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Mayor and Council  
White Rock

15322 Buena Vista Avenue  
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Sent via: email

Re: Motion at UBCM Protecting BC Coasts From Acidic Washwater Dumping being brought forward by Vancouver

We are writing today as Stand.Earth to bring your attention to an important resolution that will be coming before UBCM, having passed unanimously at LMLGA, to address acidic wastewater discharge in all waters off BC.

It is well established that ocean acidification has devastating effects on marine life, aquaculture, and coastal communities dependent on a thriving ocean. In recent years a new device has been taken up in record numbers that is dumping catastrophic volumes of acidic wastewater directly into the ocean from vessels.

In order to mitigate sulphur air pollution from burning heavy oil, the maritime shipping industry employs exhaust gas cleaning systems (scrubbers) instead of simply switching to lower sulphur fuels which are already available on the market. Scrubbers result in a solution of concentrated acidic sulphates, metals, and other toxins that are dumped directly into the ocean while the ship is in operation.

Cruise and cargo vessel traffic in Canadian jurisdiction annually discharge tens of millions tonnes of this acidic washwater directly into the coastal waters of BC. [The International Council for the Exploration of the Seas](#) has found that scrubber washwater has lethal and sub-lethal effects on plankton, a critical component of marine ecosystems.



The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is demonstrating regional [leadership](#) in preventing acidic wastewater dumping and is [phasing in a requirement simply for ships to burn cleaner fuels](#). They join the [Port of Seattle](#), Quebec's Port Sept-Iles, [The State of California](#) and ports [around the world](#) in taking steps to prevent the use of scrubbers and mandate a transition to cleaner fuels.

The resolution before UBCM is critical to bring this issue to the table with levels of government that have jurisdiction over territorial waters and can protect the Salish and Great Bear Seas. The unanimous vote at LMLGA to pass this resolution for consideration at UBCM is a clear signal that local elected leaders care about the health of coastal waters, and are concerned about the future of coastal communities if acidic dumping isn't addressed. We are so grateful for this clarity and signal of care from elected leaders from Hope to Pemberton, and are counting on your continued support.

We urge you to support the motion "Protecting B.C.'s Coasts From Acidic Wastewater Dumping" at the upcoming UBCM convention in September.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter. Please do not hesitate to reach out at [anna@stand.earth](mailto:anna@stand.earth) or call during daytime hours to 604-757-7029.

Sincerely,

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