

Habitat Enhancement Program

Field studies information sheet – March 2021

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.

Study name	Summary
<p>Site visits – Maplewood Basin and Bedwell Bay (Burrard Inlet) and Roberts Bank</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To gather information on the effectiveness of our November eelgrass transplanting pilot project, and the density of eelgrass at donor beds located in Roberts Bank and Bedwell Bay. This survey work is being done in advance of the remaining 1.5-hectare 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> Maplewood Basin and Bedwell Bay, located in Burrard Inlet, and Roberts Bank, located near Tsawwassen. Divers will survey the transplant work completed in the Maplewood Basin last November and confirm that the selected donor sites continue to provide a healthy donor stock to support harvesting for restoration work. We 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 in the Maplewood Basin to observe the effectiveness of the November 2020 eelgrass transplanting pilot project, as well as eelgrass beds in Bedwell Bay and Roberts Bank to measure density and overall health of donor sites. We are working collaboratively with participating Indigenous groups to ensure Indigenous knowledge is incorporated throughout the planning and execution of any eelgrass transplant work (e.g., input on donor site selection and participation during harvesting and transplanting).</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> The survey fieldwork described above is scheduled to take place March 15 to 19, 2021. The subsequent eelgrass harvesting and transplanting work for the Maplewood Marine Restoration Project is targeted to start this spring and continue into the summer.</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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