



BRIEFING

To: Gambier Island Local Trust Committee **For the Meeting of:** May 7, 2015
From: Islands Trust Fund **Date prepared:** April 23, 2015
SUBJECT: HOWE SOUND SCIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP, MARCH 27, 2015

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE:

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee has requested an update about the Howe Sound Science and Knowledge Workshop attended by the Islands Trust Fund Ecosystem Protection Specialist on March 27, 2015.

BACKGROUND:

On March 27, 2015, the Vancouver Aquarium, Squamish Nation and David Suzuki Foundation co-hosted a meeting to “bring knowledge holders together to identify and share observations, information, experiences, and future knowledge priorities related to the aquatic biophysical features of Howe Sound.” The meeting objectives were to:

- Share and document observations about the status, trends, and drivers of change related to biophysical features in the Howe Sound ecosystem
- Share and catalogue available information (published resources, reports, observations, grey literature, spatial data) and identify key knowledge gaps
- Identify and discuss linkages and relationships within the ecosystem
- Identify and discuss priorities, opportunities and specific initiatives for advancing knowledge
- Enable participants to build relationships and connections that advance their work.

The Islands Trust Fund Ecosystem Protection Specialist attended to share eelgrass and forage fish data for the area and to learn about other data sources for the area.

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Workshop participants:

- heard about the 1991 Howe Sound Science Gathering Initiative (Bob Turner, Howe Sound Environmental Science Network), the importance of Knowledge Gathering for the Squamish Nation (Chris Lewis, Squamish Nation) and the results of a Science and Knowledge Gathering Initiative in Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds (Tawney Lem, West Coast Aquatic).
- Discussed status, trends and drivers of change in Howe Sound in small groups with defined focus (the Ecosystem Protection Specialist participated in the focus group for eelgrass and foreshore ecosystems)
- Discussed linkages between knowledge areas
- Discussed ways to continue to advance knowledge (the Ecosystem Protections Specialist participated in a discussion about data management and warehousing)

See the attached Workshop Agenda for details. The workshop organizers will be providing workshop proceedings for further detail. The Ecosystem Protection Specialist has identified some potential resources for the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee below.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES FOR THE GAMBIER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE:

- [Squamish Nation Land Use Plan](#) – a plan describing the community’s vision for the future of the forests and wilderness of the traditional Squamish territory.
- [West Coast Aquatic](#) for examples of Plans & Strategies for west coast shorelines
- [Sound Investment: Measuring the Return on Howe Sound’s Ecosystem Assets](#) – a report from the David Suzuki foundation indicating that Howe Sound's watersheds provide an estimated \$800 million to \$4.7 billion in natural services to the region each year
- [Strait of Georgia Data Centre](#) (currently in development)
- Data Compiled for Howe Sound (attached list)

ATTACHMENT(S):

Workshop information and worksheets
Data Compiled for Howe Sound

AVAILABLE OPTIONS:

- The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee may wish to direct the Island Planner to review some of the resources listed above and the list of data provided at the Workshop for relevance to LTC work items.
- The BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is still considering production of a “Cumulative Effects Assessment and Monitoring Project for the Howe Sound Area.” The Gambier LTC may wish to direct planning staff to follow up with Steve Kachanoski, Project Manager, Cumulative Effects, at the Ministry regarding this initiative.

FOLLOW-UP:

The workshop organizers have agreed to provide workshop proceedings. The Islands Trust Fund Ecosystem Protection Specialist will forward the proceedings to the Gambier Island Planner when available.

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Reviewed By/Date: Jennifer Eliason, April 23, 2015