

B.C. Wildlife Federation  
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Honey Walsh, Chief, Office of Boating Safety,  
Marine Safety and Security, Department of Transport,  
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July 12, 2023

**RE: Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 157, Number 19: Regulations Amending the Small Vessel Regulations**

The B.C. Wildlife Federation is strongly opposed to the proposed changes to the Regulations Amending the Small Vessel Regulations, particularly with regards to the change in licensing structure that will increase the cost for families to enjoy our natural resources.

Furthermore, we condemn this underhanded attempt to prevent interested groups from providing feedback on the proposed regulation changes by failing to sufficiently advertise public consultation. Amendments are generally given a 60-day timeline for feedback from stakeholders, user groups, and others that could possibly be affected by such drastic changes. This chance for input must be well advertised, and broadcast to a wide network to ensure as many concerned individuals as possible can provide their input.

In the case of Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 157, Number 19: Regulations Amending the Small Vessel Regulations, the B.C. Wildlife Federation – B.C.'s largest conservation organization, has only just been notified of this drastic change, less than 24 hours from the close of its consultation period.

Failing to well-advertise a regulatory change that will impact the 13 million Canadians that go boating each year is unacceptable. These changes, in part, state that:

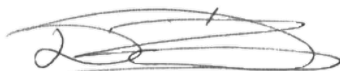
- *There will be a new 5-year validity period for all PCLs (Pleasure Craft Licence).*
- *Reduce the time frame licence holders have to provide notification of a change of information on their licence from 90 days to 30 days.*

On behalf of our 43,000 members, we are opposed to the changes as written.

1. A large portion of hunters and anglers rely on their boats to travel our public waterways to areas where they can source sustainable, wild food.
2. This will add another cost to families and outdoor recreationists in an already turbulent economy.
3. This will impact families who want to enjoy our resources and waterways.
4. There are no mentions of grandfathering current PCL holders.

We respectfully ask that these proposed regulations be removed from consideration, and that you continue to allow PCL holders to enjoy our bountiful resources in British Columbia and across Canada with no further restrictions or costs.

Signed,



David Lewis  
President  
B.C. Wildlife Federation



Mark McDonald  
Vice President  
B.C. Wildlife Federation

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Minister Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
Clifford Small, Shadow Minister for Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
Mel Arnold, Associate Shadow Minister for Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard (Recreational and West Coast)  
Blaine Calkins, Shadow Minister for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation  
Minister Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport  
Minister Mark Strahl, Shadow Minister for Transport  
MP Taylor Bachrach, Critic, Transport