

PAC Recycling

#130 – 2351 No. 6 Rd.
Richmond, BC V6V 1P3
Phone: 604-314-2277
E-Mail: peter@pacrecycling.ca
Web: www.pacrecycling.ca

March 3rd, 2020

Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Board of Directors
770 Harmston Avenue
Courtenay, BC
V9N 0G8

Dear CSWM Board:

I am writing you to request a Letter of Support for our fish net recycling project. We are looking to apply for funding from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to divert fish nets from local landfills to recycle them, and we would very much appreciate your support.

PAC Recycling is working to responsibly recycle several hundred tonnes of old aquaculture nets in Campbell River, specifically those made of Nylon 6 and Nylon 66. These nets made from a single polymer type. Once cleaned of foreign objects like lead weights and organic matter, they are then shredded and pelletized into polyamide plastic pellet for use in manufacturing new plastic products. Due to the difficulty of loading soaking wet, whole nets into shipping containers, we are working with Badinotti Net Services of Campbell River, to dry and then cut the nets to properly prepare them for shipping and recycling.

Unfortunately the cost to divert these materials from landfill is higher than traditional disposal options. To help with the high costs of cleaning, drying, and cutting the nets for shipping, PAC Recycling has applied for funding from the Sustainable Fisheries Solutions & Retrieval Support Contribution Program, recently launched by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). This Program funds projects that prevent and mitigate the risk of ghost fishing gear, and National and International efforts to reduce plastics in our oceans. We have sent in an Expression of Interest, and will know by March 6th, 2020 whether our proposal meets their requirements for the Program. If accepted, we will then quickly prepare a full Project Application by April 1st, 2020. As this project will divert recyclable materials from the CSWM wasteshed, we hoped that we would be able to include a letter of support from the CSWM Board in our Project Application if we are successful. For this we would be very grateful.

We currently have no additional funding in place to cover these costs. We anticipate moving forward with this project this summer. At 20 tonnes per shipping container, and 2 containers per month, we anticipate needing 12 months in total in order to collect, dry, and cut all the used fish net on site. This project will serve as a proof of concept for drying and cutting used fish net (both aquaculture and commercial fishing) for recycling, allowing us to expand the program to other areas of Vancouver Island and the BC coast.

PAC Recycling has been in business since 2014, focused on the diversion of recyclable carpet and carpet underlay, including nylon carpet. Since inception our company has recycled and/or diverted over 5 million lbs of post-consumer residential and commercial carpet, and we want to apply our expertise to the growing ocean plastic pollution problem.

I welcome any questions or comments you might have regarding our project.

Sincerely,

Peter Cox
Owner