

Thursday, July 16, 2026

The Honourable Joanne Thompson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Re: Follow-up to BC Nature's April 2026 Comments on Proposed Amendments to the Marine Mammal Regulations

Dear Minister Thompson,

In April 2026, BC Nature provided comments on the proposed amendments to the *Marine Mammal Regulations*, with particular emphasis on strengthening protections for Southern Resident Killer Whales and other marine mammals. While we did not receive a direct response to our submission, we acknowledge the important measures your government has since implemented, including the 1,000-metre minimum approach distance for Southern Resident Killer Whales, mandatory vessel management measures in key areas of the Salish Sea, and new investments to support whale recovery.

These are positive steps. As attention now turns to the long-term implementation of these measures, we would appreciate an update on the anticipated timeline for finalizing the permanent amendments to the *Marine Mammal Regulations*. We would also welcome information on how the recently announced investments will be implemented and how progress toward the recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales will be measured and reported.

We remain concerned about several issues raised in our original submission, including the reduced approach distance for Bigg's Killer Whales and the need to ensure that vessel management measures provide lasting and effective protection for all at-risk marine mammals.

BC Nature represents 64 member organizations focused on nature, conservation, and environmental stewardship, with more than 6,000 members across British Columbia. We remain committed to working collaboratively with the Government of Canada to support the recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales and the conservation of Canada's marine ecosystems.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Sellers".

Harold Sellers
President, BC Nature

Reference: <https://bcnature.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026-05-Updated-Marine-Mammal-SRKW.pdf>