

Meeting Date: October 4, 2018

Tsawwassen Container Examination Facility

- From an engineering perspective, the Tsawwassen Container Examination Facility is complete.
- An occupancy permit has been requested from Tsawwassen First Nation. This will allow the warehouse operator (Harbour Link/Tidewater Container Services) to begin outfitting the facility for operational readiness.

Deltaport Truck Staging Area

- Drafting a tender for stage 2 major works construction is in progress.
- Pending approval from Transport Canada to extend funding, the timelines for the completion of truck staging have been moved back by one year. The new schedule is below. In addition to this, pre-load will be moved from the site starting in October, to another site.
 - Commencement of construction: March 2019
 - Substantial completion: September 2020
 - Total completion: December 2020

Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project

The Review Panel for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) Project continues to review the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and are issuing information requests to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority as they go.

- The most recent information request (IR) package was issued on July 17, 2018 and contains 30 items that require responses from the port authority. This brings the total number of information request issued to the port authority up to 13.
- The port authority has submitted responses to IR Packages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 partial responses to IR Packages 7, 8, 10 and 11 and is currently working to provide response to the remaining outstanding IRs (9, 10, 11, 12, 13)
- The project team has submitted 73 per cent of the information requests issued by the panel (275 complete out of 379 issued) to date.

Panel procedures and public comment period updates:

- The public comment period will close October 5 for draft hearing procedures (released on July 6) and sufficiency of information (information requests from packages 1-6, as well as select topics found in packages 7 and 8).

BHP Potash Export Facility Project

- The port authority has accepted a completed permit application from BHP Billiton Canada Inc. (BHP)
- The proposed project is now under review as part of the port authority's Project and Environmental Review process and is a Category D project.
- Proposed facility would have an annual capacity of eight million tonnes and would use an existing berth and portion of the existing container yard at Fraser Surrey Docks to load potash to deep sea vessels on the Fraser River.
- It would include the construction of an above-ground storage building, a travelling ship-loader, rail loop, rail unloading facility, transfer system and other associated terminal infrastructure.

Update since July 12 meeting:

- Public consultation took place June 28 to July 27, 2018.
- BHP held two open houses in July. Thirteen people attended the two open houses (two people attended the open house in Surrey, and 11 people attended the open house in New Westminster).

- Consultation and consideration reports will be posted to the port authority's website once available.

Fraser Grain Terminal Project

- A third round of public consultation was held in the application review phase of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's project and environmental review process due to significant design changes by the applicant. Consultation was held online from July 23 to August 13, 2018.
- Fraser Grain Terminal's consultation summary and consideration reports are now available on the port authority's website:
 - [Consultation Summary Report](#)
 - [Input Consideration Report](#)

Land Use Plan

- Public consultation on proposed Land Use Plan Amendments took place from Friday, June 15 to Wednesday, August 15, 2018:
 - Online: PortTalk online feedback survey
 - Email: landuseplan@portvancouver.com
 - In Person: Three open houses
- Nine people attended the three open houses (all held in June).
- Summary and consideration report will be available in the fall.

ECHO Program underwater noise initiatives

- Two underwater noise reduction initiatives are currently in place: the Haro Strait slowdown, and Strait of Juan de Fuca lateral displacement trial.
- The **Haro Strait slowdown**, a voluntary industry-led initiative supported by the ECHO Program, requests vessels travelling the Haro Strait to slow down to a speed which has been optimized based on data from last year's trial.
- As of August 30, the overall vessel participation rate for all seven weeks of the slowdown is 87%.
- The slowdown will continue based on whale presence in the area.
- The **Strait of Juan de Fuca lateral displacement trial**, a voluntary trial that asks vessels to move south when travelling through the Strait in order to reduce underwater noise in southern resident killer whale foraging habitat.
- Transport Canada is co-leading the lateral displacement trial with support of U.S. Coast Guard, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Canadian and U.S. marine transportation industry, Aboriginal individuals and environmental and conservation groups.
- Results since the trial began on August 20 show a clear shift in the pattern of commercial vessel tracks both in the outbound shipping lane and inshore zone. This is very encouraging and we would like to thank those organizations and masters who have helped reduce underwater noise in these important foraging areas so far.
- The displacement trial will end on October 31.
- For regular updates for both initiatives we are encouraging sign-up to the [bi-weekly newsletter](#).

Fraser River Improvement Initiative

- The Fraser River Improvement Initiative is a program to address derelict vessels, structures and trespass along the river.
- Since the start of the program in 2013, we have addressed 144 of the 151 sites originally identified through the Fraser River Improvement Initiative.
- 37 sites were in Delta.
- In 2017, we removed and disposed of the sunken vessel "Western Express", from the south side of Gunderson Slough. The wooden vessel was 136' in length and weighed 247 metric tonnes. The cost to remove the vessel was approximately \$90,000.00.
- There are no outstanding projects in Delta. The remaining 7 sites will be addressed with the help of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority legal services.



Photo: Western Express

Committee member enquiries

1. RE: Shorebirds

Roger E, Community Representative

[Follow-up on action item: At the July 12 meeting, Roger asked why a 2014 report was referenced in the port authority's response to his enquiry about the Western Sandpiper at Roberts Bank.]

Further to last night's PCLC the person you should contact is Mark Drever at CWS.
mark.drever@canada.ca

He has graphs and a lot of data for many years and it is from that information that he made the statement

"This spring 2017, we estimate that 190 thousand birds migrated through the site. The overall trend from 1991 to 2017 indicates a decline of -2%/year (P = 0.09)."

Response from the port authority:

The data used in our initial response was information that was used in the development of RBT2 Environmental Impact Statement, which was submitted in 2015.

As you suggest, Canada Wildlife Service collects the data yearly and based on their most recent data from 2017, there were fewer shorebirds using Roberts Bank during their count. The port authority recognizes the quality of the work conducted by Canada Wildlife Service and that Mark Drever is an authority on the population status of the western sandpiper population. Based on our studies, biofilm or availability of prey do not appear to be limiting shorebirds from using the site, as results indicate there is more than enough food to support shorebird population at Roberts Bank.

Enquiry and response from the port authority discussed at July 12 meeting:

RE: Shorebirds facing extinction
Roger E – Community Member

This recent New York Times article, one of several, describes the severity of the

situation that migratory birds are facing. Bird Studies Canada and Birdlife International have recently reported in a similar vein:
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/04/27/opinion/shorebirdsextinction-climate-change.html>.

Populations of shorebirds are crashing.

The reasons are many but one of the major factors is habitat and wetlands destruction and degradation. In particular they all report on the degradation of the Flyways. One such is the Pacific Flyway that passes through Roberts Bank. We know from research that the Western Sandpiper population is declining at an average rate of two percent a year. What is the Port of Vancouver's view on this situation?

Response from the port authority discussed at July 12 meeting:

The port authority can't comment on the shorebird population as a whole. However, with regard to the Western Sandpiper specifically at Roberts Bank, the port authority looks to information provided by Canada Wildlife Service (CWS) who annually documents Western Sandpiper abundance at Brunswick Point during northern migration and has done so since 1991.

This is the largest and most complete long-term dataset of any site in the species' range and no meaningful trend in the number of birds using the site has been documented over the 23 years of monitoring (Drever et al. 2014).*

The port authority recognizes the importance of Roberts Bank and the Fraser River Estuary to Western Sandpipers and supports the protection of this environment to support migratory populations into the future. For more information about the dataset, please connect with CWS directly.

**Drever, M. C., M. J. Lemon, R. W. Butler, and R. L. Millikin. 2014. Monitoring populations of Western Sandpipers and Pacific Dunlins during northward migration on the Fraser River Delta, British Columbia, 1991–2013. Journal of Field Ornithology 85:10–22.*

2. RE: Vessel Xin Los Angeles belching black smoke
Roger E, Community Representative

Please pass this email on to whomever is responsible for air pollution from vessels calling at Vancouver.

I would appreciate a response.

At approximately 1130 July 27 I observed the container vessel Xin Los Angeles traveling north past Saturna Island belching black smoke which it had been doing ever since it came into view in Boundary Pass. Clearly the vessel was burning the cheapest, dirtiest diesel fuel. Just as it came into the channel between Pender and Saturna en route to Centerm it stopped belching smoke as it presumably switched to cleaner fuel. Disgusting. Irresponsible.

What are the regulations concerning fuel type in coastal waters?

VFPA needs to be taking more action to protect vessels such as this one from polluting our air and waters.

I would hope and expect the Harbour Master to be in contact with this vessel whilst it is in port and get an explanation.

Response from the port authority:

Within Canadian waters, the Government of Canada is responsible for setting emissions standards and monitoring ships to ensure compliance, including enforcement of the International Maritime Organization's North American Emission Control Area (NA - ECA)

regulations. Questions about regulations, inspection and compliance monitoring can be directed to Transport Canada (questions@tc.gc.ca).

While *Xin Los Angeles* was operating outside the port authority's jurisdiction, our operations centre followed up with the ship. We were advised it was experiencing a mechanical issue. I forwarded this information on to Transport Canada staff responsible for inspection and compliance monitoring, who advised they had already received this report through their other sources.

When the port authority receives a report of smoke emission from a ship operating within the Port of Vancouver's jurisdiction, our operations centre will take steps to investigate including identifying the ship, contacting the ship to inquire, or observing the ship from the water. Note that short periods of higher density smoke emission can be seen during normal operations such as during engine start up and acceleration. However, this should not go on for prolonged periods of time.

For issues requiring immediate attention within the port authority's jurisdiction, please contact the 24/7 operations line at 604.665.9086.

3. RE: CEEA process Delta port expansion *Robert M, Community Representative*

Suggestion from committee member that once the Panel issues the Notice of Hearing, that the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project team make application documents including all information requests and responses available in print and on USB, and provide copies to interested people and Delta libraries.

The project team are considering this (both print copies and USB at the Delta office). They will be in touch with additional information when the Panel issues the Notice of Hearing.

Delta Community Office report

Community engagement events:

- July 10 and 14 – [The Container Trail](#) tour: about 80 people participated.
- July 25 – Vancouver Aquarium's [AquaVan: about 300 attended.](#)
- July 26 – Speaker Series: [How microplastics are threatening our oceans](#), with Dr. Peter Ross of OceanWise's Coastal Ocean Research Institute; about 80 people attended.
- August 16 and September 13 – Behind the scenes tour of Harbour Link container depot and Seaspan commercial ferry terminal; about 100 people participated.
- August 23 – Speaker Series: How enhancing habitat benefits fish and wildlife, with Charlotte Olson, VFPA's manager of infrastructure habitat development; about 70 people attended.

Upcoming events:

- The Container Trail tour on Oct 13 + 16, November 3
- Speaker series: Brian Best, Director of Warehousing and Distribution, London Drugs on November 8
- Speaker series in North Delta: Tino Isola, Fraser River Pile and Dredge, November 14

Latest news

[Vancouver welcomes largest cruise ship to-date, Norwegian Bliss, to Canada Place at the Port of Vancouver](#) – September 27, 2018

On Sunday, September 30, Norwegian Bliss will arrive at the Canada Place cruise ship terminal at the Port of Vancouver. At over 168 thousand tonnes, 333 metres in length, and

room to accommodate nearly six thousand people, the Bliss is the largest cruise ship ever to come through the Port of Vancouver.

[Public consultation period begins for proposed Maplewood Marine Restoration project](#) – September 21, 2018

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority invites the public to learn more about, and provide feedback on, its proposed Maplewood Marine Restoration Project during the public consultation period from September 24 to October 12, 2018. This consultation is part of the port authority's Project and Environmental Review process.

[Vancouver Fraser Port Authority joins leading port authorities in climate action program](#) – September 17, 2018

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the organization responsible for the stewardship of the Port of Vancouver, is pleased to announce its participation in the World Ports Climate Action Program. In this new international initiative, the port authorities of Vancouver, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg, and Barcelona will be joining forces and working together on a number of projects that address the issue of global warming.

[Cruisers rank Vancouver as one of the top cruise destinations](#) – August 22, 2018

As a top global destination, Vancouver continues to attract a wide range of cruise lines and passengers from around the world that visit the Canada Place cruise terminal at Port of Vancouver during their Alaska-bound cruise. Today, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, which manages the Port of Vancouver, is pleased to announce that Vancouver has been recognized by cruisers as one of the top-rated cruise destinations in the US and Canada in the 2018 Cruise Critic's Cruisers' Choice Destination Awards. The winners are chosen based on consumer ratings and reviews posted by cruise passengers to the Cruise Critic website.

[Growth across most sectors drives record mid-year results at the Port of Vancouver](#) – August 14, 2018

Overall cargo through the port increased 4.4 per cent to 72.1 million metric tonnes (MMT) over the same time last year to reach record mid-year volumes.

Container volumes (measured in 20-foot equivalents or TEUs) increased by five per cent compared to mid-year 2017 to a record 1.64 million TEUs as a result of the growing demand for Canadian resources and products, and the increasing Canadian demand for consumer and manufacturing goods from Asia.

[Opinion: Charles Gauthier: Placemaking sets the scene for economic success](#) – August 13, 2018

[Opinion: Lisa Geddes: Safety first this B.C. Day long weekend](#) – August 3, 2018

In advance of the upcoming long weekend, Lisa Geddes, executive director of Boating B.C. discusses the importance of boating safety and their work with the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to ensure boaters have the information and guidelines they need to make the most of their boating experience. As the principal authority for shipping and sea use in the Port of Vancouver, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's vision of becoming the world's most sustainable port is based, in part, on a pillar of collective accountability for a healthy environment, something in which all users of our beautiful port waters can play a role.

[Opinion: Paul Gravett: Vancouver's heritage rooted in our waterfront](#) – August 3, 2018

In light of B.C. Day, Paul Gravett, executive director of Heritage B.C. discusses Vancouver's historical linkages between the region's legacy and its economic development, environmental sustainability, tourism, and shared history as a port city. While each of

these elements are an important and distinct piece of our region's heritage, there is one place where they all converge — at the water's edge.

[Be a better boater this summer](#) – July 24, 2018

With a rise in near-miss incidents in the Burrard Inlet this year, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and the Vancouver Police Department Marine Unit are strongly encouraging boaters to follow the safe boating guidelines to be better prepared, informed, and safe on the water this summer.