
From: Leah de Montreuil <leah.demontreuil@pc.gc.ca>
Sent: July 20, 2022 4:46 PM
To: Myles,Debra (IAAC/AEIC)
Cc: Katherine Cumming; Lee Montgomery
Subject: Parks Canada's Response to the request for a RA in the Salish Sea

Hi Debra,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to inform IAAC's recommendation to the Minister on whether or not to conduct a regional assessment in the Salish Sea.

Background Information: Southern Strait of Georgia NMCAR Proposal (SSG NMCAR)

In 2011, Canada and British Columbia announced a proposed 1400-square-kilometre boundary for a national marine conservation area reserve in the southern Strait of Georgia.

Parks Canada, Indigenous Partners and BC are currently working on completing a feasibility assessment for the proposed SSG NMCAR. Under a Canada-BC 2011 Statement of Intent that confirmed a boundary for consultation, work since 2016 has focused on engaging the First Nations potentially impacted by the proposal and information sharing with non-FN stakeholders (NGO's, Municipal Governments, shipping, commercial fishing, local communities, etc.). The leadership of eleven First Nations have formed the Indigenous Management Board to collaborate in their relationship with Parks Canada. There are seven other First Nations with territories adjacent to the proposed SSG NMCAR including Tsawwassen First Nation which has a treaty right to harvest within the proposed boundary.

Considerations:

The proposed SSG NMCAR is within the area proposed for the regional assessment. As noted above the establishment process involves a partnership with Indigenous nations in the region. First Nations directly involved in the feasibility assessment process for the proposed SSG NMCAR:

- Cowichan Tribes
- Halalt First Nation
- Lyackson First Nation
- Malahat First Nation
- Penelakut Tribe
- Snuneymuw First Nation
- Stz'uminus First Nation
- W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council
- Pauquachin First Nation

The Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association (SSIGA) appears to be representative of only a few nations from the mainland. We are uncertain how other First Nations with interests in the region (e.g. First Nations representing Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands) have been engaged or represented and whether or not they support this RA request. In addition, given existing initiatives and the proposed large geographic scope, there could be implications for partnerships between Parks Canada and other government bodies (e.g. provincial, First Nations, Washington state, etc.) on future initiatives (e.g. protected area management agreements, etc.) if the RA proceeds, depending on how the assessment work is conducted.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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I acknowledge my place of work is within the ancestral, traditional and unceded territory of the WSÁNEĆ Peoples, represented by the Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum, Pauquachin and Malahat Nations. I acknowledge the deep connection of the First Peoples to their lands and am grateful for their protection of these lands since time immemorial.