



Gwaii Haanas Tour Operators Association

Fostering Quality, Ethics and Communication
www.gwaiihaanastours.bc.ca

3 - 252 East 1st Street
North Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V7L 1B3

Dec. 20, 2002

Gwaii Haanas Archipelago Management Board
Box 909, Queen Charlotte, BC
Haida Gwaii
V0T 1S0

Dear Sirs / Madame,

Members of the Gwaii Haanas Tour Operators Association would like to express our support for the creation of the Marine Conservation Area in Gwaii Haanas. We believe that the Marine Conservation Area (MCA) could be a positive approach to conservation as well as a means of encouraging responsible and sustainable seafood harvesting in the area.

Though we do support the creation of the MCA, it must be stated that our members also have concerns regarding the possibility that we may lose our right to harvest a sustainable quantity of seafood in Gwaii Haanas. There are visitors and tour operators in Gwaii Haanas who harvest only enough seafood to supplement their diet each day. These people eat all the seafood they collect, on the same day and in the same location that the seafood is collected; there is no preservation or transportation of the harvest. This small number of people collecting in this respectful manner obviously does not cause fish stocks to decline significantly. Our members wish to inquire if this small-scale, sustainable harvesting method will continue to be permitted in the new Marine Conservation Area.

Is the prohibition of harvesting at any level being considered in the MCA?

We ask to be kept abreast of developments regarding the MCA and we wish to be represented during the decision-making processes surrounding the formation of the Marine Conservation Area.

On May 20, 2001 we sent a similar letter to the AMB. To date, we have received no response. We appreciate your efforts towards a Marine Conservation Area, yet we feel the AMB has neglected to reply to these questions and concerns. We request your timely response in writing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gord Pincock
GHTOA Co-President