

Ocean Watch Action Committee Meeting Notes

Friday January 15th 2021 from 9:30-11:00 am via Zoom (see recording)

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

Village of Lions Bay:

[Ron McLaughlin](#), Mayor, [Fred Bain](#), councillor

Squamish Lillooet Regional District:

[Claire Dewar](#), Senior Planner, [Tony Rainbow](#), Area D Director

District of Squamish:

[Sarah McJannet](#), Planner, [Doug Race](#), Councillor

[Caroline Ashekian](#), Environmental Coordinator, [Meagan Leitch](#), Environmental Coordinator

Islands Trust

[Jaime Dubyna](#), Planner

Town of Gibsons:

[Annemarie De Andrade](#), Councillor

Sunshine Coast Regional District:

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

Squamish Nation:

[Kathleen Edwards](#), Environment Manager, [Joyce Williams](#), Council Member

Metro Vancouver:

[Marcin Pachcinski](#), Division Manager, Electoral Area and Environment, [Jen McCutcheon](#), Area A Director

West Vancouver/Sea to Sky:

[Jordan Sturdy, MLA](#), Matthew MacKinnn, Environmental Manager

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

Eclipse Environmental Consulting

[Susan Abs](#), Consultant

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

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

Objectives:

1. Learn about the current [District of Squamish new Marine Zoning under development](#).
2. Engage participants in the use of [the Action Tracker](#).
3. Review progress on the [2019 Strategic Plan](#) and [October 2019](#) recommended key areas.
4. Formation of sub-committee to consider funding options for sustaining the Ocean Watch Action Committee.
5. Understand advancements in 2021 on Action #2 Protect and Restore.
 - a. i.e. Fisheries and Oceans Canada plans for protection of new Glass sponge reefs and alignment of Rockfish Conservation areas.
6. Provide direction on Action #6 *Monitor Key Indicators - Collect long-term data to identify trends, support decision making, and evaluate the outcome of actions taken.*
 - 6.1. *Conduct long-term observations of key species and habitats, and potential hazards (e.g., pollutants). (Refer to the Ocean Watch gap analysis document on the next page.) What gaps have been missed. Suggested potential funders? Updates on work in progress?*
 - 6.2. *Make information easily available to support decision making, e.g., through the Marine Reference Guide.*
 - 6.3. *Create a centralized hub to make group information and data easily accessible and searchable, to increase group participation and data use.*

DECISION REQUESTS

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

1	Commitment to sending updates to the Action Tracker
2	Level of interest to attend workshops on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on Vessels of Concern, Marine Debris, Mooring Buoy Workshop 2. Status of Provincial Howe Sound - Cumulative Effects Project <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Origin and status of the Howe Sound CE Project (5 CE Value Reports) 2. Evolution towards more regional online monitoring and assessment tools (i.e. SBOTs) and their contribution to management & decision-making 3. Status of some new Provincial CE Protocols (i.e. Aquatic Ecosystems, Forest Biodiversity and Estuaries) 4. Short Demonstration of a couple of SBOTs in the Howe Sound Area
3	Agreement on next meeting date – March 26th
4	Sub-committee to consider funding options

ACTIONS

1	Participants agree on best methods for submitting updates to the Action Tracker from their organization and provide feedback on ease of use.
2	RSVP for upcoming Cumulative Effects - Howe Sound webinar March 5th
3	Save the Date for next OWAC meeting March 26th.
4.	Respond to request for participation on Funding sub-committee
5.	Respond to questionnaire when distributed on the progress made towards the four main strategic areas of the Ocean Watch Strategic Plan .

NOTES:

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS/ DECISIONS
1. Welcome & updates	<p>Local Government Resolutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review progress on the 2019 Strategic Plan and October 2019 recommended key areas. Let Ruth know if there's any changes to the notes from the last OWAC <p>Action Tracker explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask for everyone to submit any actions taken since the OW 2020 report to the Action Tracker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit your updates here Requested feedback on the Action Tracker Who in your organization will be submitting updates? Zero Carbon Challenge under OW #7 <p>Request for sub-committee to consider funding options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term cost of HSBRI (and MRG) : request for focused meeting on long term funding for maintaining the OWAC and the Marine Reference Guide. 	<p>Submit updates into the Action Tracker</p> <p>Assign lead in each organization to submit future updates to Action Tracker.</p> <p>Send any feedback in about the Action Tracker</p> <p>Review funding options for HSBRI & MRG</p>
2. Strategic plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ocean Watch Task Force created the strategic plan in Oct 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 recommendation areas that local governments could contribute to or advance. Then report back to the Action Tracker. 	<p>Create a survey for local governments about advancement of the OWTF strategic plan. Contact Kate-</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create a survey that goes through these priorities (yes we've moved on it, or no we haven't and why). Kate-Louise Stamford is happy to work on it and is requesting more eyes. Email to get in touch. Doug Race to assist. ○ Keep OWAC name. ○ Ruth invites suggestions to formalize the OWAC for local government as required ○ Quarterly reports on progress towards actions should be provided to councils 	<p>Louise Stamford/ Doug Race to assist.</p> <p>Send Ruth suggestions as needed to continue to improve OWAC.</p>
<p>3. District of Squamish Marine Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah McJannet presenting ● Ties to OW Action Plan - Action #4 Legislation ● In bylaw drafting process and bringing forward more formal bylaw in the spring of 2021 ● Key tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ marine zoning scan for coastal communities, legislation deep dives on provincial water lot tenures, cross-sector and community review, etc ● Example: At Darell Bay they're using the beta version of the Marine Reference Guide map to explore multiple data sets to look at ecological and human values ● 5 new proposed marine zones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ M-1 Navigation (i.e public boat launch) ○ M-2 Mixed Use (i.e marine commercial uses). ○ M-3 Recreation (i.e dedicated public water recreation) ○ M-4 Log Storage (i.e bringing in best management practices for the industry) ○ M-5 Transportation Facilities (i.e Darrel Bay water lots under ministerial order for use as ferry terminal) ● Existing zone P-4 ecological reserve (enhance existing land and water ecological values) ● Comprehensive planning: progress continues but collaboration remains key ● Zoning bylaw update 2020 ● If interested look at the draft mapping links at squamish.ca/marine-zoning for more detail. ● See PDF presentation in Ruth's previous email 	
<p>4. Action #2 Protect & Restore - link to presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kilian (marine conservation specialist for the David Suzuki Foundation) ● 2 initiatives (new glass sponge reef closures and RCA review) ● 5 new sponge reefs in HS with spatial conservation measures (adjust Passage Island closure) - expected completion by March 2021 ● RCAs designation to protect rockfish and lingcod and 	

	<p>their habitat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly integrate RCAs with glass sponge reef areas • Possibly RCAs could be deemed marine refuges (however there are activities identified as possible threats to getting this designation ie sewage outfalls) • High degree of overlap between RCAs and Priority Conservation Areas • RCA review presents good opportunity for additional spatial protections at the federal level • DSF is preparing input to the review using the marine conservation analysis output. • Love to have local government endorse this in the future • Metro Vancouver to update residents on RCAs/ marine refuges • January 28th workshop - organized by Lyndsay Kloop • See PDF presentation in Ruth's previous email 	
6. Action #6 Monitor Key Indicators	<p>Breakout Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were five randomly selected groups that discussed various topics for 10 minutes. Notes from discussions will be brought forward. Feedback is positive about discussion time. 	Allocate more time for breakout room informal discussions
7. Conclusion and review of decision outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Coast Clean Water federal grant (abandoned and derelict vessels) • Email suggestions to make the Action Tracker easier • Indicate interest for vessels of concern workshop (spring 2021) • Cumulative effects workshop (March 5th) • Next OWAC meeting March 26th 	

BJ	Bridget John - MRG (Co-host, me)			
	Ruth Simons HSBRI (Host)			
JS	Jessica Schultz - HSBRI (Co-host)			
So	SarahMcJannet_Distric... (Co-host)			
CA	Caroline Ashekian District of Squamish			
AT	A.DeAndrade Town of Gibsons			
AM	Aroha Miller - Ocean Wise (Ocean W...			
BB	Bonny B - BIM			
CD	Claire Dewar - Squamish Lillooet Reg...			
DR	Doug Race District of Squamish			
	Edith Tobe, SRWS			
FB	Fiona Beaty (she/her) - MRG			
FB	Fred Bain Village of Lions Bay			
	Ron McLaughlin Village of Lions Bay			
st	sharon thompson District West Vanc...			
S-	sueellenfast - Gambier Island Local T...			
SA	Susan Abs			
HK	Heather Keith District of W Van			
IW	Ian Winn - HSBRI			
JD	Jaime Dubyna - Islands Trust			
	Jen McCutcheon (she/her) - Electora...			
JS	Jordan Sturdy - West Vancouver/Sea...			
	Joyce Williams - Squamish Nation			
KS	Kate-Louise Stamford - Gambier Isla...			
KE	Kathleen Edwards - Squamish Nation			
KS	Kilian Stehfest (DSF)			
MP	Marcin Pachcinski - Metro Vancouver			
	Mark Hiltz, SCRD Area F			
MM	Matthew MacKinnon DWV Environme...			
ML	Meagan Leicht - District of Squamish			