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April 4, 2016

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
Local Government House
525 Government Street
Victoria, BC V8V 0A8

VIA EMAIL

Dear Executive Coordinator Cookson, AVICC Mayors, Councillors and Directors:

Re: Resolution R30 Abandoned or Derelict Vessels Programs

Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA) is a non-profit citizens' organization that works to protect and restore the marine environment and promote the sustainability of the Strait of Georgia, one of Canada's most at-risk environments, and its adjoining waters and communities. Founded in 1990, GSA has over 1200 members and supporters who work collectively to address root causes of threats to the Strait and find solutions that protect it.

Georgia Strait Alliance is the recipient of two Canadian Safe Boating Awards for our green boating program and for 'Safeguarding the Environment'. Clean Marine BC has also received the prestigious Yachtsman Spring Thaw Luncheon National Environment Award and the President's Award from the Environmental Managers' Association of BC. We are a long-standing member of the Pacific Regional Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC), and we have been a strong advocate for solutions to pollution from recreational boating, including providing insightful input to the initial Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals Regulations.

Our interest in the proposed resolution is in regards to protecting the Georgia Strait's marine and shoreline environments, and the species, communities and economies that depend on them, from the impacts of abandoned and derelict vessels.

We support in principle your resolution to establish a much-needed "Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program" and an "End of Life Vessel Disposal Program".

In our opinion, the proposed funding sources could be narrowed down to a reasonable and mandatory annual vessel registration fee. Fees on moorage and insurance could be counterproductive to the desired outcome, possibly deterring boaters from mooring and insuring their vessel and increasing the risk that those vessels become abandoned or derelict. A simple and fair registration fee would improve traceability of boat owners, a necessary component to a successful program, and also garner broader support from boaters and the marine industry. As such, we hope you will consider this suggested amendment to your resolution.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our input, and for working to find a long-overdue solution to problematic abandoned and derelict vessels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'myj', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Young
Clean Marine BC Program Coordinator

cc. Saanich Councillor Judy Brownoff