November 12th, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to affirm my support for the continued designation of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region, established in 2000.

Our region has worked together for the past decade to advance the objectives of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program. We are working together to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and reconciliation, through education, research and collaboration such as:

- Co-leading sustainable development and biodiversity conservation projects;
- Developing alliances and partnerships to strengthen the development of citizens, communities, and ecosystems as well as stewardship of ecosystem services;
- Contributing data and knowledge to the Vital Signs program;
- Advancing climate change research, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation projects;
- Participating in processes for implementing, managing, and monitoring community and ecosystem health;
- Advancing research in biodiversity and ecosystem health with the Sidney Inlet Acoustic Refugium Monitoring Project (SIARMP);
- Collecting seasonal data at four remote recording stations along a soundscape transect from Sydney Inlet to the open ocean of Clayoquot Sound;
- Monitoring acoustic visitations of species at risk including Bigg's and Resident Killer Whales, grey whales, and humpback whales identified in the SARA recovery strategy;
- Creating a technical training and species identification catalogue for analyzing soundscape data;
- Analysing acoustic and sighting data to identify additional areas of habitat necessary for the survival and recovery of Resident Killer Whales; and
- Identifying biophony, geophony and anthrophony soundscape signatures to support ecosystem conservation concern in Clayoquot Sound.

I am proud to support the continued Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere designation and look forward to participating in the next ten years of activities in our region.

Sincerely,

Benj Youngson

Project Manager

Sydney Inlet Acoustic Refugium Monitoring Project