

“WORLD OCEANS DAY, & RIVERS TO OCEANS WEEK”

- WHEREAS** *World Oceans Day (June 8th) offers an invitation to remember the very beginnings of life on earth, along with the many benefits we presently enjoy and the ongoing critical role of oceans worldwide; and*
- WHEREAS** *the Government of Canada proposed the concept of World Ocean Day in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and the day has been celebrated internationally ever since, being officially declared in 2009 by the United Nations as “World Oceans Day”; and*
- WHEREAS** *this international celebration has grown from a ripple into a tidal wave of awareness, connecting the importance of our oceans to the lands we live on – leading to Rivers to Oceans Week (June 8 – 14th) also being recognized by Environment Canada as an opportunity to better understand the role of Canada’s watersheds, our connection to fresh-and salt-water environments, and what we all can do to protect and keep waterways and marine environments healthy and productive; and*
- WHEREAS** *our coastal regions and communities have benefited greatly from a historic, cultural and natural relationship with our lakes, creeks, streams and rivers; and*
- WHEREAS** *estuaries offer some of “the greatest natural assets...and it is important to ensure that this resource is protected to yield the best social and economic returns” (Nanaimo Estuary Management Plan, 2006); and*
- WHEREAS** *First Nations heritage, values and customs, culture and way of life have traditionally drawn upon and and given thanks for the abundance and wealth of our oceans and waterways; and*
- WHEREAS** *the waters of the Salish Sea between Vancouver Island and southern British Columbia create a unique partnership, linking our coastal rivers with the Pacific Ocean to provide a flourishing, clean, self-sustaining and bio-diverse habitat that supports a wide variety of fish and marine life, and provides many direct and indirect benefits that meet our long-term needs and that of healthier coastal communities; and*
- WHEREAS** *the recognition and proclamation of World Oceans Day and Rivers to Oceans Week will help to encourage many interests and sectors to work together, advancing practical and proven marine restoration and protection that contributes to sustainability and coastal conservation efforts at home and around the world.*

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim June 8th, 2016 as **“WORLD OCEANS DAY”** and June 8th to 14th 2016 as **“RIVERS TO OCEANS WEEK”** in the **CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY** of the **PROVINCE of BRITISH COLUMBIA, the TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES** of the **ESQUIMALT AND SONGHEES FIRST NATIONS**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 26th day of May, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

**LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Sponsored by:
Laurie Gourlay
President, VICCS
Vancouver Island and Coast Conservation Society**