

Status: Complete

Salt Marsh Restoration: Site 3.2

Location and Size

Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.2 is located along Roberts Bank on the south side of the Deltaport container terminal by Roberts Bank Way in Delta, B.C. The site covers a gross area of approximately 4,500 m² (0.45ha).



Figure 1. Location of Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.2 along Roberts Bank in Delta, B.C.

Previous State

Prior to restoration works, the site was characterized by dense accumulations of historically deposited woody debris, mostly composed of saw-cut logs from the forestry sector. Based on aerial photo reviews, the vast majority of the woody debris had been present for 25 to 70 years before the restoration works were undertaken. The debris was observed to be smothering underlying salt marsh vegetation and had compacted the sediments preventing the associated salt marsh from achieving its full productive capacity.

Overview of Completed Project

The restoration works were undertaken in January 2014 with support from Tsawwassen First Nation and was completed through efforts from the Tsawwassen First Nation/Matcon Joint Venture. Work involved the careful removal of woody debris and litter. Wildlife snags were installed to provide enhanced wildlife habitat features, including perching and roosting habitat for raptors.

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM | Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.2

The target vegetation species for recolonization includes saltgrass, pickleweed, dunegrass, other halophytic grasses, orache and various salt tolerant herbaceous species (e.g. silver burweed, gumweed, aster and dock). These salt marsh species provide an important source of primary production, nutrients and organic matter supporting a detritus-based food web utilized by a diverse assemblage of marine and estuarine species. The restored salt marsh will also provide a number of other ecological functions such as wave dampening, carbon sequestration, photosynthesis and oxygen production. Based on similar projects, it is predicted that the salt marsh will be fully functioning within 3 to 5 years.

Port Metro Vancouver will continue to annually monitor sites in its Habitat Bank to ensure that biophysical objectives are met.



Photo 1. Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.2 prior to the woody debris removal works (Delta Map 2012).



Photo 2. Excavator shifting woody debris towards the load-out area during restoration works (January 2014).



Photo 3. Salt Marsh Restoration Site 3.2 following the woody debris removal works (January, 2014).



Photo 4. Site conditions at Site 3.2 approximately five months after the restoration works (June 2014).



Photo 5. Site conditions at Site 3.2 approximately five months after the restoration works (June 2014).



Photo 6. Site conditions at Site 3.2 approximately seven months after the restoration works (Photo Credit: G.L. Williams, August 2014).