

Ocean Watch Action Committee/Network Meeting Notes

Friday, January 14th from 9:30-11 am

Participants:

Squamish Nation:

- **Julia Stafford**, Rights and Title
- **Rachel Munger**, Environmental Analyst
- **Renata Rovelo**, Rights and Title

Bowen Island Municipality:

- **Bonny Brokenshire**, Manager of Environment and Parks Planning,
- **Sue-Ellen Fast**, Councillor & Trustee, GILTC.

District of West Vancouver:

- **Heather Keith**, Sr. Environmental Protection Officer
- **Sharon Thompson**, Councillor

District of Squamish:

- **Chris Pettingill**, Councillor
- **Sarah McJannet**, Planner

Village of Lions Bay:

- **Ron McLaughlin**, Mayor

Town of Gibsons:

- **Annemarie De Andrade**, Councillor
- **Michelle Lewis**, Natural Asset Technician

Metro Vancouver:

- **Marcin Paschcinski**, Electoral Area A, Metro Vancouver,
- **Jen McCutcheon**, Director Area A

West Vancouver/Sea to Sky:

- **Jordan Sturdy**, MLA

Gambier Local Trust Committee:

- **Kate Stamford**, Trustee

Howe Sound/Átl'ka7tsem Marine Stewardship Initiative (formerly the Marine Reference Guide) – Make Way Charitable Society:

- **Courtney Smaha**, Project Director
- **Bridget John**, Program Manager
- **Fiona Beaty**, Steering Committee

Squamish River Watershed Society:

- **Edith Tobe**, Executive Director

Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society:



- **Ruth Simons**, Project Lead
- **Ian Winn**, Director
- **Hassan Hutchinson**, Treasurer

David Suzuki Foundation:

- **Kilian Stehfest**, Marine Conservation Specialist

Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education:

- **Jenny Wright** (guest speaker)
- **Emily Cook**

Moderator: **Ruth Simons**, Executive Director, Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIS)

Note Taker: **Bridget John**, Program Manager, Howe Sound/Átl'ka7tsem Marine Stewardship Initiative

2022 is year two of the [UN Ocean Decade](#) - *the Science we Need for the Ocean we Want*

This coming year we look forward to:

- The [2022 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference April 26-28](#)
- Marine Reference Guide's new name, new Project and new Lead.
- Howe Sound's part in Fisheries and Oceans Canada [Conservation Agenda](#) and progress towards protecting 25% of our Oceans by 2025.
- Improved survival of Chinook salmon through the work of the Squamish River Watershed Society's Squamish Spit Removal. See the [Restore the Shore](#) project.
- Ocean Wise's education [team's updating of the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Education kits](#)

For those in local government seeking ways to support the recommendations resulting from the Ocean Watch report:

- Please provide updates to the [Action Tracker](#)
- Please support the Best Practices for Dock Management. Letters are being sent for inclusion with Council packages.
- [Invite Theresa Fresco](#), Fraser Basin Council to present to your Councils/board regarding the Salmon-Safe Program.

A special presentation would be welcomed from Town of Gibsons on their [Healthy Harbor](#) project to start the year off on a positive note!

Notes from the last meeting in October [can be found here](#).

[Word of the Meeting](#) - Slhawt' (herring)

DECISION REQUESTS

Outlined below are the key requests that organizers are seeking during this meeting:

1	Willingness to participate in the Management Planning process for the Biosphere Region
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ACTIONS

1	<i>Metro Vancouver approved funding to hold a barge cleanup event for the Electoral Area A communities of Bowyer and Passage Islands in 2022. No date has yet been set, but the cleanup is expected to occur sometime in the summer or early fall. Metro Vancouver is open to considering inclusion of nearby marine waste (e.g. Styrofoam) if it can be accommodated as part of the main cleanup timing and budget. If you have questions or would like more information, you can contact Marcin Pachcinski, Division Manager, Electoral Area and Implementation Services, at Marcin.Pachcinski@metrovancover.org or 604.451.6562.</i>
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NOTES:

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS/ DECISIONS
9:30-9:35 Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of how the OWAC came to be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2017 Ocean Wise produced the Ocean Watch report on Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound which led to recommendations and then the OWTF which turned into the OWAC. The Ocean Watch report led to the Marine Reference Guide (now the Marine Stewardship Initiative) along with actions. ○ In 2020 Aroha Miller from Ocean Wise updated the Ocean Watch report which focused further on climate change and action. 	
9:35-9:45 Review of the notes from October 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of agenda ● Recap of notes from last October (i.e Salmon Safe program, update on MRG, monitoring on the creeks, 	Reminder to update the Action Tracker

	<p>concern about damage to glass sponge reefs, following the heatwave)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dates set on workshops for mooring buoys and vessels of concerns. Hopefully in 2022. 	
<p>9:45- 10:00 News and Verbal updates from participants related to the Actions in the Tracker.</p> <p>10:00-10:15 Marine focused plans and priorities for 2022 - All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Gibsons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motion passed in 2021 about disease spread by free-roaming cats in the environment (could affect biodiversity in the long term and also impacts humans). UBC is doing research in this area. Added to the action tracker. Stewardship Centre of BC has some good education regarding this. Completed coastal resilient project. The report is public on their website. They are speaking at the Ocean Optimism Series with the Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre next week. They will be looking at what's happening in the watershed and how it affects the marine environment. For any Globe and Mail subscribers, they did a great article featuring Michelle & the Town of Gibsons/MNAI Natural Assets projects, Bowen Island Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on adding more information mooring buoys for eelgrass beds, three more ordered. Working with SeaChange. Working on pesticide bylaw for BIM Updating climate action strategy this year Project with Capilano University planned to capture drone footage of mooring buoys to create awareness Working on hazardous areas permit areas (relating to flood plains where there might be more erosion). The public comment period is open currently. Concerns about slope stability (Bowen is made up of three steep mountains and could be unsafe to build in these hazardous areas). District of West Vancouver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on urban forest management plan (ongoing initiative). Public engagement this spring. Coming forward to council with two things in Feb. One is to deal with climate change and sea-level rise. The other is the foreshore development permit area (i.e guidelines related to protection of the foreshore area). Seeing an increase in mooring buoys. Future workshop and discussing enforcement. Would 	<p>Check out the Ocean Optimism Series with the NSMEC</p>

	<p>be beneficial to have an inventory of all the mooring buoys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metro Vancouver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved barge clean-up for Bowyer and Passage Island. If other communities have marine debris to be disposed of or wish cofund a clean up contact Marcin. ● Gambier Island <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gambier local trust committee has works in progress such as the Keats Island foreshore development project (lots of push back from 1m sea-level rise). Hoping to see other resources to show people what sea-level rise means. One of the setbacks is to pull back 15m set back to 7.5m. Looking for resources to support flood control or sea-level rise planning for rocky areas specifically. Searching for more information support for public to understand impacts from sea level rise at rocky areas. ○ Gambier Island Official Community Plan discussion paper underway (forestry, foreshore, etc) depends on staffing. Our planning staff is few and far between, looking for staff. ● District of Squamish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brought up updating DPA guidelines in council. Aiming to think about the water more in 2023. ○ DPA 1 to make improvements/updates Environmental Development guidelines ○ Will continue to update the action tracker ○ DOS has committed more resources for enforcement (hired new person) hired new environmental specialist - to address new environmental based bylaws. ○ Marine zoning work (2019-currently working on to try to finish) ○ Marine access review to inform tactical planning to marine access. ○ Workingon ecosystem-based dredge management strategy with opportunity for habitat enhancement. ○ Working on coastal protection design looking at ways to improve construction practices to address sea level rise and habitat enhancement. ○ Looking for more ways to improve engagement with Squamish Nation and MSI. ● Squamish River Watershed Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Squamish estuary restoration program (into year 5 and will extend further). Next week or two they will be removing 300m of the Spit so that salmon can get across. Restoretheshore.ca. Public 	<p>Marine clean-up opportunity - contact Metro Marcin.Pachcinski@metrovancover.org</p> <p>Gambier Island looking for resources to support flood control or sea-level rise planning for rocky areas specifically</p>
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	<p>workshop happening soon. Obtaining permits are still underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Squamish Nation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New archaeology analyst ○ Recent climate action strategy that the Squamish Nation will undertake in the next two years. In the initial stages currently. ● David Suzuki Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involved in the consultations regarding Slhawt' (herring) harvest in the Strait of Georgia. 	
<p>10:15-10:25 Focus on Town of Gibsons' Healthy Harbour Project - TBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jenny Wright (NSMEC) talked about the healthy harbour project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The partnership between NSMEC and Town of Gibsons ○ Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre started in 2017, located in the Gibsons Public Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ collect-release aquarium ■ education programs (e.g. K-6 and new high school marine science club for girls) ■ conservation project initiatives (Healthy harbour project, etc) ○ Healthy harbour project started in 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ supporting natural asset management of Gibsons Harbour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● data gathering (baseline surveys in 2019 of eelgrass in the Gibsons harbour, etc) ● policy recommendations (implement voluntary no anchor zone with the support of SeaChange, etc) ● community education (various displays at the aquarium, etc) ■ What happens next? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community engagement event (Feb 2022 TBD) ● Installation of the voluntary no-anchor zone (Feb/Mar) ● citizen scientists (volunteer-led monitoring and data collection - summer) ● continue surveys of the breakwater and armours beds (sept) ● buoys inspection and maintenance (continuous) ● continue to work with stakeholders, gathering input 	<p>Read more about the Healthy Harbour Project</p>

	(continuous)	
<p>10:25-10:35 Succession update for the Marine Reference Guide next steps – Fiona Beaty introducing Courtney Smaha</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MRG phase 1 complete, moving onto phase 2 ● Introducing Courtney Smaha (new project director). Contact info: courtney.smaha@gmail.com ● Marine Reference Guide rebranding to the Marine Stewardship Initiative ● Received contributions from some governments already. Still working with some governments. Thank you again for helping us work through this funding model. ● Phase 2 steering committee is a bit smaller than in phase 1 ● Working to do herring surveys this year to survey the distribution mostly along the eastern shoreline from Kwum Kwum to Squamish. ● Would be good to have some SN pronunciations on our website (One of the educational resources we are considering would be a field guide, that includes Skwxwú7mesh names for the plants and animals we are surveying) 	
<p>10:35- 10:45 Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative's Management Planning – Ruth Simons, Ian Winn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Biosphere Region Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Representation of what communities and organizations can and are doing together to support the AHSBRI three pillars ○ May call it a Unity Plan. It is a holistic plan that will avoid fragmented plans ○ AHSBRI does have a strategic plan (2021-2026) so the management plan will build off of this report. ○ Will be creating a SWOT analysis (status quo analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats). Will show how things have changed since the 2020 Ocean Watch report as it's been almost 2 years. ○ Ask: who would be interested in helping to do the SWOT analysis? (Edith Tobe, Michelle, Fiona Beaty, Bridget John, Kate Stamford, Councillor Pettingill, Jenny Wright, Jen McCutcheon, Sarah McJannet, Councillor DeAndrage, Killian Stehfast, Courtney Smaha, Trustee Fast, Councillor Thompson - all raised their hands) ○ Roundtable of Biosphere Region to be the advisory table. Any organization that wants to help with this (funding, meeting space, facilitation, etc). Stay tuned. Ruth to share a one-pager on document of what we're seeking. ○ 65-foot boat that sank in Jan 2022 (tied up at 	<p>Progress the Biosphere Region Management Plan</p>

	<p>Darell Bay and drifted quite far, no spills that were aware of).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oceans Protection Plan workshops coming up in February 2022. ○ Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference coming up in April (online). Fiona, Bridget, and Edith are presenting. 	
<p>10:50-11:00 - informal networking and further discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pacific Estuary Conference (Edith is presenting at) ● Canadian Parks Initiative Leadership Conference (Trustee Stamford presenting at) ● Feb 3rd zoom for Squamish Nation to introduce their climate action plan to conservation groups ● Most snow in Pemberton since the 70s ● Raise awareness of ecosystem services in the AHSBRI (e.g. restoration, carbon sequestration projects) ● SWOT analysis. The first step is to host our first zoom session and build off the Ocean Watch report with the people who are interested. 	