Ocean Watch Action Committee

Meeting Notes



Friday October 2nd from 9:30-11:30 am Zoom call:

**Participants**:

Annemarie De Andrade, Councillor, Town of Gibsons

Aroha Miller, Ocean Watch Manager, Ocean Wise

Bonny Brokenshire, Environmental Manager, Bowen Island Municipality

Doug Race, Councillor, District of Squamish, Director of SLRD

Fiona Beaty, Project Manager, Marine Reference Guide, Make Way

Hasan Hutchinson, Board Member, Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society

Heather Keith, Sr. Environmental Protection Officer, District of West Vancouver

Ian Winn, Howe Sound Biosphere Regional Initiative Society

Jenna Stoner, Councillor, District of Squamish

Jessica Schultz, PhD Candidate, University of Guelph, Marine Ambassador HSBRIS

Joyce Williams, Council Member, Squamish Nation

Kate-Louise Stamford, Trustee, Gambier Island Local Trust Committee

Kilian Stehfest, David Suzuki Foundation

Mark Hiltz, Director, Sunshine Coast Regional District

Sarah McJannet, Senior Planner, District of Squamish

Sue Ellen Fast, Councillor, Bowen Island

Susan Abs, Environmental Consultant, Eclipse Consulting

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

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

**Objectives:**

1. Understand new actions emerging from [Átl’ḵa7tsem/Txwnéwu7ts/Howe Sound Edition 2020 (OWHS 2020)](https://oceanwatch.ca/howesound/)
2. Gain consensus on:
	1. most useful method for tracking and updating “strategic plan”
	2. confirming role and definition of “[Leadership Partners](https://howesoundguide.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/MRG-Project-Plan_V29_public.pdf)”for the [Marine Reference Guide](https://howesoundguide.ca/)
	3. purpose, name and structure of future meetings.
3. To review and share updates on action [Strategy #7](https://oceanwatch.ca/howesound/welcome-3/action-plan-3/) *- Decrease greenhouse gas emissions and move towards zero carbon municipalities to align with recommended reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, e.g., IPCC, Paris agreement, Copenhagen accord*
4. Agree on recommendations to put forward at the Howe Sound Community Forum (HSCF) on Oct. 23rd

**DECISION REQUESTS**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Commitment towards future meetings and meeting frequency schedule |
| 2 | Support for Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society as convenors and administrators of “Ocean Watch - Howe Sound” action planning. |
| 3 | Wording of recommendations for HSCF that indicates support for:Ocean Watch Edition 2020 report actionsStructure of “Leadership partners” for the continued success of the Marine Reference Guide Continued contribution towards participation in Ocean Watch Action Planning. |

**ACTIONS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Complete meeting Feedback questionnaire - Ruth to send |
| 2 | Send Aroha your address to receive the OW 2020 Report (aroha.miller@ocean.org) |
| 3 | Created Recommendations for the October 23rd Howe Sound Community Forum |

**AGENDA**

9:30-9:45 Welcome, introductions, role updates - All

Update on evolution of Ocean Watch Task Force - Ruth

9:45-10:00 Ocean Watch Átl’ḵa7tsem/Txwnéwu7ts/Howe Sound Edition 2020

* New Action items and status - Aroha
* Action tracker and strategic plan - Jessica

10:00-10:15 Marine Reference Guide project status overview - Sarah

* Role of the Leadership Team and request - Fiona

10:15-10:25 Meeting purpose going forward - Ruth and all

10:25-11:00 Roundtable updates on Strategy #7 ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS - Jessica

* Review of updated section
* Discussion on key recommendations
* Key takeaways and commitments

11:00-11:15 Recommendation for HSCF - Ruth

11:15-11:30 Conclusion and next meeting

* Summarize action items and decisions
* Outline next steps

**NOTES:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | DISCUSSION | ACTION ITEMS/ DECISIONS |
| 1. Welcome and agenda review | **Welcome, introductions, role updates*** Introductions from every participant
* HSBRIS has Service contract with Islands Trust for note taking and help convening the HSCF
* Will send out a questionnaire at the end to look for feedback
* HSBRI website has a new section called Marine Action Network (will hold community map, OWTF committee reference documents and minutes and other tools)
	+ Feedback welcome
* Overview of the agenda
 | Ruth to send feedback questionnaire for attendees to fill out |
| 2. Ocean Watch Howe Sound Edition 2020 Report | **New Action items and status - Aroha*** Send Aroha your address if you haven't received the OWHS 2020 report (aroha.miller@ocean.org)
* Overview of key issues and action plan
	+ Action 1. Research: further understanding to be able to protect the ecosystems and species
	+ Action 2. Protect and Restore: marine species, habitats and ecosystem services
	+ Action 3. Education and Engagement: increase awareness/education and consistent messaging on environmental issues
	+ Action 4. Legislation: enforcement of regulations
	+ Action 5. Funding: securing funding and continuity of funding difficult
	+ Action 6. Monitor: long term data to identify trends, support decision making and evaluate the outcomes of actions taken
	+ Action 7. Climate Change: brought to the forefront of the OW 2020 report with more reports talking about climate change

**Action tracker and strategic plan - Jessica*** Actions from 2017 and 2020 (what has been addressed, what hasn't been addressed, what's not relevant, and what actions are new)
* Request for participants to review the OWTF strategic action plan
1. Groups to provide updates on what actions they’ve completed to the OW team to update the Action Tracker
2. Request for participants to be familiar with actions from the action tracker that are relevant to your organization
3. Read through the strategic action plan and let Jessica know if there’s any updates.
4. Align actions with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (ie Goal 14: Life Underwater, etc)
 | Send Aroha your address to receive the OWHS 2020 ReportReview the Ocean Watch report strategic action plan [here](https://oceanwatch.ca/howesound/welcome-3/action-plan-3/)Become familiar with actions relevant to your organization from the Action TrackerAlign action goals with the UN SDG’s |
| 3. Marine Reference Guide | **Project status overview - Sarah (Chair of the MRG Steering Committee) and Fiona*** MRG project in year 2 of 3
* In 2020 it has been focused around spatial data collection, research, fieldwork and completing the beta map. At this time the MRG team is soliciting feedback from the steering committee, planning workshops with GIS technicians, etc)
* On track to complete deliverables for June 2021
* Also conducting interviews and surveys to collect social, economic, cultural and ecological values from different knowledge holders around HS to inform a number of narrative resources that will be incorporated into the Guide
* Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SN in progress
* Finances in a healthy state
* MRG linked to a number of other groups (chapters in OW Howe Sound Report, Community Network Mapping, HSBRI, etc)
* Ensuring the MRG deliverables connect formally into local government planning and community education.
* Open to hearing this groups perspectives to form the MRG project into a long term legacy project

**Role of the Leadership Team and request*** Focused this year on the deliverables
* Next year we will be more focused more on the end deverliables to be useful for local governments
 | **MRG team continues to work toward the deliverables.**  |
| 4. Meeting purpose going forward | * Resolution from council
* Finding a home for this OWAC: direction or vision
	+ Vision that the HSBRIS continues to provide logistic support to organizations
	+ $3800 from Islands Trust for the OWAC meetings and admin until end of March 2021
* Canadian Commision for UNESCO endorsed Átl’ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region nomination!
	+ Squamish Nation council very supportive towards the HSBRIS
	+ Joyce now co-chair of HSBRIS
 | **Continue thinking about the direction and vision for the OWAC** |
| 5. Roundtable updates on Strategy #7 | **Review Updated Section*** [Review of Action 7](https://oceanwatch.ca/howesound/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/08/OceanWatch-HoweSoundExecutiveSummary2020_online.pdf). Greenhouse Gas Reductions (pg 18)
* Request to read [Zero Carbon Article](https://ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/OceanWatch-HoweSoundReport2020-online.pdf) (pg 50) if you haven't

**Discussion on Key Recommendations** * District of Squamish
	+ Declared a climate emergency
	+ Part of our strategic plan
	+ Developed community climate action plan to keep on track. Happy to share the plan with those who haven't seen it.
	+ Hired a sustainability coordinator to look at opportunities to implement the goals (ie reducing waste)
	+ Involved in several goals from Action 7 (still ongoing)
	+ District involved in many sub actions from Action 7 (close loop on waste, shift beyond the car, decarbonize transportation and buildings, construct more sustainable buildings)
	+ Greenhouse Gas Reductions creating a warmer trend, but don’t lose sight of air pollution, need to consider adapting to the warmer trend
	+ Roadblock from provincial government about regional transit (funding roadblock)
	+ Focus on Action 7 (6 items) at the HSCF
	+ Many communities challenged with the provincial database
	+ Squamish requested more GHG data from ICBC
* Island Trust
	+ Working with My Sea to Sky to test climate action report card tool
	+ Delegation of asking for a coastal strategy and laws from the Federal Government with West Coast Aquatic
	+ Islands Trust Conservancy received half a million dollars over three years to support species at risk in the Howe Sound. Possibly the expansion of bird designations across the islands. Focusing on forest protection
	+ Exploring transportation options (i.e electric ferry, foot passenger ferries).
* Bowen Island
	+ working on a community energy and emissions plan update for Bowen Island. Rely on provincial data for land use, which is from 2010 where they only consider permanent change.
	+ Transportation data from 2012 with data based on a lot of assumptions. ICBC asking for odometer readings.
	+ Some data from 2017 which is great (i.e land use waste emissions data).
	+ Don't have the staffing capacity or expertise to refine the old provincial data.
	+ How is regular public transit done in an efficient way (ie multi use pathway across Bowen to reduce the amount of private vehicles)
* SCRD
	+ Regional district embedded in strategic plan.
	+ Plan to increase staff capacity deferred to 2021
* Town of Gibsons
	+ Struggling from reasons already described above
	+ Signed 4 years partnership with the Nicholas Sonntag Marine Education Centre (data collection, surveying, etc)
	+ Sea to Source project (mapping the entire watershed that feeds the aquifer)
	+ Bylaws passed and updated (tree bylaw, implement new building code, chief resilience officer new role)
	+ Pushing for Climate Action Plan for 2021
* Squamish Nation
	+ momentum of task force decreased due to Covid
	+ working to support other communities
	+ New sustainable housing development just announced
* HSBRI and HSCF
	+ Continue focusing on the Ocean Watch Actions in meetings
 | **Groups continuing to work toward greenhouse gas reductions** |
| 6. Recommendations for HSCF | 1. Have the HSCF acknowledge the action items in the 2020 Ocean Watch report. Integrate these action items into their report
* Support towards this from Bowen Island, District of Squamish, Town of Gibsons, Squamish Nation, Sunshine Coast Regional District, Islands Trust
1. Have the HSCF endorse the OW actions
2. Establish a formal network for ongoing collaboration
* Need for leadership, commitment and support. Appoint someone from the council.
* From Strategic Plan → Secure resources, i.e., funding and expertise, to increase regional marine planning capacity for Howe Sound as a bioregion.
* Recommend the HSCF allocate resources by staff and elected officials from different committees
* Formalize network working groups and resources to keep collective building capacity around the region.
* Sarah, Kate, Bonny and Doug to help on final wording on final resolution for the forum.
1. Recommendation that the HSBRIS be the convening group for the OWAC and the HS
* Ocean Watch Action Network or Marine Action Network or Ocean Watch Action Committee or Ocean Watch Action Network Committee
* Ruth to put out suggestions for the name through a survey
 | **HSCF to acknowledge and endorse 2020 Ocean Watch report and actions****Councils to appoint someone from staff & Council to attend HSCF. Research previous council resolutions for this.** **Work on final resolution for the HSCF** |
| 7. Conclusion and Next meeting | * End of January suggested for the next meeting (following meeting to be in March sometime)
* Action Tracker → how do we increase more visibility on this progress. Potentially a shared document so local governments can provide updates relating to different actions
* Consider tool to access details on who is doing what actions ongoing.
* Share back our notes and ask for feedback on certain things
 | **End of January next OWAC Meeting** |