

## Ocean Watch Action Committee Meeting Notes

---

Friday June 25th 2021 from 9:30-11:30 am via Zoom

**Participants:**

Bowen Island Municipality:

[Bonny Brokenshire](#), Manager of Environment and Parks Planning, [Sue-Ellen Fast](#), Councillor & Trustee, GILTC.

Gambier Island Local Trust Committee (GILTC):

[Kate-Louise Stamford](#), Trustee, Sue-Ellen Fast, Trustee and Chair

District of West Vancouver:

[Heather Keith](#), Sr. Environmental Protection Officer, [Sharon Thompson](#), Councillor

District of Squamish:

[Sarah McJannet](#), Planner

Town of Gibsons:

[Annemarie De Andrade](#), Councillor

Squamish Nation:

[Joyce Williams](#), Council Member

Metro Vancouver:

[Marcin Paschcinski](#), Electoral Area A, Metro Vancouver, [Jen McCutcheon](#), Director Area A

West Vancouver/Sea to Sky:

[Cameron McClure](#), MLA Jordan Sturdy's office

Sunshine Coast/West Vancouver/Sea to Sky:

[Christina Walsh](#), MP Patrick Weiler's office

Ocean Wise:

[Aroha Miller](#), Manager, Ocean Watch

Marine Reference Guide – Make Way Charitable Society:

[Fiona Beaty](#), Project Director, [Bridget John](#), Research Assistant

Squamish River Watershed Society

[Edith Tobe](#), Executive Director

Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society:

[Ruth Simons](#), Project Lead, [Jessica Schultz](#), Director, Marine Ambassador, [Ian Winn](#), Director

Observers:

Dr. [Peter Ross](#), Raincoast Foundation

**Moderator:** [Ruth Simons](#), Executive Director, Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIS)

**Note Taker:** Bridget John, Research Assistant, Marine Reference Guide (MRG)

**Objectives:**

1. Share updates related to the Action Tracker.
2. Succession planning update for Marine Reference Guide funding requests to HSCF
3. Confirm plans for future workshops.
4. Learn about the State of the Salish Sea Report
5. Network and discuss topics of interest during Break out rooms

## DECISION REQUESTS

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

1	Next steps for implementing Best Practices for Dock Management
2	Support for and idea of best dates for each of the workshops proposed
3	Next meeting date.

## ACTIONS

1	Transcribe Actions to a shareable spreadsheet so they can be sorted and searched as an option for providing updates.
2	Financial support request for the maintenance of Marine Reference Guide to be brought forward to each local government for 2022 budgets. Fiona to make presentations to Councils on request.
3	Local Governments to act on Best Practices for Marine Dock Management.
4.	Continue plans for workshop on Vessels of Concern, Marine Debris, and mooring buoys to be held fall/winter 2021/2.
5.	Continue to plan a fall workshop that provides opportunities for knowledge sharing among Howe Sound communities and property owners. Consider youth strategy for shifting attitudes of property owners and the need to adapt to sea level rise.
6.	Continue sub-committee plans for holding a Species and Habitat Research and Monitoring workshop to be held in the fall/winter.

### NOTES:

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS/ DECISIONS
1. Latest Updates to the <a href="#">Action Tracker</a> - report on new actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions from all folks on the call</li> <li>• The <a href="#">Action Tracker is starting to fill out.</a></li> <li>• SRWS: Chinook salmon in the Squamish estuary, gathering lots of data there, plans to remove the lower portion of the Squamish Spit and making sure they're not impacting industry. Cumulative effects monitoring with the Squamish</li> </ul>	<p><b>Continue to update the <a href="#">Action Tracker</a></b></p> <p><b>Transcribe actions to spreadsheet and share on request.</b></p>

	<p>Nation. Monitoring sea level rise. Videography with drone of the northern end of the Sound’s shoreline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bowen Island Council meeting: passed budget for the MRG! Councillor Fast to add this action to the Action Tracker</li> <li>● Hope to work towards another Ocean Watch report every few years. This motivates keeping the Action Tracker current as this will reduce the cost of creating in the future.</li> <li>● How to locate the Action Tracker? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HSBRI → What we Do → Marine Action Network → Ocean Watch Action Tracker</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Action 5 in the OW report is funding, no actions reported.</li> <li>● BIM shared experience and media coverage on court challenges as example of effort required and seeking Importance of going through Transport Canada when managing derelict vessels.</li> <li>● Actions in spreadsheet format would be useful for searching.</li> </ul>	
<p>2. Marine Reference Guide funding requests to HSCF and next steps to completion of the project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Document presented at the HSCF in April (see document in post OWAC meeting email)</li> <li>● seeking support from local governments for the next 5 years for maintaining the MRG</li> <li>● still in discussion with the MRG Steering Committee regarding the succession plan of the Guide</li> <li>● The MRG proposed that local governments provide funding to the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society as they have the longer term mandate and UNESCO commitment (to be confirmed fall 2021.)</li> <li>● MRG deliverables: <a href="#">Online interactive map</a>, <a href="#">community network map</a> and <a href="#">research reports</a> (eelgrass, and herring reports etc)</li> <li>● Everyone to watch the MRG <a href="#">promo video</a> :)</li> <li>● Proposed cost-share breakdown for phase 2 (2022-2027): different per local government depending on population size</li> <li>● Ask: what are your recommendations to bring these things forward to the council? i.e. the MRG team can provide a presentation to the council. What is the timing on this to approve this funding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ budget requests are for 2022 - 2027</li> <li>○ Town of Gibsons would like a delegation presentation. Census is coming and the population will change as the last census was in 2016</li> <li>○ Metro Vancouver and other regional district population based on census data and divided by area</li> <li>○ Squamish District does not need a delegation. Staff will bring this forward in July.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Fiona to reach out to each local government that requested a delegation presentation and others.</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Islands Trust: does not need a delegation. But five year commitment will go into the next election cycle, so would be good to familiarize the next council</li> <li>○ District of West Vancouver would like a delegation to council, but staff are providing a recommendation.</li> <li>○ Next HSCF Oct 22nd hosted by Bowen Island Municipality on Bowen</li> </ul>	
<p>3. Update on Best Practices for Dock Management and plans for Workshop on Marine Debris, Mooring Buoys and Vessels of Concern. Action #2.3 Ruth, Ian and Bonny</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Version 10 on HSBRI website</a> of Best Practices for Marine Dock Management</li> <li>● Alternatives to polystyrene including in the report (think wall high density piping, etc)</li> <li>● living document so feel free to pass on feedback</li> <li>● Hoping to continue engagement with the Squamish Nation to endorse this.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Local governments to start adopting the Best Practices for Marine Dock Management.</b></p> <p><b>HSBRIS will submit document to Councils.</b></p>
<p>4. Harmonizing knowledge, adaptation and planning around Howe Sound regarding Sea Level Rise. Moving forward with a sub-committee or workshop? Action 3.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next step would be to have a workshop or sub-committee on this             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ West Van interested in a workshop with this group to bounce ideas off each other to help convey these messages</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Resources that BIM can point people to who want to replace their cottages out on the rocks or build additions that are closer to the water.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Islands Trust has a document on this now</li> <li>○ Also the HSBRI Best Practices for Marine Dock Management talks about this</li> <li>○ Green Shore project valuable to look at</li> <li>○ North Shore municipality sea level rise toolkit</li> <li>○ West Vancouver coastal planning studies: working on foreshore project (initial council report on this). Always looking for additional input. Heather Keith is happy to provide more documents</li> <li>○ Storms and sea level rise is a big issue</li> <li>○ Councillor Fast is looking for a communications piece that targets recreational cottage owners. Tools to build a change in attitude. Communications to hearts and minds for the public that speaks to the science of existing documents.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Move forward with a sub-committee and workshop to be held winter 2021/22</b></p>

<p>5. Plans for Species and Habitat Research and Monitoring workshop – Action 1 &amp; 6. - Ruth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Due to pressures associated with growth and climate change, this Workshop intends to cast a wide net by inviting interested participants to evaluate current marine/freshwater research and monitoring activities and identify future opportunities to address threats to ecosystem health.</li> <li>○ Focus on projects within Howe Sound, review current and planned projects – aligns with Actions 1 and 6.</li> <li>○ Review gaps and opportunities.</li> <li>○ Be proactive with upcoming funding opportunities</li> <li>○ Network to build capacity and foster collaboration</li> <li>○ Share information on resources/tools/equipment</li> <li>○ Gain clarity on who will be carrying projects forward</li> <li>○ Provide a mentoring/learning opportunity for First Nations youth</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Desired outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Energized and updated participants</li> <li>○ Network, build relationships/collaboration/possible restructuring/employment opportunities.</li> <li>○ More information added to current and planned projects.</li> <li>○ Action on projects for the near term.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Long term outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shift towards more proactive funding - proactive, less reactive.</li> <li>○ Future research activities are aligned more closely with pressures to marine and aquatic health</li> <li>○ Build relationships/collaboration/possible restructuring/employment opportunities</li> <li>○ Have an updated expanded action report to align with funding opportunities for tackling the priority issues that other research institutions could use</li> <li>○ Outcomes contribute effectively toward Provincial, Federal, First Nations, and local planning</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Priority issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Climate Change impacts</li> <li>○ Growth/cumulative impacts</li> <li>○ Important species and habitats are protected from further damage and decline.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Who to invite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NGO’s at work currently or those that could add capacity</li> <li>○ Organizations that build bridges and provide</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Continue the planning for Species and Habitat Research and Monitoring Workshop for the fall/winter. Please email with ideas/thoughts as they arise.</b></p> <p><b>Contact Bonny for connections to consultants, etc folks on Bowen Island</b></p>
---	---	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Individuals with marine and freshwater knowledge/interest</li> <li>○ Academia</li> <li>○ Consultants</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Thoughts or ideas on this and consensus on support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ recognizing the diversity of different groups (could be a workshop series)</li> <li>○ opportunity to consider sector based research (working with industry)</li> <li>○ Consultants and academia and partnerships here (hold a lot of information) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ contact Bonny for connections to these folks on Bowen Island</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ other objective of the workshop is to regroup and see other players come forward and that's where the networking becomes very useful</li> <li>○ OWAC endorses this type of workshop.</li> <li>○ Hosts are the Marine Reference Guide and the HSBRI</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>6. State of the Salish Sea Report - <a href="#">see link</a> - and future engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Western Washington University and many collaborators hosted a launch event two weeks ago with 3 speakers</li> <li>● Last comprehensive report of the Salish Sea was done in 1994!</li> <li>● This current report was divided into 7 sections (a lot of parallels to the Ocean Watch report)</li> <li>● Freshwater is the defining feature (whole watershed)</li> <li>● Glass sponge reefs, kelp, oysters, eelgrass, etc</li> <li>● Urbanization and climate change were the two lenses to focus what they talked about as they are key threats to the Salish Sea (log accumulation, coastal contaminates)</li> <li>● Calls to Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Create a Transboundary Salish Sea Data and Information Repository (ie SOGDC)</li> <li>○ Establishing an advisory panel for the Salish Sea</li> <li>○ Recognize Indigenous Knowledge Systems</li> <li>○ Read the report for more!</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Challenges of gathering data transboundary and collating data</li> <li>● Lots of potential for collaboration with the groups there</li> <li>● The University of Washington alternates in hosting the Salish Sea Conference. Last year Vancouver held a virtual conference in 2020. Next conference is 2022 so we are hoping to put in a presentation there about the Ocean Watch report, HSBRI and Marine Reference Guide.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decision to bring on Colin Bates and happy to have Aroha Miller continue on in the OWAC</b></p> <p><b>Ruth is preparing a press release for the HSBRI. Hoping to have votes from various spokespersons that have contributed to the HSBRI</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The photo on the front was Howe Sound/Atl'ka7tsem</li> <li>● Howe Sound is very coupled to the Salish Sea so work to make those comparisons to the larger scale of the Salish Sea. Look at the impacts in the Salish Sea and compare them with the Sound.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aroha's last day is today. Ocean Wise have cut the Howe Sound biodiversity team. Dr. Collin Bates is the new Director of Seaforestation so if the committee would like another representation from Ocean Wise, Colin is a good candidate.</li> <li>● Good idea to have the HSBRI keep a contact with Ocean Wise</li> <li>● Decision to bring on Colin Bates and happy to have Aroha Miller continue on in the OWAC</li> <li>● OWAC next meeting Friday September 24rd (in person hopefully!)</li> <li>● Squamish Nation is going to be dropping from 16 councillors down to 8. Election coming up in September. Joyce Williams will be running again.</li> <li>● HSBRI and the region will be receiving a lot of national and international media coverage this fall once the UNESCO designation is official. Ruth is preparing press releases. Hoping to have quotes from various local government and other spokespersons. Celebrations will also be taking place.</li> <li>● Jessi swam around five islands in the Sound and raised funds for MLSS work on Glass sponge reefs.</li> <li>● Excellent video on BC Marine Trails work to upgrade the campsites in the Sound.</li> <li>● Jessica Schultz announced her last OWAC committee for a while, step down from her role at HSBRI to focus on completing her PhD with University of Guelph.</li> </ul>	
<p>8. Breakout rooms for networking and discussion.</p>	<p><b>Discussion on the Workshop on Marine Debris, Mooring Buoys and Vessels of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposed workshop for vessel of concerns, marine debris and mooring buoys ideas</li> <li>○ Update vessel inventory in MRG</li> <li>○ Collective request to Transport Canada to do a mooring buoy sweep</li> <li>○ Share info on new ways to track and dispose of marine debris</li> <li>○ Understand what funding is out there</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Islands Trust Policy, similar to an OCP, is going to first reading on July 8th: prohibition of all sea walls.</li> <li>● Opportunity to work with Capilano University students this</li> </ul>	

fall. (looking at the problem of sea level rise in West Van to help create a communication from a youth perspective)

- Timing for the vessels workshop may be in November or early in 2022
- Planning for an inventory would be good in the winter so we can respond to it in the spring and summer. Dynamic fluid situation as boats move around in the winter storms.
- Ocean Protection Plan (OPP) new version from Transport Canada. OPP wrapped up it's public workshops. Lots of great consultation, round tables face to face with staff. In June they focused on engaging First Nations into the conversation

**Metro Vancouver Area A Regarding Sea Level Rise**

- Area A any advancement on zoning and addressing future construction?
  - Not a lot yet, as communities are small and there's not a lot of redevelopment
  - Geotech study for the entire area being conducted and will be looking at if there are any sea level rise amendments in the Sound.
  - Metro Van will be doing another clean up in 2022 (pending funding) to help residents get rid of large residential items (pieces of docks, styrofoam, fridges, mattresses, etc) on Passage Island and Bowyer Island.
- This workshop could get people ready (perhaps have Ocean Legacy could help)
- Mapping the mooring buoys would be great to have in the MRG (as they're starting to impact recreational user experience), visual quality for beaches
- Province has no role in cleaning up marine debris (ie Anvil Island catches a lot of debris that swirls around the Sound, Plumpers Cove for BC Parks had lots of vessels there for decades). Guide to Coastal and Protection Law in BC a great resource.

**Upcoming dates:**

- **OWAC Committee Meeting: Friday October 1st**
- **HSCF Friday October 22nd at Bowen Island**
- **HSBRI party in the fall! TBA**