

Ocean Watch Action Committee Meeting Notes

Friday March 26th 2021 from 9:30-11:00 am via Zoom (see recording)

Participants:

Bowen Island Municipality:

[Bonny Brokenshire](#), Manager of Environment and Parks Planning,

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, [Mathew McKinnon](#), District Environmental Mgr., District of West Vancouver, [Lori Williams](#), Chair, Coastal Marine Management Committee.

Village of Lions Bay:

[Peter DeJong](#), Chief Administrative Officer

District of Squamish:

[Doug Race](#), Councillor, [Meagan Leitch](#), Environmental Coordinator

Sunshine Coast Regional District:

[Mark Hiltz](#), Director, Area F

Metro Vancouver:

[Marcin Pachcinski](#), Division Manager, Electoral Area and Environment,

West Vancouver/Sea to Sky:

[Jordan Sturdy](#), MLA,

Ocean Wise:

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

David Suzuki Foundation:

[Kilian Stehfest](#), Marine Conservation Specialist

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

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 to the Action Tracker.
2. Learn about the District of West Vancouver Coastal Marine Management Plan and the North Shore Sea Level Rise Adaptive Management Strategy
3. Understand plans for launch of the Marine Reference Guide
4. Provide feedback on Best Practices for Dock Management and learn relevant updates on Vessels of Concern.
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	Feedback on tracking the strategic plan and Action Tracker
3	Next meeting date in June – not determined, suggest June 25

ACTIONS

1	Submit updates to the Ocean Watch Action Tracker
2	Provide feedback for the CMMP Final Draft : Open for input until April 7th 2021
3	West Van North Shore Sea Level Rise Strategy: Join the workshop to discuss draft DPA April 28th 2021
4.	Reach out to Fiona to help support the MRG presentation at the HSCF and continue/start using the MRG interactive map i.e for marine planning purposes
5.	Reach out to Ian Winn to help with the draft on Best Practices for Dock Management Join in the future workshop of the VOC (vessels of concern) and marine debris
6.	Develop a plan for the next Howe Sound Community Forum April 23, 2021

NOTES:

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS/ DECISIONS
1. Welcome, introductions and updates from last meeting and the Action Tracker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update of the herring surveys in Howe Sound/Átl'ka7sem - Bridget John <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facebook group link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/526562814710935/ ○ Blog on the MRG's website about the herring spawn & survey work: 	Submit updates to the Ocean Watch Action Tracker

	<p>https://howesoundguide.ca/hoping-for-herring/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Round table introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Squamish River Watershed Society and DOS: restoring connectivity of the Squamish River (will start around September after the windsport season). Modelling is being done. Strong partnership driven by the Squamish Nation. ○ West Van: Climate Action committee ○ District of Squamish Marine Zoning Update 2020 ○ Islands Trust: policy statements deeply involving the climate crisis and marine zoning issues. Helicopter logging in Andy's Bay, concerned that it may have affected the eelgrass transplants ○ Sunshine Coast Regional District: Hillside Industrial land, looking at discovering the potential for demonstration forest ○ Jessica Schultz: planning to start surveying the seabed under log booms. Jessica's made a vlog on sea star wasting (education portion of the Action Tracker) ○ Metro Van passed a resolution to support these OWAC meetings ○ HSBRI working on World Oceans Day event with Ocean Wise (Ocean Wise education kits) 	
<p>2. West Vancouver: Coastal Marine Management Plan - Matthew McKinnon and Lori Williams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose of the CMMP is to guide the management of shoreline areas around District of West Vancouver ● Goals: preserve ecosystem, protect infrastructure, inform coastal management ● Coastlines are important for community, ecology (sea level rise, erosion, etc) ● The CMMP builds on almost two decades of coastal planning and management action led by the District, community groups and residents ● Provide policy recommendations on the management of the District's coastline with respect to ecology, utility and infrastructure protection and shoreline protection from climate change ● Project started in 2019 and the final plan will be finished this year ● CMMP divided into 3 focus areas <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coastal dynamic and ecosystems (MRG helping to fill data gaps) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning for 1m rise of sea level by 2100 and 2m by 2200 ○ Sea level rise caused by ice sheets melting and thermal expansion 	<p>Welcomes feedback on the CMMP Final Draft : Open for input until April 7th 2021</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sea level rise impacts intertidal area (up and inward movement, coastal squeeze happening in District of West Vancouver) ○ Prioritize soft or nature-based approaches, restore sediment transport pathways, etc <p>2. Built infrastructure and parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on protecting existing built infrastructure, parks and natural assets from coastal hazards ○ Key issues: limited info on waterfront infrastructure, risk of damage from coastal hazards in the future (storm surge, erosion, creek flood), deterioration of existing infrastructure, etc ○ Key Objectives: manage built infrastructure to be resilient to coastal hazards with limited impacts to natural ecosystems <p>3. Public-private interface</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key issues: large portion of waterfront is privately owned, public/private rights and liabilities in waterfront areas not well understood, private erosion protection is being carried out in an incoordination way, need clearer communication between the District and groups ○ Key objectives: establish and clearly communicate property owner responsibilities for coastal management on private property to enable owner-led initiatives with limited impacts on adjacent owned properties. ○ Coastal adaptation approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Resist: ie dyke ■ Accommodate: ie allowing flooding to happen and flood gates ■ Avoid: ie reduce development in coastal flood plan ■ Advance approach: ie make space for flooding 	
<p>3. West Van North Shore Sea Level Rise Strategy - Heather Keith</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flood mapping across the entire coastline ● Phase 3: consequence and risk assessment (social services, environment, economy, transportation, etc) ● Phase 4: adaptation measures ● Phase 5: implementation; coordinating across partnerships, funding opportunities, engagement, progress monitoring framework ● District of West Van ongoing work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommendation to prepare a foreshore DPA as one tool to adapt to sea level rise and coastal flooding risks 	<p>Join the workshop to discuss draft DPA April 28th 2021</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completed coastal planning study to delineate area-specific flood construction levels for preparation of a DPA (flood mapping including wave effects) ○ Council direction to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop a foreshore DPA in summer 2021 ■ Hold a public workshop to discuss draft DPA April 28th 2021 	
<p>4. Howe Sound/ Átl'ka7sem Marine Reference Guide Update - Fiona Beaty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Started after first Ocean Watch report ● In 2018 we started on Make Way (old name: Tides Canada) ● Focus the Sounds waterways, mostly marine through research and tool creation, relationship building and community engagement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and Tool Creation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online interactive map 90% complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MRG Interactive Map is live! https://howesoundguide.ca/map/ ○ i.e the District of Squamish already using the map to inform their marine plan, along with other groups ● Narrative documents 20% complete ● Doing interviews and surveys to bring local and traditional knowledge into the interactive map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participants outline areas that are important to them for ecological, cultural, economic reasons, etc ● Fill knowledge gaps → plankton. Finished 2 surveys this year, with 3 more to go ● Working with the SN on some herring spawn surveys ● In 2019 we did our eelgrass surveys in the Sound ● Community Network Map (password: community) - 90% complete. This helps to inform who is doing what where ● Main deliverables: website, interactive map, Community network map and narrative resources 2. Relationship Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Squamish Nation MOU 90% complete ○ Steering committee 3. Community Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Government staff training workshops (local government and SN complete, province and DFO in prep and 	<p>Reach out to Fiona to help support our presentation to the HSCF</p> <p>Continue/start using the MRG interactive map i.e for marine spatial planning purposes</p>

	<p>intergovernmental planning for summer 2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community and sectoral presentation (June - sept) ■ Community building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long term succession: HSBRI, MakeWay ○ Local government role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Request for support to present to the HSCF (figure out how local governments want to engage in the MRG after 2021 - Doug Race and Fiona to connect) ● Thanks to our supporters 	
<p>5. Best Practices for Dock Management and relevant updates on Vessels of Concern - Ian Winn and Bonny Brokenshire</p>	<p>Marine Docks - Best Management Practices (BMP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Started a few years ago when there was a lot of damage to infrastructure (ie docks) ● Partnership with Shishalh First Nation, FLNRO and DFO ● BMP topics include construction and maintenance, foreshore protection (ie eelgrass, scouring avoidance), accessibility (public access on foreshore, erosion avoidance), navigation (narrow channels), referral process ● Next steps: looking for feedback as it's still in draft form <p>Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WAHVA came into force June 2019 ● Illegal practices under the act, fines quite large ● Coast Guard and Transport Canada are actively assessing vessels for compliance ● 1481 vessels of concern in Canada ● Current status: some funding still available for removal of abandoned and wrecked vessels but most programs end in early 2022 ● Next steps: challenging for TC and CCG due to Covid-19, MOU with RCMSAR to enable improved response to VOC ● Report all VOC to the Marine Pollution Hotline ● HSBRI would like to host another workshop on vessels of concern (VOC) and marine debris 	<p>Reach out to Ian Winn to help with the draft</p> <p>Join in the future workshop of the VOC (vessels of concern) and marine debris</p>
<p>6. Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request for support in the MRG presenting to the HSCF (figure out how local governments want to engage in the MRG after 2021 - Doug Race and Fiona to connect) ● District of West Van is doing a number of virtual engagement sessions with residents around sea level rise, residents are able to provide comments, HSBRI 	

and MRG to share information around this, important to engage people on the waterfront

- [Green Marine certification](#): i.e encased foam docks may not be the solution as foam still may contribute to microplastics. Thick walled recycled PBC with no foam involved could be a good solution
- Creosote on pilings still an issue, quite expensive
- Puget Sound is an example of removing sea walls (but case by case basis in each area)
- There are a few green shores projects in West Vancouver
- FCL (Flood Construction Levels) could be lowered with green shores instead of retaining walls, and so people are looking at these designs. Good way to educate.
- Logs used to prevent shoreline erosion from storm surges
- NSSLR (North Shore) modelled sea level rise with a storm surge king tide event
- Keats Island foreshore protection zoning area (one issue is Keats has a short setback from the ocean, 1m setback for Keats which is the shortest in Islands Trust)
- Private land (soft wall vs hard wall hardening). Any thought that private landowners have to follow best management practices as they're having impacts on adjacent neighbours? Waves can undermine the bottom of the wall through scouring so more of a short term solution than long term. Soft shore can be a better solution.
- West Van is talking about climate change separate to sea level rise and finding that useful to engage more of the community
- Need for non-technical uniform communication between all the municipalities - April HSCF could be a good place to start getting funding from all communities (funding could be used for the MRG, non technical messaging about sea level rise, etc). Would be good to bring this to the HSCF. This pot of funding could be used for multiple things, would reduce the amount of times to go back and forth to the HSCF to ask for funding
- Destination BC project in HS/A meant to educate people before they travel
- Need concrete actions and steps to mitigate sea level rise. To have the most effective efforts against sea level rise it would be good to have a harmonized plan.
- Standard DPA regulations around the Sound (need authorization from DFO)
- HSBRI can help play a role in communicating best practices in relation to DPAs



- Lots of transferable knowledge to bring into this project
- Gibsons important to have in this conversation