

14 March 2014

The Honourable Gail Shea,
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans,
Ottawa, ON
Via Email: gail.shea@parl.gc.ca

RE: Proposals to expand aquaculture development in Baynes Sound

Dear Minister Shea,

I write to you on behalf of BC Nature (the Federation of BC Naturalists), to express our deep concern regarding proposals to expand aquaculture development in Baynes Sound on Vancouver Island.

BC Nature is a non-profit society of naturalists in British Columbia with over 5,000 members, and is the lead provincial group for the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program in BC. This is an international program coordinated by BirdLife International and partnering with non-profit, environmental organizations in 170 countries around the world.

The ecological richness of Baynes Sound is demonstrated not only by its high suitability for aquaculture, but also by the globally significant K'omoks Important Bird Area located there. The Sound is one of the most important areas for wintering water birds in BC.

If aquaculture development increases incrementally in Baynes Sound, not only may aquaculture become unsustainable, but the ecosystem may be altered in detrimental ways. BC Nature therefore calls upon the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to halt all new aquaculture in Baynes Sound, until such time that a cumulative impact assessment can determine the viability of expanded shellfish farming and its broader impacts on the natural ecosystem.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns and our request for a moratorium on aquaculture in Baynes Sound, and look forward to hearing your intentions at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



John Neville
President
Federation of BC Naturalists (BC Nature)

cc Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Natural Resource Operations -
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

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