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UNESCO Nomination is progressing

In early September, we received very welcome news from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO ([CCUNESCO](#)) who have endorsed our Nomination

"On behalf of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO), I am pleased to confirm submission of the nomination dossier for the proposed Átl'ka7sem/Howe Sound Biosphere Reserve to the UNESCO MAB Secretariat. I would like to congratulate you on this important milestone in your efforts to achieve the prestigious UNESCO designation."

from Sébastien Goupil, Secretary-General

[Read More about next steps](#)

[Download the Executive Summary](#)



Co-creating a Biosphere Region

We have committed to creating a collaboration culture within our governance for the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region by embedding into our constitution a Squamish Nation Co-Chair role. Over time we strive for diversity with a balance of youth, diversity, and geographic representation on our board.

We recently welcomed Co-Chair Joyce Williams, Squamish Nation Council member, Dr. Hasan Hutchinson, formerly with Health Canada, and our new Marine Ambassador, Jessica Schultz, former manager of the Howe Sound Research Group at Ocean Wise.

Meet our new 2020/21 Board

Collaborating for a Sustainable Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound

COASTAL OCEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

OCEANWATCH

Howe Sound Edition | Executive Summary

Marine Action Network

In early September, Ocean Wise released [Átl'ka7tsem/Txwnéwu7ts/Howe Sound Ocean Watch 2020](#) Edition. This report follows the 2017 edition and is a fascinating read about the health of our Sound. District of Squamish Council Member Doug Race said *"I do have difficulty putting it down, it is full of great information and I highly recommend it."*

Ocean Watch also released [Howe Sound edition teacher resources](#), a series of education kits that link to the grade 7 & 8 curriculum.

[Read More](#)



Conservation News

Good news is happening around the Sound on advancements towards Conservation. Here are some of the highlights:

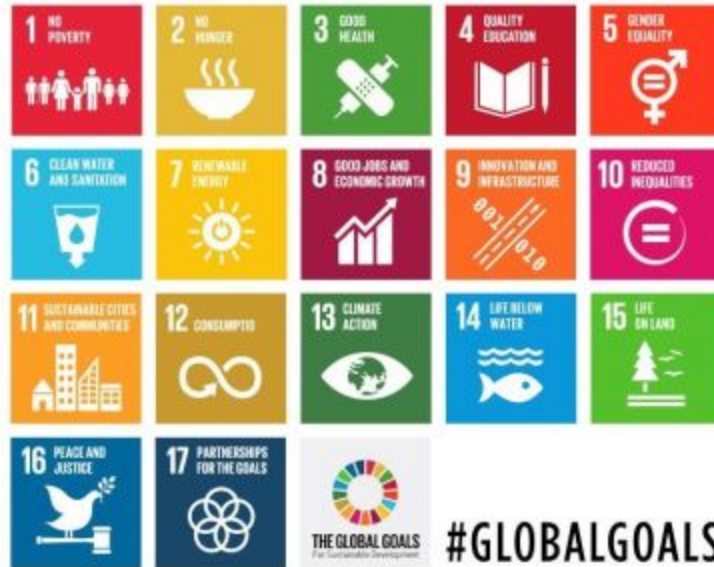
funding from the Federal Government is launching a new Species at Risk Program.

- On Bowen island - [The Bowen Island Conservancy](#) published the beautiful [Bowen Island Marine Atlas](#) and reached an agreement to protect a [32-acre parcel of waterfront land](#) at Cape Roger Curtis. The lands will be set aside in its natural state as a park for all to enjoy. [Metro Vancouver Regional Parks bought Dorman Point](#) to expand the size of Crippen Park. View Bob Turner's [latest video on the underwater](#) life following the recovery of Mannion Bay.
- The [Squamish River Watershed Society](#) continues to work on restoration and monitoring projects. Together with volunteers they recently planted over 100 native plants for bank stabilization and habitat restoration and painted over 30 salmon for the "Way of the Salmon" trail.
- [SeaChange Marine Conservation](#) Society continued with eelgrass planting in nearshore areas of Bowen and Keats Islands. They are also working with the [Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre](#) with marine debris removal in Gibsons Harbor and Plumper Cove.
- Volunteers managed a difficult removal of styrofoam from North Beach on Anvil Island thanks to financial support from the Sunshine Coast Regional District.
- CBC Gem begins streaming the documentary [Moonless Oasis](#) October 30th. The document is about deep diving the Howe Sound Glass Sponge Reefs.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada is starting stakeholder consultations regarding protection measures for the five new Glass Sponge reefs and three sponge gardens that have been confirmed in the west side of the Sound.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



#11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

- The Greater Sea-to-Sky and Howe Sound Community Foundations have produced [A Vital Explorations report](#). This report highlights some of the pressures experienced throughout the region, and is aimed at catalyzing conversations to better understand the issues, and identify potential solutions and region-wide responses.
- Town of Gibsons won the 2020 Community Excellence Award by the Union of BC Municipalities for its eco-assets strategy. It was [recognized](#) for excellence in asset management and strategy that treats the natural environment as part of the town's infrastructure.
- The District of Squamish and [Squamish Helping Hands Society](#) have worked in partnership with BC Housing to create a new "Under One Roof" facility that offers the Squamish community improved and centralized access to food, shelter and support services. The Market rescues an average of 3600 lbs of food each week donated to Squamish Helping Hands by local grocery stores and restaurants. This helps to protect the planet and strives for zero food waste in Squamish.

Join us in making history for Howe Sound and donate today!

Your donations support ongoing efforts of this volunteer initiative.

[Learn more here](#) about sustainable funding and how you can help.

Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) people.

The photo above overlooking Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh is the cover photo for the UNESCO nomination document by Chris Christie.



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