



**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL  
Tuesday, September 29, 2020 @ 3:30 PM  
George Fraser Room, Ucluelet Community Centre,  
500 Matterson Drive, Ucluelet**

**LATE AGENDA**

	Page
1. LATE ITEMS	
1.1. Add a "Correspondence" section as Item 7 to this Agenda and renumber the remaining Agenda Items accordingly.	
1.2. Add "District of Ucluelet Meeting Request," a draft letter from Mayor Noël to the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard, as Correspondence Agenda Item 7.1. <a href="#">2020-09-25 DFO - DRAFT Meeting Request</a>	3
1.3. Add "At-Sea Observers," a draft letter from Mayor Noël to Rebecca Reid, Regional Director General (DFO Pacific), as Correspondence Agenda Item 7.2. <a href="#">2020-09-28 DFO - DRAFT At-Sea Observers</a>	5





28 September 2020

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan  
Minister's office  
200 Kent St.  
Station 15N100  
Ottawa Ontario, K1A 0E6  
Via Email: min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

File No: 0530-01 GEN

Dear Minister Jordan,

**RE: District of Ucluelet Meeting Request**

District of Ucluelet Council would like to request a meeting with you this fall to discuss some important topics for our community. As tourism becomes an increasing economic focus for our community, there is an opportunity to collaboratively discuss issues that would support this transition. Our key discussion points for our meeting request include:

**1. Regulation of International Recreational Tourist Fishers**

While the pandemic has been challenging for all communities, it has provided an opportunity to validate pre-pandemic concerns. One key example for Ucluelet is the impact of American recreational fishermen operating their own vessels in our waters. With international travel restrictions, we have now seen DFO allow for increased fishing quotas for our local fisherman. It is our belief that the low level of enforcement on overfishing by these visitors, prior to the pandemic, needs to be addressed once COVID impacts are reduced and before borders are reopened.

**2. Future of Federal Properties**

The District would like to highlight the importance of considering divestiture of DFO assets to local governments. In particular, we would like to discuss the potential divestiture of the Amphitrite Coast Guard Building to the District and the positive community impact a building like this could have. DFO also has harbour assets of interest which are a part of our community's current fabric and history.

We wish we could host you here in our beautiful town, but this is not the time for additional travel. Hopefully a virtually meeting will be possible with our Council members.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

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Mayor Noël  
Mayor, District of Ucluelet

**District of Ucluelet . *Life on the Edge*®**  
200 Main Street, PO BOX 999, Ucluelet, British Columbia V0R 3A0  
(250) 726-7744 • Fax (250) 726-7335 • info@ucluelet.ca • www.ucluelet.ca





September 28, 2020

Rebecca Reid  
Regional Director General  
DFO, Pacific Region  
401 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 3S4

File No: 0530-01 GEN

Dear Ms. Reid:

**RE: At-Sea Observer Program**

Ucluelet is an isolated community with limited health care resources and access to health care facilities. During this current Covid19 Pandemic the community is taking all necessary steps, consistent with Provincial Health Authority guidelines, to minimize the potential for transmission and spread of the corona virus. This includes ensuring that our community's primary employers like Ucluelet Harbour Seafoods and the commercial groundfish trawl fleet do not increase Covid19 risks to our community.

It has come to our attention that DFO is considering resuming the use of at-sea observers in the groundfish trawl fishery. While we support the need for fishery independent data collection for the proper management of our public resources, we don't believe this needs to risk public health and safety when an electronic monitoring option is available to the Department. At-sea observers do not live in Ucluelet. Rather, they travel to our community from all parts of the Province. Furthermore, there is a high turnover of the generally young observer staff, resulting in new trainees being deployed on a regular basis and making it difficult to maintain safe bubbles and minimize the risk to our community. For this reason we ask DFO to work with the groundfish trawl industry and the contracted service providers Archipelago Marine Research and Vericatch to find solutions to the data collection and monitoring problems without requiring the resumption of at-sea observers.

It is clear from the alarming increasing trends in Provincial Covid19 cases and hospitalizations that the Pandemic is still a serious matter. We must remain vigilant at protecting our communities, especially since a second wave is predicted this fall and the risks of exposure and transmission will increase.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am available to discuss this with you at any time.

Sincerely,

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Mayco Noël  
Mayor of Ucluelet

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