



Ocean Watch Action Committee Report – May 2023 – September 2023

Since the last HSCF in April 2023, the committee met over Zoom: June 23rd, September 22nd. Meeting notes, plans and Action Tracker [can be viewed here](#).

Participating organizations: Representatives of the Howe Sound Community Forum member communities- Town of Gibsons, District of West Vancouver, District of Squamish, Bowen Island Municipality, Gambier Island Local Trust Committee, Area A Metro Van, SLRD, Squamish Nation, Marine Stewardship Initiative, Marine Life Sanctuaries Society, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre, Squamish River Watershed Society, Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society

Organizer & Moderator: Ruth Simons, Executive Director, Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIS)

Objectives of the Committee – Terms of Reference:

1. Learn and build consensus on collective actions Local Governments can take to advance Ocean Health.
2. Advance actions emerging from [Átl'ka7tsem/Txwnéwu7ts/Howe Sound Edition 2020 \(OWHS 2020\)](#)
3. To review and share updates on each of the recommended actions and strategic plan.

Education and presentations received from:

- a. Dead Boat Society – John Roe and application to Transport Canada for removal of up to 12 wrecked and abandoned boats in Howe Sound.
- b. Ocean Legacy regarding their new marine debris depot in Sechelt, and enhance services for Howe Sound.
- c. Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan – HSBRIS
- d. Report on Marine Debris clean up and activities in Howe Sound – Rebecca MacDonald Marine Debris Coordinator

Collaborative Actions:

- a. Collaboration on Marine Debris collection between Nicholas Sonntag and Marine Stewardship's Marine Debris Coordinator.
- b. Collaboration on funding applications and increased locations in Howe Sound for Green Crab Monitoring between Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council, Bowen Island Municipality and Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre with support from DFO and volunteers.
- c. Development of the Marine Debris Fund – Marine Stewardship Initiative and HSBRIS.

- d. Establishment of the Marine Stewardship Initiative's Local Government governance advisory committee.
- e. Installation of fishing closure signage along shoreline – Marine Life Sanctuaries Society and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Recommendations to HSCF:

- To acknowledge and help promote the establishment of a Marine Debris Fund to cover the costs incurred by local stewards for handling and removal of marine debris. The fund would fill a gap in the absence of any other available funding. See proposal

Note Taker: Diane Mitchell, HSBRI

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For more information contact howesoundbri@gmail.com www.howesoundbri.org/marine-action-network