



c/o Fraser Basin Council
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Kamloops, BC V2C 6K7
250.314.9660
www.shuswapwater.ca



Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division
Sent by e-mail to Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca

11 October 2022

Dear Mr. Standen,

I am writing on behalf of the Shuswap Watershed Council to express our concern about the lack of watercraft wastewater pump-out and disposal facilities around Shuswap and Mara Lakes.

Shuswap and Mara Lakes are a premium vacation destination, and the region sees many visitors including those who travel by houseboats and cabin cruisers. There are six provincial parks, including Shuswap Lake Marine Provincial Park with 23 separate sites – some of which are accessible only by boat – that offer incredible camping and beach-combing. Many visitors do multi-day voyages around the lakes, stopping at various sites on Shuswap and Mara Lakes for the day or to over-night.

In the past, commercial pump-out was available for watercrafts at some marinas on the lakes but these services have been discontinued. We are concerned that without adequate facilities at opportune locations, watercraft operators may be discharging greywater (i.e., from on-board sinks, showers, laundry facilities etc.) into the lakes as the holding tanks fill up over the course of the voyage even though such activity is prohibited.

The availability of watercraft wastewater pump-out facilities is important to maintaining the health of the lakes and to the tourism economy. As the leading agency providing camping and day-use sites on the lakes, we think BC Parks should also provide wastewater pump-out facilities. Therefore, we are requesting that BC Parks undertake a feasibility study for providing these facilities for watercraft on Shuswap and Mara Lakes. We are hopeful that such a study would determine a case for BC Parks to provide this service.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Simpson".

Jay Simpson
Chair, Shuswap Watershed Council
Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area 'F' North Shuswap
250 517-9578 | jsimpson@csrd.bc.ca



CC:
Bob C. Austad, Executive Director, Regional Operations
Sent by email to Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca



About the Shuswap Watershed Council

The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) was established in 2014 as a watershed-based partnership of several organizations with an interest in or responsibility for protecting water quality. There are up to 22 members that represent three regional districts, two municipalities, the Secwepemc Nation, three provincial government agencies, and Shuswap communities. The SWC is a collaborative, non-regulatory group that focuses on strategic initiatives to protect, maintain, and enhance water quality and promote safe recreation in the Shuswap. The SWC works alongside organizations that have regulatory roles in managing the Shuswap watershed, complementing their work and carefully avoiding duplication.