

An underwater photograph showing a dense field of eelgrass (Zostera marina) with long, thin green leaves and thick, segmented stems. The water is a clear, light green color.

# HEALTHY HARBOUR PROJECT & EELGRASS CONSERVATION

## September 2021 Update

Jenny Wright, NSMEC

Fiona Beaty, SeaChange





# AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

*Vision – a healthy and vibrant harbour*

## 2021 OBJECTIVES

### EVIDENCE GATHERING

- Continue biophysical surveys of Armours Beach and Breakwater eelgrass
  - Continuous data gathering allows for continued monitoring of eelgrass and any positive and/or negative impacts
- Map any anthropogenic debris causing fragmentation of eelgrass bed

### POLICY RECOMMENDATION

- Continue working with Town of Gibsons and SeaChange to evaluate evidence to provide boundary areas for implementation of voluntary no-anchor zones

### EDUCATION AND MONITORING

- Long term monitoring transect at Armours Beach (eelgrass health metrics)
- Expand the Healthy Harbour Display at aquarium
- Develop CAUS scientific diving program





# PROPOSED MARKER BUOYS FOR VOLUNTARY NO ANCHOR ZONE

- Pilot the voluntary no anchor zone with the placement of 5 buoys
- Build upon work conducted by SeaChange on Bowen Island and similar projects in Puget Sound
- Goal = cc your local implementation





## 2021 WORK PLAN

- September - Eelgrass survey dates
- October - Consultation with Mannion Bay participants
- November - Host community consultation and storytelling event
- December - Report and presentation to Town of Gibsons

## 2022 WORK PLAN

- January-February - Finalize voluntary mooring buoys
- February-March - Install voluntary no anchor buoys





# Celebrations and Impacts

## 2021 Ocean Clean-up Success

- In June the NSMEC team partnered with the Ocean Legacy Foundation to clean up marine debris from around the Sunshine Coast:
  - 26.5km of coast was cleared by NSMEC
  - Nearly 2 tonnes of debris was cleared
  - Almost 75% of the debris was repurposed or recycled



# SeaChange Update 2020-2021

## 2020 Subtidal Debris Removal

- October: 1.75 tonnes removed from Gibsons Harbour & Plumper Cove Marine Park
- Partnerships with Town of Gibsons, Gibsons Harbour, SCRD Landfill, BC Parks
- Debris comprised of:
  - Tires
  - Industrial rubber matting
  - Smaller debris



Photo credit: Coastal Photography Studio





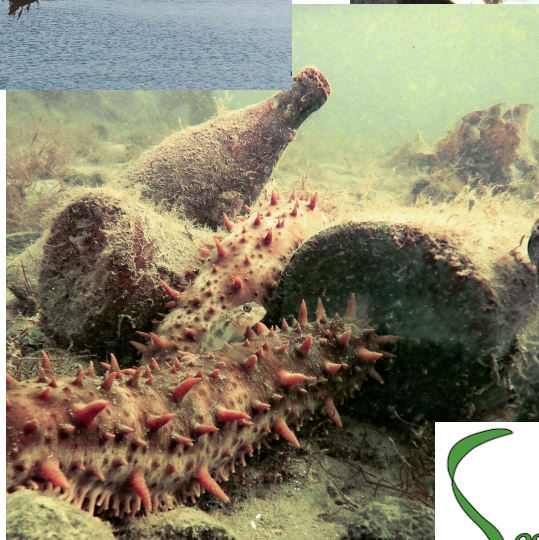


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# SeaChange Update, 2020-2021

## 2021 Restoration Plans

- September:  
Eelgrass transplant in Gibsons Harbour
- September:  
Subtidal debris removal in Plumper Cove
- Fall:  
Community event
- January - March 2022:  
Install no-anchor marker buoys





# Thank You & Questions

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