



June 3, 2015

Via email

RE: Marine Protected Areas in Canada, Federal Recommendations for 2015

Dear Members of Parliament,

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are one of the most powerful tools we have to protect marine species, ecosystems, and nature-based economies. We support and commend Canada’s efforts to expand marine protection; however, we feel that much more must be done to ensure the health of our ocean resources for the future. **Only 1 per cent of Canada’s marine territory is protected today, far from our commitment through the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to protect at least 10 per cent by 2020.**

We have enclosed a series of recommendations regarding marine protected areas that will guide Canada toward meeting this important international commitment, while ensuring that current and future MPAs have sufficient integrity to effectively safeguard ocean resources.

These recommendations were jointly drafted by Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, David Suzuki Foundation, Ecology Action Centre, Greenpeace, Living Oceans Society, and World Wildlife Fund Canada. As some of Canada’s largest and most active conservation organizations, we represent a broad spectrum of Canadians who are concerned about the health of Canada’s oceans from coast to coast to coast.

We would like to see these recommendations explicitly reflected in federal policy, and we look forward to discussing them with you at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact our organizations should you have any questions or require additional information.

For more information:

- Sabine Jessen, National Director, Oceans Program, CPAWS, sabine@cpawsbc.org
- Bill Wareham, Projects Manager, Western Canada, David Suzuki Foundation, bwareham@davidsuzuki.org
- Katie Schleit, Marine Campaign Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, kschleit@ecologyaction.ca
- Sarah King, Senior Oceans Strategist, Greenpeace, sarah.king@greenpeace.org
- Karen Wristen, Executive Director, Living Oceans Society, kwristen@livingoceans.org
- Bettina Saier, Vice President, Oceans, WWF-Canada, bsaier@wwfcanada.org

Enclosure, Marine Protected Areas in Canada, Federal Recommendations for 2015