

An underwater photograph showing a dense field of seagrass with long, thin blades and thick, vertical stems. The water is a clear, light green color.

PROJECT HEALTHY HARBOUR

September
2020 Update



AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Vision – a healthy and vibrant harbour

1. EVIDENCE GATHERING

Data collection & Surveying
Mapping & Reporting

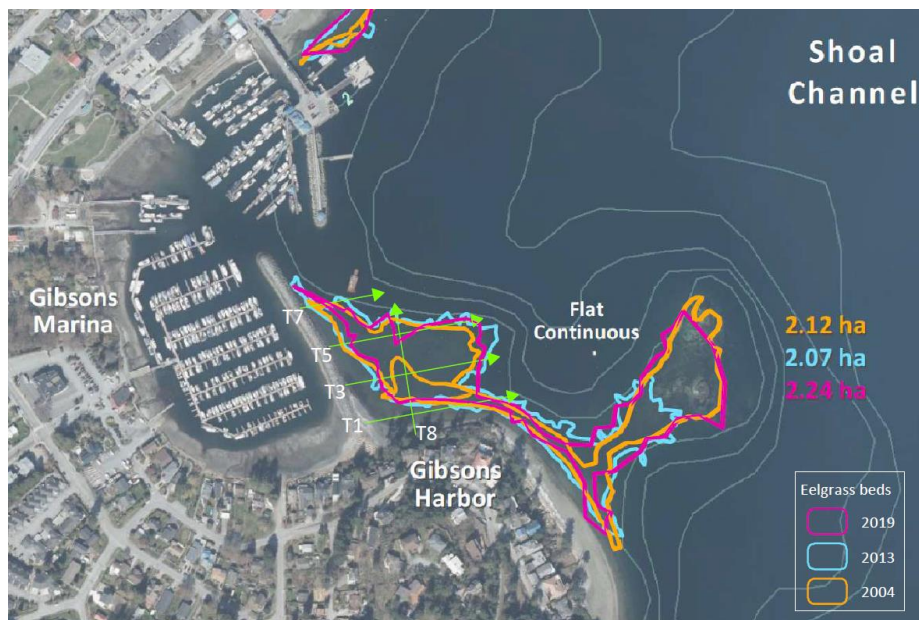
2. POLICY RECOMMENDATION

With input from council needs
providing recommendations for
practice

3. EDUCATION & MONITORING

Ongoing capacity building
Knowledge transfer
Community Education
Baseline monitoring
w/annual surveys





2019 PILOT - FINDINGS

EVIDENCE GATHERING

- Breakwater biophysical survey
- Debris mapping
- Mooring impacts

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Some moorings negatively impacting eelgrass beds, recommend exclusion zones
- Recommend looking at moorings in armours beach area and doing biophysical survey

EDUCATION AND MONITORING

- Established baseline transects for long term monitoring
- Video capture for knowledge transfer and education programs



2020 OBJECTIVES

EVIDENCE GATHERING

- Armours biophysical and eelgrass assessment (Part 1 of 2) – area shown in blue
- Investigate impacts of moorings if present in eelgrass bed
- Map anthropogenic debris if causing fragmentation of eelgrass bed
- Ground truth potential moorage exclusion zones at South Breakwater and Armours Beach

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Evaluate evidence to provide boundary areas for implementation of moorage exclusion zones

EDUCATION AND MONITORING

- Establish long term monitoring transect at Armours Beach (eelgrass health metrics)
- Start work on a Harbour User Guide
- Health Harbour Display at aquarium
- Development of CAUS scientific diving program





2020 WORK PLAN

Survey dates Sept 17-22

Reporting early November

Council presentation December

CELEBRATION & IMPACTS

- On October 16th, NSMEC Canadian Association of Underwater Science (CAUS) Dive Team will complete a subtidal clean up of eelgrass bed at the South Breakwater
- Funding achieved through Pacific Salmon Foundation, TOG endorsement, and the findings in the HHP 2019 Report
- Further collaboration with SeaChange Marine Conservation Society Dive Team to facilitate their local clean-ups on Keats and Gibsons Area late October
- NSMEC Awarded DFO Education Coordinator Stream to Sea Contract





THANK YOU &
QUESTIONS

