



CAMPBELL RIVER, BC – Oct. 21, 2021

STATEMENT BY THE TLOWITSIS NATION AND COUNCIL OF MARINE CARRIERS ON AGREEMENT REACHED TO ALLOW FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF CUTTER COVE TOWBOAT RESERVE

To support the advancement of reconciliation and economic self-determination for British Columbia's First Nations, the Tlowitsis Nation and Council of Marine Carriers (CoMC) have reached an agreement regarding the repositioning of the existing Cutter Cove Towboat Reserve. This change in position will allow for the continued operation of the region as a towboat reserve and accommodate the proposed tenure for the new Tlowitsis salmon farm – the Ga-guump site.

After careful consideration of the Nation's land-use plans, archaeological sites, and environmental factors, it was determined that the most suitable place for a new salmon farm in the Tlowitsis' territory is in the same area as the Towboat Reserve in Cutter Cove in Chatham Channel north of Campbell River.

The CoMC agrees with the Nation's establishment of a salmon farm in this location, and have asked the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development to create an alternative reserve nearby in the Minstrel Island area, which is supported by the Nation.

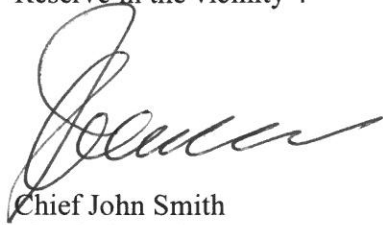
This agreement between the Nation and the CoMC was based on two deciding factors:

1. the Tlowitsis Nation is in the process of establishing a community in the Campbell River area, and that the proposed salmon farm will generate funds and create jobs in support of the community, and
2. although still an important and necessary facility for the log towing industry, the reserve is not used as frequently as it was in the past due to changes in towing practices and tug technology. If a fish farm is established as proposed, the remainder of the reserve, although smaller in size, could still be used, albeit with some difficulty, for its intended purpose.

“We appreciate how the Council of Marine Carriers and its members are recognizing our right to self-determination and supporting our goal of developing a new proposed salmon farm within our territory. We appreciate how they have worked with us to find a solution that is mutually beneficial,” said Chief John Smith. “The farm will be one of the first of its kind and will operate under a joint ownership between a Nation and an operating company. This is what reconciliation looks like, and we would like to thank the CoMC for their leadership and vision in this space. This new farm, once approved and operational, will help us build our new community – Nenagwas – near Campbell River, bringing our Nation's members one step closer to moving to their new home.”

“Traditionally, tug and tow reserves have been used as holding areas, sort yards, and allow for safe passage in inclement weather. This agreement marks the first time the council has agreed to alter an existing footprint to accommodate any other development within a reserve. After listening to Chief Smith’s vision for their marine space in the area, we understand and respect how important this fish farm is to the Nation, as is their right to self-determination,” said Captain Phillip Nelson, president of CoMC.

“To us, true reconciliation means coming to the table to listen, be open to new ideas, and find solutions together, and that’s what happened here,” Captain Nelson added. “We hope this inspires others operating in traditional territories to meet First Nations, and listen, when called to the table. The Council of Marine Carriers appreciates the support of the Tlowitsis Nation in working together with us and with the Provincial Government to seek a replacement Reserve in the vicinity”.



Chief John Smith
Tlowitsis Nation



Captain Phillip J. Nelson
President, Council of Marine Carriers