

October 21, 2004

David Essig, Chairperson

Kimberly Lineger, Trustee

Eric Booth, Trustee VIA FACSIMILE: (250) 537-9116

Islands Trust – Saltspring Island

1206 – 115 Fulford-Ganges Road

Saltspring Island, BC V8K 2T9

Dear Mr. Essig, Ms. Lineger and Mr. Booth:

We understand that the Islands Trust Council is considering a response, on behalf of your constituents, to an application by Sablefin Hatcheries Ltd. (SHL) to the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) for a permit to discharge hatchery waste effluent into the tombolo at Walker's Hook.

As we believe you are aware, members of the Penelakut First Nation, together with residents of Saltspring Island, went before the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) last March to appeal WLAP's temporary authorization allowing SHL to discharge waste effluent into the tombolo. The EAB has yet to render a decision and now SHL has applied for a permanent permit.

The tombolo at Walker's Hook is a mass grave site and shell midden that is of great spiritual significance to our people. The use of the tombolo as a sewage disposal site is highly offensive to our culture. Furthermore, the site has value to all people as a significant and unique archaeological site. Your constituents have made us aware that the Islands Trust Policy Statement, policy number 5.6, states that the Trust Council "shall address the preservation and protection of the heritage value and character of historic coastal settlement patterns and remains". We respectfully suggest that protection of the tombolo at Walker's Hook fits precisely into this mandate.

The Penelakut are engaged in treaty negotiations with the provincial and federal governments in the interest of reconciling the injustices experienced by First Nations people through the colonization of British Columbia. In this spirit of reconciliation, we urge you to oppose SHL's waste disposal proposal so that our precious heritage site at Walker's Hook can be preserved for future generations.

We thank you for your concern.

Yours truly,

Chief Earl Jack

cc. John Gauld, Regional Planning Manager