

From: Islands2050
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 1:08 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Islands Trust Proposed Bylaw Statement
Attachments: Letter to Jeanine Dodds re Islands Trust Proposed Bylaw.docx

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 4:16 PM
To: Jeanine Dodds <jdodds@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Trustees <Trustees@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Islands Trust Proposed Bylaw Statement

Hi Jeanine,
Please see the attached letter regarding the Island Trust proposed Bylaw statement.

Regards, Mike Sywulich

ISLANDS TRUST PROPOSED BYLAW STATEMENT

Jeanine Dodds,
Mayne Island, Islands Trust

June 27, 2021

Dear Jeanine,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the proposed Islands Trust Bylaw Policy Statement, specifically sections 4.6.7 and 4.6.14, to limit and prohibit private docks to boat access only properties and its potential negative impact on recreational boating, inter island travel and safety. The Islands Trust staff claim active public consultation has occurred, but I question the validity of that claim.

I purchased my waterfront property on Mayne Island in 1986, looking forward to enjoying fishing and boating when it was convenient for me and my family regardless of tide levels. My dock was built in the mid 1990s by a local contractor. I decided to build a dock after my brother slipped on the rocks, injuring his knee while disembarking from a dinghy at low tide. Since then, we have enjoyed safe access for recreational boating, allowing us to take visitors to other islands to play golf, swim in the Poets Cove pool on Pender Island and have lunch at pubs on Salt Spring and Pender Islands. Has the Islands Trust taken into consideration the financial impact that private docks have on inter island travel as well as the tax implications for water leases?

While scuba diving in Village Bay, I discovered it consists mostly of sand and mud with a narrow corridor of rocks along the shoreline with little or no shelter for fish. The growth of sea life under my dock is amazing, while a large number of small fish take refuge to escape the sun or to hide from predators.

Mayne Island does not have a marina like Pender or Salt Spring. The Government docks provide space for a limited number of private boats. In the event of a major fire, private docks would be the main source for removing at risk residents. Note, the RCMP boat uses a private dock in Village Bay for gaining access to Mayne Island from Pender Island. The added time to travel to Miners Bay could be critical in an emergency. Would this dock be allowed to stay as an exception and a point of dispute to the rest of dock owners?

I spend an estimated 40% of my time on Mayne Island travelling from Vancouver. Mayne Island depends on a large number of active volunteers to function properly. As a volunteer, I have served 7 years on the Association of Mayne Island Boaters, 7 years on the Ferry Advisory Committee and 11 years as a Trustee on the Village Point Improvement District. Can you imagine my disappointment when seeing Islands Trust staff and Trustees put forward a proposal such as this and take away a such a large source of enjoyment from me? This is the thanks I get?

The Islands Trust has a mandate to preserve and protect the Southern Gulf Islands for the benefit of residents. I never imagined that a proposal would come forward to remove a benefit that has been in place for many years and limit our access to water activities.

Regards,

Mike Sywulich
Mayne Island, B.C.

