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Greetings from the Biosphere!

Since our spring update, we have enjoyed months of whale activity in Howe Sound, with regular humpback and orca sightings.

September marked our second anniversary since designation by UNESCO. Please check out this blog by West Coast Environmental Law - [Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region: Two Years On](#)

In this newsletter, you can read about our projects underway with the Environment and Climate Change Canada funding that [was announced this time last year by the Honorable Stephen Guilbeault](#) on a visit to Howe Sound and updates on the development of our Biosphere management plan known as the Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ruth Simons,

Executive Director, [Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society](#)



Planning for Future of the Biosphere



Following the designation of our Biosphere by UNESCO, we have been at work developing a management plan. This requirement of UNESCO will serve as a guiding document for ongoing work and for our ten-year periodic review. This comprehensive management plan takes a holistic view of the region and what goals and priorities will ensure our long-term success as a UNESCO site. As part of development of this plan we are convening the AHSUBR Roundtable with multi-sector representatives to advise and guide the plan. The plan and recruitment to the Roundtable will begin this fall. [Read more here.](#)

Connecting Youth to the Biosphere



Bella Johnston presenting to students at Mamquam Elementary

Connecting people with nature is a key objective of a UNESCO Biosphere. These regions are also places for learning, monitoring and restoration, providing wonderful opportunities for summer students. With funding from Canada Summer Jobs, this year we hired Isabella Johnston as our Summer Ambassador. Read about Bella's experience [in her blogs here](#) and [here](#).

READ MORE

Tackling the Biodiversity Communications Gap



Brian Aikens photo

What is biodiversity and how can we encourage those who are not already aware of it to care more? As HSBRS assembles a communications toolkit, we are building a framework of meaningful and relevant messages and angles to better reach the hearts and minds of those who have had less exposure to this complex but critical topic. We are calling on the regional experts to join us in a facilitated workshop in November to brainstorm this framework. If you are interested in participating, [read more here](#).

Project Highlights

Monitoring for European Green Crab

Through collaboration between organizations participating in the Ocean Watch Action Committee, we have been successful in expanding monitoring for the invasive European Green Crab. [Read more here.](#)

Contributing to Canada's 30 X 30 Targets

Our work continues to increase local understanding of [Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures \(OECMs\)](#) and identify potential areas that meet the criteria. Although this project is still in the early stages, the HSBRIS team is presenting to local governments and other agencies to collaborate on submitting lands for national OECM recognition and contribute to the 30x30 target.

Biosphere Terrestrial Atlas

After a busy spring researching best practices and collating available data, the Terrestrial Atlas team has put together a first iteration of the mapping application and they are in the process of drafting an ESRI StoryMap for the West Howe Sound/McNab Creek Watershed pilot area. Stay tuned for more updates!

Searching for Wexés (frogs) on Cha7élkwnech/Gambier Island

We are embarking on the second year of support for this project to search for the Coastal Tailed Frog, a species at risk that was believed to not be present on Gambier Island. With support from HSBRIS, Islands Trust Conservancy, and the Gambier Conservancy, Mike Stamford (Stamford Environmental) has finished sampling four streams on the island for the presence and abundance of tadpoles in natal areas.

Wildlife Connectivity

Led by the Squamish Environment Society, the Wildlife Connectivity project has entered the *Connectivity Modelling and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* phase. A steering committee and technical working group is currently being developed and participatory planning workshops are planned for later in the fall.

Rockfish Monitoring

In partnership with the Marine Life Sanctuaries Society, the rockfish monitoring project is continuing for a second year. Citizen scientists will once again be trained and will carry out survey dives between January and March of 2024.

READ MORE ABOUT OUR PROJECTS



Organizational Highlights



New Board Members

We are very excited to welcome four new Board Members to our HSBRIS team. After a search across the region, we welcome Jenn Scholfield, Cathy Jenkins, Cameron Burke and Robert Walker to our Board.

Long-time Board Member Patricia Plackett is moving on after serving five years. Dr. Plackett continues her work with SFU and the Suzuki Elders. We appreciated Pat's wisdom and enthusiasm and she joins Bob Turner as an Honorary Board Member.



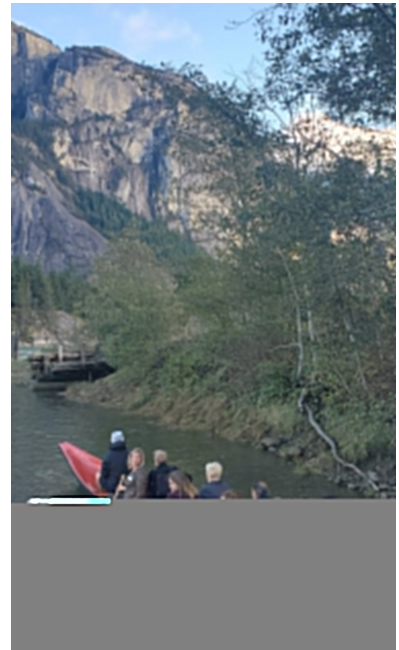
Honary Degree bestowed on Ruth Simons by Capilano University

The honorary doctorate is the highest form of recognition granted by Capilano University and is given to acknowledge persons who are distinguished by their significant contributions and accomplishments and whose excellence will, through their association with Capilano University, bring honour to the University's name. [Read more about here.](#)

Capilano University

Our partnership with CapU began in early 2019 with the formation of a working group committee to explore opportunities that align with HSBRIS' mission of connecting more youth to nature and to build capacity toward our objectives, as well as CapU's [Envisioning 2030](#) and [Illuminating 2030](#). This evolved into a Memorandum of Understanding between our two organizations. Now, donors can support student and faculty-led projects through donations to the Capilano [University Foundation](#) [Cap. U/Howe Sound Biosphere Fund](#). Donations will directly

support the purchase of equipment, field trips and teaching resources that benefit future generations of learners and the future of Howe Sound. [Learn more here.](#)



Three Ways to Support our Work

DONATE

1. Core funding via direct donations to [Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society](#)
2. Long-term and project-specific tax-deductible donations through the Howe Sound Biosphere Fund held at [West Vancouver Community Foundation](#)
3. Support program and research funding through the [Howe Sound Biosphere Fund at Capilano University Foundation.](#)



Atl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region is located in the unceded territory of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) people.



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