



Habitat Enhancement Program

Field studies information sheet – October 2020

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority’s Habitat Enhancement Program is conducting field studies this fall as part of ongoing environmental and technical work for the Maplewood Marine Restoration Project.

Activities	Summary
<p>Site visits – Bedwell Bay (Burrard Inlet) and Roberts Bank</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To gather information, such as density of eelgrass at potential eelgrass donor beds located in Roberts Bank and Bedwell Bay, for eelgrass transplanting work on the Maplewood Marine Restoration Project (in Burrard Inlet) and to inform potential future habitat offsetting projects like those proposed for Roberts Bank Terminal 2.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> Roberts Bank, located near Tsawwassen, British Columbia, and Bedwell Bay, located in Burrard Inlet near Port Moody. We have selected donor sites that are anticipated to be dense enough to support harvesting using the approach described below, and do not anticipate any impact to harvested areas. Eelgrass exhibits reciprocal growth; removing a shoot from an eelgrass plant stimulates the plant to produce a new shoot, and it regenerates very quickly following harvest. As such, we anticipate that the donor sites will rapidly recover.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Scuba divers will survey eelgrass beds in Roberts Bank and Bedwell Bay to measure density of these potential donor sites. Then, during subsequent transplant work, divers harvest eelgrass shoots from donor sites. Shoots are stored in fresh, cold, shaded seawater and transported to a shore team for sorting and processing. When shoots are ready to be transplanted at the new site, an anchor is attached to the eelgrass which is planted by divers in clusters of ten on one-metre centres.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This fieldwork is scheduled to take place October 1-31, 2020 for approximately five to seven days.</p>

Maplewood Marine Restoration Project

The [Maplewood Marine Restoration Project](#) is located on the north shore of Burrard Inlet, near the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge, in a marine site that was identified as a restoration priority by the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Delivered by the port authority’s Habitat Enhancement Program, marine works construction on this five hectare project wrapped up in June 2020. Once the final phase of this project, eelgrass transplant work, is complete, the site is anticipated to provide long-term benefits for fish and invertebrates that depend on marine vegetation for rearing habitat, along with other fish and wildlife species such as waterfowl and wading birds. A portion of the marine habitat created at the project site will be used to fulfil the fisheries habitat offsetting requirements for the [Centerm Expansion Project](#), as determined by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Please visit the [project website](#) for more on the project.

Visit the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project [website](#) to learn more about the project and related field studies.

For further information

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