereign tribal governments of the region, we respectfully urge that the Government of Canada ensure that all significant matters of substance raised by U.S. interests be fully aired and resolved with those raising the matters prior to a final decision on this project. In addition, we urge the Government of Canada to address all significant matters of process raised by U.S. interests as well. Finally, should the project move forward, we hope that opportunities, forums and mechanisms will be provided to address ongoing issues or potential risk responses with the U.S. entities and stakeholders that have raised them."¹¹ These are but a few of the recent request made to the federal government from other jurisdictions to collaborate on addressing impacts arising from federal jurisdiction. The unique powers provided under section 93(1)(a)(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* to

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⁸ Sofi Hindmarch et al. 2017. Habitat use by barn owls across a rural to urban gradient and an assessment of stressors including habitat loss, rodenticide exposure and road mortality. *Landscape and Urban Planning* Online: <u>Habitat use by barn owls across a rural to urban gradient and an assessment of stressors including, habitat loss, rodenticide exposure and road mortality - ScienceDirect</u> Accessed: 2022-07-25

⁹ Metro Vancouver, Clean Air Plan 2021. Online: <u>Clean Air Plan 2021 (metrovancouver.org)</u> Accessed: 2022-07-25 ¹⁰ Office of Mayor George V. Harvie, Letter from City of Delta to Right Honourable Justin Trudeau Re Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Proposal. Online: <u>Justin_Trudeau_RB_T2_Proposal_Feb_14_2022.pdf (delta.ca)</u> Accessed: 2022-07-25 ¹¹ United Stated Environmental Protection Agency Region 10, August 27, 2020 letter to Terence Hubbard Vice President of Operations, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. Online: <u>EPA_Letter_Roberts_Bank_Terminal_2.pdf</u> (<u>thenarwhal.ca</u>) Accessed: 2022-07-25



enter into agreements with other jurisdictions to establish joint committees charged with undertaking Regional Assessment provides a mechanism for collaboration not found in other processes.

It is not for Birds Canada to comment on potential impacts on the rights of Indigenous people. Instead we will simply highlight that the Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association indicated in their letter that, "The impacts on the ecosystem from dredging, pollution, increased marine traffic (to name a few) have degraded water quality, eroded riverbanks, damaged fish habitats...etc., effectively destroying our harvests and access to safe and healthy foods. This means Salish Indigenous communities do not have reasonable ability to exercise our traditional rights."¹² For more details, we encourage the Government of Canada to directly engage the indigenous peoples of the Salish Sea and Fraser Estuary.

Birds Canada can confirm there has been considerable public interest related to development or cumulative effects in the region. The region continues to experience ongoing protest related to the approved Trans-Mountain Pipeline project. To see the protest continue 3 years after a project received approval is highly unusual, and is a demonstration of the depth of public interest in the effects from federal jurisdiction. There is also considerable public concern about the proposed RBT2 project with the Impact Assessment Agency and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada having received at least 16,292 letters from Canadians and another 3,200 from concerned individuals around the world.¹³ The Fraser River estuary has been identified as a Key Biodiversity Area of global significance and the global conservation community is concerned about the effects of federally supported development on the condition of the estuary. The community is so concerned that BirdLife International, Wetlands International, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and WWF-International submitted a request to the Ramsar Secretariat that Canada submit a report on whether the Fraser River Estuary Ramsar Site is at risk of undergoing a change in ecological character due proposed development.¹⁴ From grassroots community groups to the international conservation community there is great concern and interest in the future of the Fraser River estuary and Salish Sea.

Recommended elements to include in the Terms of Reference for a Salish Sea Regional Assessment

The Regional Assessment mechanism has the potential to help communities of Salish Sea make the transition to a Nature and Climate Positive existence but only if we don't repeat mistakes of the past. It is essential that the Newfoundland Offshore Oil and Gas Regional Assessment <u>not</u> be the model for a Regional Assessment across the Salish Sea. A Regional Assessment can only be an improvement on the

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¹² Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association, June 21, 2022 Letter submitted to the Honourable Steven Guilbeault. Re: Request for a Multi-Phase Impact Assessment – Salish Sea. Online: <u>https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p83741/144208E.pdf</u> Accessed 2022-07-25

¹³ Simon Valdez Juarez et al. May 10, 2022 Letter submitted to the Honourable Steven Guuilbeault Re: Growing public opposition to the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project. Unpublished.

¹⁴ Melanie Heath et al. July, 2022. Letter submitted to Mrs. Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention Re Letter from International Organization Partners to Ramsar Secretariat regarding change in ecological character of the Fraser River Estuary Ramsar site. Unpublished.



current context if the Indigenous peoples of the Salish Sea are part of the leadership committee defining the process. In addition, the public and experts need to be able to participate in an ongoing assessment of the cumulative effects on biodiversity and ecosystem health in a manner that can inform both sitespecific assessments and longer term strategic plans. The Terms of Reference must also clearly indicate the process will not result in the exemption of activities and classes of projects from future federal impact assessments as that will only undermine public trust in the process. Below are a few elements that experience has taught need to be part of applying the Regional Assessment mechanism if it is to prove beneficial:

- Indigenous leadership needs to be clearly established with an *Impact Assessment Act* Section 93(1)(a) agreement with Salish Sea Indigenous communities to establish a governance arrangement for undertaking the assessment.
- 2. A commitment to Salish Indigenous rights and worldviews guiding the goals, objectives and thresholds needs to be included in the Terms of Reference for any Regional Assessment.
- 3. The Terms of Reference should clearly indicate that the Regional Assessment will not lead to the exemption of activities or classes of activities.
- 4. The Terms of Reference should clearly define the scope of the Regional Assessment as the Salish Sea, and define how the phased timelines will ensure scaling from the Fraser Estuary to the Salish Sea.
- 5. Meaningful public participation should be structured such that it enables the exercise of citizen power through processes of facilitated collaboration.
- 6. The Terms of Reference should include climate mitigation and adaptation commitments as part of the values to be accessed.
- 7. Any Decision Support Tools developed need to be publically accessible early in the process.
- 8. Science and traditional knowledge based thresholds are needed at the end of the process to bring clarity and efficiency to decision making.
- 9. Goals and objectives need to be supported by a monitoring framework that can support an adaptive management approach, which identifies resourcing for long term monitoring, and scheduled 5-year reviews of the assessment.
- 10. A definition of the precautionary principle aligned with international understandings of the concept needs to be included within the Terms of Reference.
- 11. The Terms of Reference will need to identify how Canada's international commitments are to be maintained throughout the process.

Should the Impact Assessment Agency acknowledge the existing context is worthy of a Regional Assessment and commit to an Indigenous led Regional Assessment with sufficient public participation, Birds Canada and the broader avian conservation community has a number of projects and programs underway that would be of relevance to a Regional Assessment. We have summarized some of the relevant projects and programs in Table 1, and look forward to engaging the Impact Assessment Agency

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and Indigenous communities in a discussion about how these projects and programs can inform a Regional Assessment.

Table 1 List of Bird Focused Monitoring Programs and Research Underway for Fraser River Estuary / Salish Sea

Fraser River Estuary and Salish Sea Long Term Monitoring Programs			
Program Name	Geographic Area	Number of Years	Leads
		Running	
BC Coastal	Canadian Portion of	22 Years	Remi Torrenta – Birds Canada
Waterbird Survey	Salish Sea Region		
Beached Bird Survey	Canadian Portion of	22 Years	Remi Torrenta – Birds Canada
	Salish Sea Region		
BC Marsh	Fraser River Estuary	2 years	WildResearch / Remi Torrenta
Monitoring Program			
Indigenous	Salish Sea	4 years	Remi Torrenta – Birds Canada
Monitoring of			
Marine Birds			
BC Breeding Bird	All of BC with	4 Year Survey – 2008-	David Bradley – Birds Canada
Atlas	coverage of Salish	2012	
	Sea		
WildResearch Bird	Portion of Fraser	12 years	WildResearch
Banding Program	River Estuary		
Migratory Shorebird	Americas with	12 years	Point Blue
Project	Fraser River Estuary		
	site		
Canadian Migration	Canada wide –	24 years	Birds Canada
Monitoring Network	Including Salish Sea		
	Sites	10	
Motus Wildlife	Americas with Salish	10 years	Amie MacDonald – Birds
	Sea Sites	26	Canada Birda Canada, Natura Canada
Important Bird and	Global with Salish	26 years	Birds Canada, Nature Canada
Biodiversity Area	Sea Sites		and BC Nature
Christmas Bird	Clobal with Salish	122 years	Vousif Attia Birds Canada
Count			Fousil Attia – Birus Callada
San Juan Islands	JIS - Salish Sea	2 years	Kwiaht
Shorehird	Region		Kwiant
Monitoring Program	Region		
Lonez Island Seahird	US – Salish Sea	12 years	Kwiaht
Surveys	Region		
Puget Sound Seahird	US – Salish Sea	15 years	Audubon Washington
Survey	Region		

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WDFW Winter Aerial	US – Salish Sea	32 years	Washington Department of
Seabird Surveys	Region		Fish and Wildlife
Marine bird vessel-	Salish Sea	4 years	ECCC-Canadian Wildlife Service
based transects			
North Pacific Pelagic	North Pacific	40+ years	US Geological Survey
Seabird Database	including Salish Sea		
Coastal Observation	US Portion of Salish	23 Years	University of Washington
and Seabird Survey	Sea		
Team			
Puget Sound	US / Canada Salish	~31 Years inclusive of	Audubon Washington
Ecosystem	Sea	precursor – Puget	
Monitoring Program		Sound Ambient	
Marine Birds		Monitoring Program	
Working Group			
Pigeon Guillemot	US Salish Sea	18 years	Whidbey Audubon
Breeding Survey			
Fraser River Estuary a	nd Salish Sea Research	Projects	
Program Name	Geographic Area	Number of Years	Leads
		Running	
Dunlin Movement	Fraser River Estuary	2 Years	Amie MacDonald – Birds
Research			Canada
Salish Sea Sea Duck	Salish Sea	2 Months	David Bradley – Birds Canada
Habitat Modeling			
Western Sandpiper	Fraser River Estuary	5 years?	Environment and Climate
Migration and	and Vancouver		Change Canada (Mark Drever,
Stopover	Island		Scott Flemming)
Dunlin Migration	Pacific Flyway	1 Year	The Nature Conservancy /
and Physiology in	(primary site		Point Blue Conservation
Response to	California Central		Science
Drought	Valley, secondary		
	sites Fraser River		
	Estuary and western		
	Mexico)		
Harlequin Duck	Salish Sea	Ongoing Research	Matt Hamer
habitat modelling			
Stillaguamish Tribe	US Salish Sea	3 Years	Stillaguamish Tribe
Waterfowl Banding			
Surf Scoter Feeding	Salish Sea	Ongoing Research	Environment and Climate
Behavior Study			Change Canada
Western Sandpipers	Fraser River Estuary	2 Years	University of Saskatchewan /
Microplastic			Birds Canada / Environment
Ingestion and			and Climate Change Canada
Migratory Behaviour			

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and Physiology			
Study			
Fraser River Estuary a	nd Salish Sea Conservat	ion Planning Programs	
Program Name	Geographic Area	Number of Years	Leads
		Running	
Important Birds and	Global with Fraser	26 Years	BirdLife International, Birds
Biodiversity Area	Estuary Site		Canada and Nature Canada
(Key Biodiversity			
Areas)			
Western	Western	37 Years	WHSRN Hemisphere Council
Hemisphere	Hemisphere With		
Shorebird Reserve	Fraser River Estuary		
Network	Site		
Ramsar	Global Convention	51 years	Ramsar Secretariat
	with Fraser Estuary		
	Ramsar Site		
Pacific Birds Habitat	Pacific Coast of	23 years	Environment and Climate
Joint Venture	Americas with BC		Change Canada
	Coast		
	Implementation		
	Plan		
Puget Sound	Salish Sea	15 Years	Leadership Council
Partnership Decific Flavour	Desific coast of	71 Voore	Staffand Labr Chain Dasifia
Pacific Flyway	Pacific coast of	/1 Years	Stanord Lenr Chair, Pacific
	North America wide	22 4000	Cathoring Hickory Vice Chair
Conservation	with a Dacific Elyman	22 years	Catherine Hickey, vice Chair
Dartnorship	focused strategy		Derthorship
See Duck Joint	Marine	22 Voars	$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}$
Venture	Environments of	25 16015	chair of Sea Duck Joint Venture
venture	North America		chair of Sea Duck Joint Venture
Esquimalt Lagoon	Section of Salish Sea	2 vears	Lindsey McCrank
Stewardshin			
Initiative			
Pacific Estuary	Pacific Coast of BC	33 years	Ducks Unlimited
Conservation	including sites in the		
Program	Salish Sea		
Resilient Saanich	Canada Salish Sea	2 years	Saanich
Initiative			
Island Trust Species	Canada Salish Sea	1 year	Island Trust Conservancy
At Risk Initiative			
Relevant Peer Reviewed Publications			
Publication Title	Geographic Area	Authors	Link

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Twenty years of	South Coast of	Danielle Ethier Pete	Avian Conservation and
coastal waterbird	British Columbia	Davidson Graham H	Ecology: Twenty years of
trends suggest		Sorenson Karen I	coastal waterbird trends
regional natterns of		Barry Karen	suggest regional natterns of
environmental		Devitt Catherine B	environmental pressure in
nressure in British		lardine Denis	British Columbia, Canada (ace-
Columbia Canada		Lenage and David W	eco org)
conditiona, canada		Bradley.	
The status, ecology	Fraser River Delta	Robert Butler. David	https://bcbirds.bcfo.ca/special-
and conservation of		Bradley and James	issue/
internationally		Casev	
important			
bird populations on			
the Fraser River			
delta. British			
Columbia, Canada			
Status and	Fraser River Estuary	Robert W. Butler,	ferf.pdf (secureservercdn.net)
Distribution of		Rod MacVicar,	
Marine Birds and		Andrew R. Couturier ,	
Mammals in the		Sonya Richmond,	
Fraser River Estuary,		and Holly A.	
British Columbia		Middleton	
2016-2017			
"Seas of risk":	Eastern Canada but	David J. Lieske, Laura	"Seas of risk": Assessing the
Assessing the	relevant methods	McFarlane	threats to colonial-nesting
threats to colonial-	for understanding	Tranquilla, Robert	<u>seabirds in Eastern Canada -</u>
nesting seabirds in	cumulative risk to	A.Ronconi, Sue	ScienceDirect
Eastern Canada	seabirds.	Abbott	
Bycatch and	Coastal BC	Nathalie J. Hamel,	<u>37_1_41-60.pdf</u>
Beached Birds:		Alan E. Burger, Kristin	(marineornithology.org)
Assessing Mortality		Charleton, Peter	
Impacts in Coastal		Davidson, Sandi Lee,	
Net Fisheries Using		Douglas F. Bertram	
Marine Bird		and Julia K. Parrish	
Strandings			
Seasonal variability	Coastal BC	Patrick D. O'Hara,	Seasonal variability in
in vulnerability for		Stephanie Avery-	vulnerability for Cassin's
Cassin's auklets		Gomm, Jocelyn	auklets (Ptychoramphus
(Ptychoramphus		Wood, Victoria	aleuticus) exposed to
aleuticus) exposed		Bowes, Laurie	microplastic pollution in the
to microplastic		Wilson, Ken H.	Canadian Pacific region -
pollution in the		Morgan, W. Sean	<u>ScienceDirect</u>

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Canadian Pacific		Boyd, J. Mark	
region		Hipfner, Jean-Pierre	
		Desforges, Douglas F.	
		Bertram, Charles	
		Hannah, Peter S.	
		Ross	
A preliminary spatial	Coastal BC	C.H. Fox, P.D. O'Hara,	A preliminary spatial
assessment of risk:		S. Bertazzon, K.	assessment of risk: Marine
Marine birds and		Morgan, F.E.	birds and chronic oil pollution
chronic oil pollution		Underwood, P.C.	on Canada's Pacific coast
on Canada's Pacific		Paquet	(core.ac.uk)
coast			

The Fraser River estuary and Salish Sea is a site of global importance and treasured by all of us that call it home. Unfortunately the evidence at hand points to a decline in the ecological health of the region.¹⁵ A new approach to planning development in the region is needed and a phased Regional Assessment with shared leadership between Canada and Indigenous peoples of the Salish Sea has the potential to be a useful part of that new approach.

Sincerely,

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Fraser River Estuary Specialist

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¹⁵ K.L. Sobocinski, (2021). State of the Salish Sea. G. Broadhurst and N.J.K. Baloy (Contributing Eds.). Salish Sea Institute, Western Washington University. <u>https://doi.org/10.25710/vfhb-3a69</u> P.O. Box 160, 115 Front Road