## Strategic Themes and Action Items

The following table presents the thinking of the Eco Forum participants on May 26 regarding how to approach the challenges identified above. Three categories were selected for discussion:

* Data Compilation and Sharing to Inform Decision Making
* Comprehensive and Integrated Management Planning
* Monitoring and Enforcement

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| Strategic Theme | Problems Identified | Proposed Solutions | Actions |
| Data Compilation and Sharing to Inform Decision Making | * Lots of data exists but its not widely known where to find it and its not integrated * Much data is private (protected) * Data available from Ministry of Health, Island Health, First Nations health Authority, Comox Valley regional District, local government etc. * Potentially missing data on:   + Dissolved oxygen (DO)   + Microbial source tracking   + Phytoplankton * There is bias in data collection. Metadata should be involved to understand where data comes from * Unclear if the current data collection stations represent all of the area (are more collection sites needed, do they cover the entire year) * Differences in terminology between data sources and groups interpreting the data * Lack of communications between groups doing monitoring * Funding needed to amalgamate, analyze and communicate findings | * Desire to have a shared public database to support data analysis and reporting (or at least an amalgamated list of linked data sources) * Consider what key data can/should be shared on the forum website to support the purpose of the Fourm * Data should reflect the entire ecosystem, and all areas of Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel * Obtain the services of a data analyst and contractor * Leverage Science Communicators to tell the story (increase accessibility of data to the public) * Engage more opportunities for citizen science so that there is more trust in this science * Do some stakeholder outreach to determine what support might be available for next steps * Streamline collection and distribution of data (consider opportunities to share data platforms) * Increased education and communication opportunities may bring more funding opportunities to light * Push for more media and education from government and industries * Consider delivering educational workshops on data collection and use (Kayaker Club expressed some interest in supporting funding for this) * Increase public awareness on issues * Increase pressure on homeowners to understand the impact of their septic systems on the marine environment * Educate commercial fleets about the rules and importance of adherence to laws preventing raw sewage dumping in Canadian waters | * Do some stakeholder outreach to determine what support might be available for next steps * Search for funding and capacity supports for this work (reach out to Ryan from Gord John’s MP office) * Identify the story we want to tell and the key questions we want to answer to identify which data is needed. * Engage industry experts to identify which data points will help us tell the story we want to tell (the group felt that they didn’t have the expertise to identify this and suggested external subject matter expertise * Do a literature review to identify which data points are commonly being used to report on the health of a marine ecosystem |
| Comprehensive and Integrated Management Planning | * 29 different plans, not integrated and often have inflexible mandates and overlapping jurisdiction * Many recommendations already exist within these plans, don’t need to reinvent the wheel | * Alignment on strategies to increase * Develop a jurisdictional map of responsibilities * Consider how to create a governance model that brings together various stakeholders with similar objectives * Include industry in the development of an integrated plan * Consider updating the written overview of the study performed >5 years ago * Consider conducting a study of current conditions in Baynes Sound to engage a wide range of stakeholders (funding required) * Engage K’omox First Nation in leading this initiative * “Be the squeaky wheel” * Consider developing a community-based committee to gather existing management recommendations and gaps * Recommend changes to regulations where value is identified * Develop a public relations and communications strategy * Research key contacts in industry to understand who to go to to best impact change | * Continue to pursue REDIP funding to address need for more data compilation, communication and translation into an integrated management plan |
| Monitoring and Enforcement | * Enforcement is complaint based vs. systemic * Presence of Norovirus in human wastewater entering Baynes Sound prevents this shellfish fishery from operating, impacting all companies and staff livelihoods. * The legislation and rules exist bit there is little compliance and enforcement capacity available * Little monitoring and enforcement happening related to wastewater and other environmentally hazardous activities (e.g. shipbreaking) | * Need an overarching compliance and enforcement strategy * Need someone monitoring key data points * Clarify responsibilities * Obtain funding to address issues * Work with regulatory bodies to identify key issues that require enforce to focus and align enforcement capacity * Increase requirements for disinfection in municipal wastewater systems * Advocate for regulatory change to require landowners to maintain septic system records to ensure that septic systems are monitored for leeching. * Consider leverage points where septic systems can be inspected (e.g. at property sale) * Consider supports to assist homeowners in upgrading septic systems. * Consider making Baynes Sound a “no dump zone” (it essentially already is as its illegal to dump within 1NM of shore, nowhere in Baynes Sound or Lambert Channel is this distance away from shore) * Desire to see a small vessel compliance program * Desire for more examinations and investigations of potential cases of marine sewage discharge * Educate the public on the requirements (e.g. types of sewage equipment required on board vessels) * Enhance communication on existing designated sewage discharge areas (Cortez and Quadra islands) * Consider incentives for vessels to not discharge in alignment with the rules | * Meet with Village of Cumberland to request norovirus testing and identify potential mechanisms to increase disinfection techniques * Meet with the agency responsible for septic system oversight to understand what could be done |