



# Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum | May 2020

## Summary Report

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for Islands Trust & World Wildlife Fund Canada*



Islands Trust



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# Overview

On May 29, 2020 a Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum was jointly hosted by Islands Trust and World Wildlife Fund Canada online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. More than twenty participants attended, representing First Nations, federal, provincial, and local governments as well as conservation groups, industry representatives, and others with an interest in the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel area. A list of participants can be found in Appendix A.

Building on previous events, including the Spring 2018, Spring 2019 and Autumn 2019 Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum, objectives for the 2020 Forum were to:

- Create an opportunity for collaborative dialogue amongst the diverse interests in the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel ecosystem
- Share knowledge and experience that can inform solutions, and
- Identify next steps for ongoing collaborative actions and processes to support the health of the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel ecosystem

Working groups formed in previous events were also tasked with reporting on their progress. Representatives from two of the working groups (*alternative practices for shellfish aquaculture* and *governance*) shared updates on their progress. There was also an ad hoc presentation by Daniel Arbour, Electoral Area A Director and Board Member for the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities. The rest of the forum focused on drafting a vision statement, based on work already completed by the governance committee, and discussing potential sources of financial and administrative support for the Forum.

At the end of this report the section on Next Steps describes the process for developing the Terms of Reference in advance of the Fall 2020 forum, as well as other next steps related to two proposals (to Planh for a \$15,000 grant and one to Islands Trust for secretarial support for the Forum) and notice of the planned Herring Fest.

Please contact Gillian Nicol ([gnicol@islandstrust.ca](mailto:gnicol@islandstrust.ca)) if you have questions or comments about this report.

# Introduction

## Acknowledgement

WWF Canada and Islands Trust acknowledges that the participants from the Bayne Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum gathered digitally from many places in Coast Salish territory, as well as Indigenous, Métis, and Inuit communities across BC and Canada. We expressly thank the host communities of Kómoks, Qualicum, Snaw-naw-as and Tlaamin. Along with our participants gathering from the treaty and traditional territories of BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin), Cowichan, Halalt, Homalco, Kómoks, Klahoose, Ts'uubaa-asatx (Lake Cowichan), Lək'wəŋən (SXIMELEL (Esquimalt), Songhees, TSou-ke), Lyackson, MÁLEXEL (Malahat), Penelakut, Qualicum, Scianew (Beecher Bay), səliłwətaʔt/seiʔilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), Shíshálh (Sechelt), Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose), Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), SÁUTW (Tsawout), Stzuminus (Chemainus), Tlaamin, Tsawwassen, We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge), Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River), WJOŁELP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam).

## Purpose

This report is intended to provide background information and a summary of discussion from the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel (BS/LC) Ecosystem Forum held on May 29, 2020. Please note that this is a summary of the discussions and that formal consensus was not sought for each point, though there was general agreement within discussions.

The objectives for the Forum were to:

- Create an opportunity for collaborative dialogue amongst the diverse interests in the BS/LC ecosystem
- Share knowledge and experience that can inform solutions
- Identify next steps for ongoing collaborative actions and processes to support the health of the BS/LC ecosystem. Working groups formed in previous events were also tasked with reporting on their progress

## Importance of the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem

Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel lands and waters have been the homeland of Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. Their cultural heritage, knowledge, and stewardship of this area for 1000s of years highlights the importance of this place as a unique coastal homeland.

Baynes Sound and Lambert Channel—a thermally stratified inland sea, internationally recognized Important Bird Area and nationally designated Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Area—is a highly productive ecosystem, home to a regionally unique combination of diverse marine and coastal habitats.

Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel is the highest ranked cumulative spawning and rearing area for herring in Strait of Georgia ecoregion, producing one-third of all herring in BC’s waters—positioning this area as a critical linchpin in terms of the ecosystem health of the Coast. Seabirds, juvenile salmon, mollusks and other forage fish find shelter in the ecologically-distinct elements of BS/LC. The Sound is a summer moulting area for sea ducks, with significant aggregations of waterfowl, shorebird and gull species during herring spawn. Several at-risk bird species use Baynes Sound for feeding or stop-overs.

Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel contains important foraging and haul out sites for Pacific harbour seals and Steller sea lions. The Sound has been consistently used as spawning grounds during herring spawn runs. The estuaries and riparian areas of the Sound provide spawning and rearing habitat for Coho, chum, coastal cutthroat trout and likely some steelhead. Fifteen salmon bearing streams drain into BS/LC. Intertidal eelgrass beds act as nurseries and provide protection and valuable food sources for these salmon. Significant quantities of both wild and cultured shellfish are produced within the waters of the Sound.<sup>1</sup>

## Summary of Discussion

### Opening

The Spring 2020 Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum took place entirely online, via Zoom videoconference, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and prohibitions against in-person gatherings. The event began with an introduction and acknowledgement of the territories by facilitator Jessie Hemphill (Alderhill Planning). After brief welcoming, context-setting and housekeeping comments, the meeting began with updates from working groups.

### Working Group Reports

Two working groups, formed at the March 2019 Learning Exchange, provided brief updates:

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<sup>1</sup>Subsections titled “Purpose” and “Importance of the Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem” are copied from the 2018 Baynes Sound/ Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum 2018 Summary Report by Dr. Karen Hurley and Kim Dunn.

### Aquaculture Research Project & Demonstration Site

Chaired by Barb Mills, this group formed in March 2019 to move forward with a proposal to conduct research into alternative, more sustainable aquaculture practices. The premise of this group is that alternative shellfish practices are needed (particularly for reducing plastic) and that a project of this nature requires a variety of locally informed stakeholder and interests and must present feasible results.

In the update Barb informed the Forum that the working group has decided to narrow the focus of the project to just equipment tie-downs for now. Currently rebar is used, which is a safety risk. Lead weights have also been used to weight down nets. With increasing storm and wave action on Denman Island, it's important to have effective, safe, sustainable alternatives.

Because of the COVID-19-related closures of colleges and universities, the working group has been unable to recruit students from either Vancouver Island University or North Island College to carry out the demonstration projects, which are now on hold. However, the working group remains active and committed. Barb acknowledged Carl Butterworth for allowing the working group to use the Deep Bay facility for meetings.

### Governance Group

Chaired by Dorrie Woodward, this group considered the following question – what governance structure should be put in place for the Ecosystem Forum itself, to ensure sustainability? Since the last Forum, a Terms of Reference has been drafted and circulated to participants (though it was not discussed in detail at this Forum) as well as a draft vision statement.

Dorrie reminded the group that Kim Dunn (WWF-Canada) who has provided pivotal support to the Forum is leaving this role soon and that there is a pressing need to find a way to stay organized and apply for funding and other support.

### Vision Statement

After briefly reviewing the purpose of a vision statement, Jessie asked participants to review a list of elements that are critical to include in the vision statement. The proposed list of elements included:

- The place (Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel)
- Long-term health of the ecosystem in this place
- A solutions-oriented approach
- Collaboration
- Benefits for all (ecosystem, communities, industry)

Participants mentioned that there are additional ways to describe the place - e.g. the Pacific/Marine foodweb, and/or in the traditional/unceded territory of the Qualicum,

K'omoks and Snaw-naw-as peoples. The group then reviewed the third draft of the Vision Statement, reading:

*The Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel ecosystem is health and thriving, supported by the collaborative and solutions-oriented actions of the diverse people who have an interest in the area, now and long into the future.*

There was a poll asking “Does this statement align with your vision for the Ecosystem Forum?”. Eighteen participants voted and the results were that ten said “Yes, absolutely!”, seven said “Somewhat” and one said “Not at all” as shown above. The one person with concerns was worried that the statement implied that presently things were great, rather than expressing aspirations. After conversation this concern was addressed. After the poll, participants moved to a discussion about the wording of the vision statement itself. The edits produced the following, fourth draft:

*The Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel ecosystem, within the unceded territories of the K'omoks, Qualicum and Snaw-naw-as First Nations and the Treaty territory of the Tla'amin Nation, will be healthy and thriving, supported by the collaborative and solutions-oriented actions of the diverse people who have an interest in the area, for generations to come.*

The group acknowledged that this draft requires review by the host First Nations mentioned as well as others unable to participate in this Forum. There were also suggestions that the vision could do a better job of addressing the interconnectedness of this place, how it fits into larger structures on the coast, and potentially changing the term “people” to “peoples”.

## Updates & Next Steps

Presentation by Daniel Arbour, Representative for Comox Valley Regional District Electoral Area “A” and Association of Vancouver Islands and Coastal Communities committee Board Member

Though not on the agenda, Mr. Arbour offered to share a brief update from the Comox Valley Regional District and Association of Vancouver Islands and Coastal Communities. He offered the following points, to help inform discussion:

- Area-based aquaculture working group update:
  - Nothing to report from the main area-based aquaculture working group due to COVID.

- The sub-group has met 8-9 times and has reached full consensus to move to area-based management for aquaculture, with First Nations at the core. Their comments have been submitted to the main group.
- There may be opportunities for pilot projects.
- After the June 15th working group meeting, a report might be able to be shared by Shelley Jepps and Daniel Arbour.
- Alignment between this working group and the Forum should be discussed.
- Sewage management efforts continue: there is a framework re connecting some communities to the regional sewage system, as well as other options for non-serviceable lots.

## Islands Trust Updates

- Clare Frater (Director, Trust Services) provided an update:
  - The Islands Trust Programs Committee is expected to provide up to \$12,000 for secretariat service, spread across various groups such as the Forum; details to be confirmed.
  - Letters of support regarding secretariat services funding for the Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forums, addressed to the Trust Programs Committee, would be appreciated.
- Gillian Nicol (Program Coordinator, Trust Area Services)
  - Islands Trust is applying for a provincial grant (Plan H Community Grant) in partnership with the Association for Denman Island Marine Stewards; WWF-Canada is supporting the grant writing (but will not receive funds).
  - This grant is worth \$15,000, and would be used to support the ongoing work of the Forum over the next year, supplementing any funds from the Trust Programs Committee.
  - The grant application deadline is July 1, 2020. Letters of support from a wide variety of organizations would be helpful. Gillian to follow up with more information and support letter template.

## Next Steps for the Terms of Reference

- There will be two Zoom (videoconference) meetings to review the draft Terms of Reference in June:
  - Meeting 1 - to review sections 1-4
  - Meeting 2 - to review sections 5-6
- Written comments on the draft will be accepted until the end of June
- The governance working group will draft revisions between July-September
- An updated version will be provided in advance of the Fall Forum

- At the Fall Forum:
  - Agreement will be sought for approval of the final draft
  - The discussion will focus on operationalizing the Terms of Reference (making appointments, setting dates, etc.)

## Other updates

Everyone is invited to Herring Fest 2021 on Hornby Island. Details to follow.

## Appendix A: List of Participants

Name	Organization	Role
Maria Catanzaro	Sea Change Marine Conservation Society/ Pacific Salmon Foundation	Project Management/Research Assistant
David Critchley	Islands Trust	Denman Island Local Trustee
Chief Michael Recalma	Qualicum First Nation	Chief
Chris Marrie	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Biologist, Health and Safety Co-Chair and Vessel Safety Coordinator
Clare Frater	Islands Trust	Director, Trust Area Services
Grant Scott	Islands Trust and Conservancy Hornby Island	Hornby Island Local Trustee and Chairperson
Chris Pearce	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Research Scientist
Carl Butterworth	Vancouver Island University	Manager - Science and Technology Research Centres
Bill Heath	Project Watershed	Director, Mapping Services and Kelp Restoration
Barbara Mills	Association of Denman Island and Marine Stewards	Director
Jennifer Mollins	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Aquaculture governance
Jordan Wagner	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development	Aquaculture Land Officer
Shelley Jepps	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Working on an Area-based Aquaculture Management approach.
Cath Gray	Conservancy Hornby Island	Executive Director
Michael Bissonnette	West Coast Environmental Law	Lawyer
Locky Maclean	Conservancy Hornby Island	Campaign Coordinator
Daniel Arbour	Comox Valley Regional District	Director, Baynes Sound, Hornby/Denman
Dorrance Woodward	Association of Denman Island and Marine Stewards	Chair
Timothy Peterson	Islands Trust	Lasqueti Island Local Trustee
Laura Busheikin	Islands Trust	Denman Island Local Trustee
Jim Russell	BCSGA	Executive Director
Doug Wright	Shellfish Grower	
Ian Cox	Islands Trust	Planner 1
Bryan Rusch	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Regional Pelagics Manager
Reagan Newcomb	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Manager, Aquaculture Resource Management
Kim Dunn	WWF-Canada	Senior Specialist, Ocean Conservation
Gillian Nicol	Islands Trust	Program Coordinator
Jessie Hemphill	Alderhill Planning Co	Facilitator
Kyle Alex	Alderhill Planning Co	Junior Planner

# Appendix B: Agenda



## **Participant Agenda Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum Friday, May 29, 2020**

Building from the 2018 and 2019 Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum meetings, this gathering will bring together local, regional, provincial, federal and First Nations governments, as well as private sector and conservation group representatives to participate in focused solutions-oriented discussion regarding the challenges facing Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel. The Ecosystem Forum meeting will be professionally facilitated, and a final report will be produced and provided to each participant.

This meeting of the Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum has the following aims:

- Create an opportunity for collaborative dialogue amongst the diverse interests in the Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel ecosystem
- Share knowledge and experience that can inform solutions
- Identify next steps for ongoing collaborative actions and processes to support the health of the Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel ecosystem

Time	Topic
9:45 – 10:00 am	“Doors open”
10:00 – 10:15 am	Opening Comments & “Netiquette”
10:15 – 10:30 pm	“Lightning Round”-table Introductions
10:30 – 11:00 am	Update from working groups (aquaculture project & governance)
11:00 – 11:10 am	Break
11:10 – 12:00 pm	Confirming Our Vision: Exercises & group dialogue
12:00 – 12:20 pm	Next Steps
12:20 – 12:30 pm	Closing Comments

Contact Kim Dunn (kdunn@wwfcanada.org or 250.889.4213) if you have any questions or concerns.

## Appendix C: Meeting Slides

The following pages contain slides used collaboratively during the forum, with some discussion notes included.



Islands Trust

# **Welcome to the Spring 2020 Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum!**

**The Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel area is within K'omoks First Nation, Qualicum First Nation, and Snaw-naw-as Nation unceded territory**

Interactive map of the K'omoks Marine Use Plan: <http://www.komoks.ca/points-interest-map>

**NOTE: This list  
represents RSVP's,  
not actual attendees.**

**Spring 2020  
Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel  
Ecosystem Forum**

**PARTICIPANTS**

**Jim Russell,**  
Executive Director, BCSGA

**David Critchley**  
Denman Island Local  
Trustee, Islands Trust

**Laura Busheikin,**  
Denman Island Local Trustee,  
Islands Trustee

**Timothy Peterson,**  
Lasqueti Island Local Trustee, Islands Trust

**Dorrance Woodward,**  
Chair, ADIMS

**Daniel Arbour,**  
Director, Baynes Sound,  
Hornby/ Denman, Comox  
Valley Regional District

**Bryan Rusch,**  
Regional Pelagics Mgr, DFO

**Locky Maclean,**  
Campaign Coordinator,  
Conservancy Hornby Island

**Michael Bissonnette,**  
Lawyer, West Coast Environmental Law

**Cath Gray,**  
Executive Director,  
Conservancy Hornby Island

**Shelley Jepps,**  
Working on Area-based  
aquaculture mgmt approach,  
DFO

**Jennifer Mollins,**  
Aquaculture Governance, DFO

**Jordan Wagner,**  
Aquaculture Land Officer, FLNRD

**Carl Butterworth,**  
Mgr., Science & Tech Research Centres, VIU

**Jessie Hemphill,**  
Facilitator, Alderhill Planning Inc.

**Kim Dunn,**  
Sr. Specialist, Ocean Conservation, WWF-Canada

**Gillian Nicol,**  
Program Coordinator, Islands Trust

**Clare Frater,**  
Director, Trust Area Services, Islands  
Trust

**Maria Catanzaro,**  
Project mgmt/RA, SeaChange Marine  
Conservation Society/ Pacific Salmon  
Foundation

**Cory Frank,**  
Guardian Watchmen Manager,  
K'omoks First Nation

**Chris Marrie,**  
Biologist, Health and Safety Co-Chair  
& Vessel Safety Coordinator, DFO

**Barbara Mills,**  
Director, Association for Denman Island  
Marine Stewards (ADIMS)

**Grant Scott,**  
Hornby Island Local Trustee/  
Chairperson, Islands Trust / Conservancy  
Hornby Island  
**Chris Pearce,**  
Research Scientist, DFO

**Ian Cox,**  
Planner 1, Islands Trust

**Doug Wright,**  
Shellfish grower

**Tim Ennis,**  
ED/Sr. Project Mgr., Kus-kus-sum project,  
Comox Valley Land Trust / Project Watershed

**Bill Heath,** Director Mapping Services & Kelp Restoration,  
Project Watershed

**Kyle Alec**  
Junior Planner, Alderhill Planning Inc.

# Agenda

Time	Topic
9:45 – 10:00 am	“Doors open”
10:00 – 10:15 am	Opening Comments & Zoom guidelines
10:15 – 10:30 pm	“Lightning Round”-table Introductions
10:30 – 11:00 am	Update from working groups (aquaculture project - Barb , governance – Kim and Gillian)
11:00 – 11:10 am	Break
11:10 – 12:00 pm	Confirming Our Vision: Exercises & group dialogue
12:00 – 12:20 pm	Next Steps
12:20 – 12:30 pm	Closing Comments

Check-in Poll: <https://www.menti.com/hnqpc8ap4u>

## Objectives:

This meeting of the Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum has the following aims:

- Create an opportunity for collaborative dialogue amongst the diverse interests in the Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel ecosystem
- Share knowledge and experience that can inform solutions
- Identify next steps for ongoing collaborative actions and processes to support the health of the Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel ecosystem

# ZOOM NETIQUETTE & TROUBLESHOOTING:

**BASICS:** You can choose **Gallery View** to see everyone, or **Speaker View** to focus on the person who's speaking (options in top right). In large groups you can also click on anyone's video and choose to "**pin**" their video so you always see it.

**Please start off muted**, unmute yourself when it's your turn to speak. You can press the spacebar while you speak to quickly unmute/mute.

**PRIVACY:** Feel free to turn off your video for any reason, and to step away from the call for any reason. If you need to leave and come back, that's ok! If you have other people, pets etc. join you on the call, that's ok too!

**TECHNICAL PROBLEMS:** If you have any issues during the gathering, please message the host via private chat (you can click on their video and choose "chat" or open up the chat window, change "Everyone" to "[Host name](Privately)" and send your message).

If you have major issues with computer connectivity, you can phone in (for audio) and use your computer just for video - just make sure you mute your computer speakers AND microphone so we don't get feedback.

A gathering with many people using video can overload the bandwidth and reduce overall quality. In that case, the host may ask folks who are not presenting to turn off your video.

**ZOOM BOMBING:** If the event gets disrupted by a "Zoom Bomber" the host may end the meeting abruptly. Try logging back into the event in a minute or two, with the same Meeting ID.



# **Working Group Update: Aquaculture Project**



# Working Group Update: Governance





**BREAK**

# What is a vision statement?

- A vision is a bold, yet realistic, picture of the future
- It is generally brief and high-level/broad
- A vision statement should be perennial
- It is different from a Mission Statement - a vision statement describes the world you want to see, a mission statement describes your role in getting there

# What elements should the BS/LC Ecosystem Forum vision statement reference?

- The place – Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel
- Long-term health of the ecosystem in that place
- A solutions-oriented approach
- Collaboration
- Benefits for all (ecosystem, communities, industry)

*Anything else?*

- *We could mention the Pacific/Marine foodweb*
- *We can also locate ourselves as “in the unceded territory of the Qualicum, K’omoks, Snaw-naw-as etc.*

# Draft Vision Statement:

## Current Version: Draft 3

The Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel ecosystem (within the (unceded and treaty) territories of the K'omoks, Qualicum, Snaw-naw-as and Tla'amin First Nations) will be ~~is~~ healthy and thriving, supported by the collaborative and solutions-oriented actions of the diverse people who have an interest in the area, for generations to come. ~~now and long into the future.~~

*Comments: Needs to talk about interconnectedness, how it fits in the larger structures of the coast (look at Barb's wording).  
Change "people" to "peoples"?*

Link to poll: <https://www.menti.com/itk4gdu4c9>

## Past Version: Draft 2

The Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel ~~marine~~ ecosystem is healthy and thriving, supported by the collaborative and solutions-oriented actions of the diverse people who have an interest in the area, ~~so that it can continue to provide benefits for all,~~ now and long into the future.

## Past Version: Draft 1

The Ecosystem Forum envisions that communities surrounding BS/LC can be healthy and sustainable to the extent that these waters are ecologically healthy now and into the future, and that to achieve this beneficial state for all its inhabitants long term planning and co-operation are the best possible means.

# Poll re: vision statement

<https://www.menti.com/itk4gdu4c9>

# Next Steps

- Develop final draft **Terms of Reference**, using suggested process
  - Two Zoom meetings in June for discussion and feedback
    - Mtg 1: Sections 1-4 (vision, background, shared values, purpose & aims)
    - Mtg 2: Sections 5-6 (org structure, decision making)
  - Written comments accepted until end June (with focused outreach to K'omoks, Qualicum, Snaw-naw-as and Tla'amin)
  - One-on-one calls/emails by request until end of June
  - Revisions by governance working group July - Sept
  - Updated version in advance of Fall Forum
  - Fall Forum
    - Agreement on final draft
    - Operationalize (establish structures as needed)

# Additional Next Steps

- Islands Trust additional updates re: secretariat (potentially annual support) - would be helpful to have support letters by June 8th
- Grant proposal to Planh (one-time, \$15,000) to support the forum - letters of support are requested (Gillian will send out an email with more info)
- Herring Fest - First week of March 2021
-



**Thank you for participating today**