



Anna Barford  
Stand.earth  
5307 Victoria Drive, Suite 347  
Vancouver, BC, V5P 3V6  
anna@stand.earth, 604-757-7029

17 June 2022

Chair and Board  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

101 Martin Street,  
Penticton, BC,  
V2A 5J9

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.

# STAND .earth

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. We urge you to support the motion "Protecting B.C.'s Coasts From Acidic Washwater 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,

Anna Barford  
Canada Shipping Campaigner  
Stand.earth  
Vancouver, BC