

Robert H. Barrigar, Q.C.

[REDACTED]
Oak Bay, B.C. V8R 5K8

Telephone [REDACTED]

Hon. Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada

02 February 2019
by e-mail

Dear Minister:

Re: Preserving the Sable Island National Park Reserve

I understand that the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board has put out a “call for bids” for oil and gas exploration off the coast of Nova Scotia within an area that includes Sable Island National Park Reserve. I object to this for the following reasons.

As a former member of the National Council of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Association (CPAWS), and a former President of its Ottawa-Hull Chapter, over the years, I participated in a number of negotiations with different levels of government throughout Canada. Without exception, governments recognized the importance of maintaining the environmental purity of parklands, and took steps to avoid commercial and industrial incursions and intrusions that would impair the quality of such lands.

For example, when the Province of Quebec was in the planning stages of creating a new highway going north from the then city of Hull to Maniwaki, initially there were plans to route the highway through some environmentally sensitive areas. When this was brought to the provincial Government’s attention, the planned highway was rerouted to avoid these areas. The initially planned highway ran through some lands in which deer migration occurred. The Quebec Government agreed to build underpasses under the highway so that deer could safely cross from one side of the highway to the other.

It is apparent that oil and gas exploration in Sable Island National Park Reserve would generate incursions that would create a high risk of impairing the park status of the Reserve. Sable Island is roughly crescent-shaped with small width. It lies about 175 kilometres southeast of the closest point of mainland Nova Scotia in the Atlantic Ocean. It is apparent that there would be ample open ocean available for oil and gas exploration off the Sable Island coast, and presumably government directives would require ample separation of such oil and gas exploration from the Reserve.

Please take appropriate action accordingly.

Yours truly



Robert H. Barrigar