



## PROCLAMATION

### **WORLD OCEANS DAY & RIVERS TO OCEANS WEEK JUNE 8 – 14/2012**

- WHEREAS: Environment Canada recognizes and supports efforts to further World Oceans Day (June 8) as a time to remember the 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 about the importance of our oceans', leading to Rivers to Oceans Week (June 8 – 12) also being recognized by Environment Canada as an opportunity 'to work together to create an understanding of Canada's watersheds, our connection to fresh-and salt-water environments and what everyone can do to protect and keep watersheds healthy for people and wildlife; and
- WHEREAS: our mid-island coastal region and communities have benefited greatly from a historic, cultural and natural relationship with the Nanaimo River; and
- WHEREAS: the Nanaimo River estuary, the largest estuary on Vancouver Island, "...is one of the greatest natural assets in the region, and it is important to ensure that this resource is protected to yield the best social and economic returns", according to the *Nanaimo Estuary Management Plan (2006)*; and
- WHEREAS: the Salish Sea in southern British Columbia, in partnership with our coastal rivers and Pacific Ocean, creates a flourishing, clean, self-sustaining, biodiverse habitat that supports a wide variety of fish and marine life, and provides economic benefits that pay dividends for our long-term needs and healthier coastal communities; and
- WHEREAS: the local recognition and proclamation of World Oceans Day and Rivers to Oceans Week will help bring many interests and sectors together, advancing practical and proven marine restoration and protection that contributes to similar coastal conservation efforts around the world.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *City of Nanaimo - the Harbour City*, does this day proclaim and recognize World Oceans Day and Rivers to Oceans Week, encouraging such support as they further local, national and global efforts to raise awareness of our rivers and oceans, their sustainable development and stewardship, marine life, and the conservation initiatives we can all take to secure their health and viability for our common future.

  
John Ruttan  
MAYOR

DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF MAY, 2012.

