

March 18, 2025

Dear Mr. Ryan McCoy and Mr. Bryan Bell,

**Re: Reciprocity Agreement**

This Letter of Intent (LOI) constitutes an understanding between Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) and NRC to agree to waive fees on ships on innocent passage through the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

- 1.) The traffic lanes in the Juan de Fuca Strait facilitate the orderly passage of ships to and from destinations in Canada and the United States.
- 2.) As they currently operate, the traffic lanes require that all inbound ships travel through U.S. waters to reach either a U.S. or Canadian destination, while all ships departing from either a U.S. or Canadian destination must travel through Canadian waters.
- 3.) These circumstances have led to a situation where all ships transiting through the Juan de Fuca Strait, regardless of whether they are bound for a U.S. or Canadian destination, must transit the waters of both countries, thereby triggering the requirement to comply with two sets of legislation, including the potential payment of two sets of fees.

Currently there is no reciprocity agreement between the Canadian and U.S. governments to harmonize the legislation of both countries to permit ships transiting through the Juan de Fuca Strait and proposing to call on ports in either Canada or the U.S., but not both, to comply with both with the Canadian and Washington State law without the payment of double fees.

As an interim measure, until the Canadian and U.S. governments have completed a reciprocity agreement, WCMRC and NRC confirm there will be no payment of fees required by either party in such instances.

Sincerely,



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Suman Lalari  
Director of Finance  
WCMRC



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Mike Reese  
GM  
NRC / Republic Services