



# ÁTL'KA7TSEM HOWE SOUND BIOSPHERE REGION

Photo: overflightstock.com

## A YEAR IN THE BIOSPHERE

Milestone conservation projects, academic partnerships, and a new ambassador program mark our first year as Canada's 19th UNESCO Biosphere Region. Guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework, the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society continues to focus on reconciliation, biodiversity conservation, placed-based learning, and sustainable development.

## PROJECTS WITH AN IMPACT

### Finding and Filling the Data Gaps

Currently, there are 175 species in this Biosphere Region that are considered to be either threatened or endangered, with habitat and biodiversity loss a major contributing factor. Documenting the 700-plus species that exist within Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound is key to protecting these lands and waters for generations to come. From [Indigenous-lead herring studies](#) to [amphibian monitoring](#), we're building capacity to support local projects that fill in data gaps and provide valuable decision-making tools for policy change.

### Capilano University Partnership

We're progressing the UNESCO goal of connecting youth with nature and community through a new [Capilano University partnership](#). Students from numerous disciplines have been conducting field studies in the region and meeting with local knowledge-keepers. Together, we're exploring new approaches to balancing the environment and economy.

### Ambassador Program

In 2022, we brought on our first [Summer Co-Op Student](#), in partnership with CapU and with financial support from the Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise. Outdoor Recreation Management student, Sophie Cheshire, was at events, hosted workshops and is exploring sustainable outdoor recreation practices while raising awareness about the biosphere.



## GOOD WORK REPORT



Here are just a few good news stories from our Biosphere Region.



**\$926,000** - New funding to increase biodiversity conservation, received over four years from Canada's Enhanced Nature Legacy program



**4,400+** - The total number of species tracked to date by citizen scientists in Biodiversity Squamish iNaturalist records



**250** - Number of Capilano University students to date participating in field studies and research projects about the Biosphere Region



**144** - Hectares of the Squamish Estuary that is being renaturalized to restore vitally important habitat for endangered Chinook salmon— a partnership between Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), Squamish River Watershed Society (SWRS) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada



**32** - Acres of land set aside for the Wild Coast Nature Refuge at Cape Roger Curtis on Bowen Island, which is managed by the Bowen Island Conservancy



**20** - Twentieth anniversary of Howe Sound Community Forums, celebrated in 2022 with updated and renewed commitment to the Principles for Cooperation



**5** - Number of new glass sponge reefs protected by Fisheries and Oceans Canada closures, announced in 2022



Photo: overflightstock.com



## FOCUSING ON OTHER EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION MEASURES (OECMS)

Presently, we estimate that 42% of the land within AHSBR is under some form of conservation management, while less than 5% of the marine area is protected. Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) are zones outside of core protected areas, which can also achieve positive conservation outcomes through other types of management. For the next four years, Canadian Biosphere Regions are receiving funding through Environment and Climate Change Canada to restore, maintain, and enhance biodiversity conservation in the buffer zones that lie within their boundaries.



### Building A Shared Vision for Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound

UNESCO provides the only framework for conservation and sustainable development that encompasses the entire Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound watershed. As stewards of the Biosphere Region, our role is to gather government, Indigenous representatives, organizations, businesses, and civil society to co-create a shared vision.



### Howe Sound Community Forums

The Howe Sound Community Forum, which has been running for two decades, is a roundtable meeting that typically takes place twice annually. This gathering of stakeholders from communities within the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region is an opportunity for knowledge sharing and collaborating on the region's pressing social and environmental issues.



### Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan

This Fall, we will share the 2022 Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan, a long-term regional management plan that outlines the vision for this region and a roadmap for how to get there. Through this living document, we are planning for today's realities and anticipating the needs of tomorrow. The plan is the result of collaborative participation from First Nations, multi-sectoral stakeholders, and local communities.

## A Commitment to Canada's 25x25

Biosphere Regions are critical to actioning the Government of Canada's commitment to conserving 25% of Canada's lands and waters by 2025.

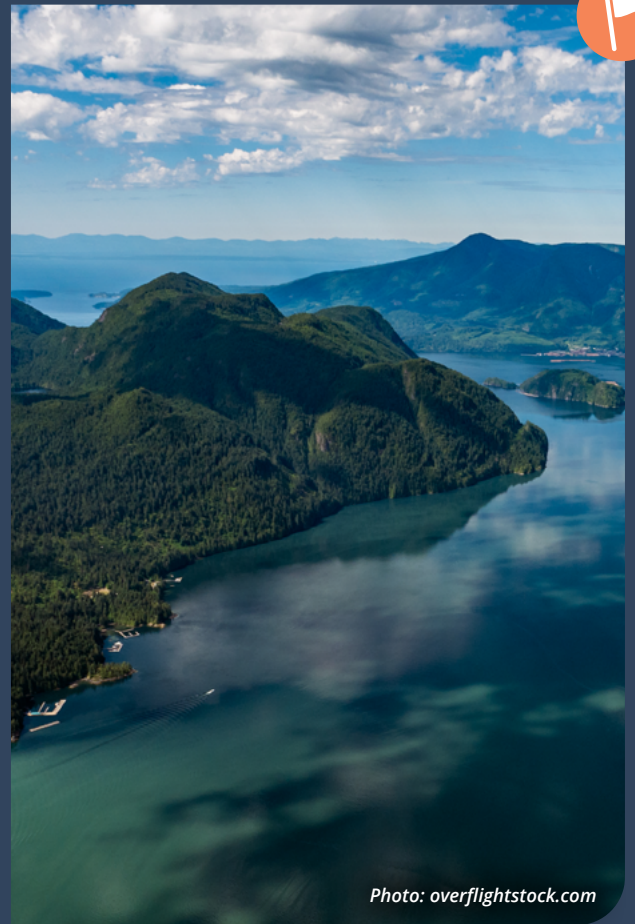


Photo: overflightstock.com

**Join the conversation, volunteer, and donate.**

We're collaboratively addressing issues for our region, based on a collective vision of place.

[howesoundbri.org](http://howesoundbri.org)

#HoweSoundBiosphere

