

Marine Shoreline Management - submitted by Manfred Burandt, Pender Island

The Trust New Policy Statement Bylaw 183 is proposing the Islands Trust assume management of the Islands Marine Shoreline that is in the jurisdiction and within the responsibility of Federal and Provincial governments.

The Islands Trust has no expertise nor staff to take this on and would have to hire new staff or consultants at taxpayers expense to duplicate these already well established management practices.

Below is an outline of each level of Government's role in shoreline management and the proposed duplication of these roles proposed by the Trust Policy Statement:

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Creating stronger Indigenous partnerships and engaging coastal communities.

Many Canadians rely on their coasts and waterways for recreation, to deliver products to market, and to earn their livelihood. Many cherish them for cultural reasons as well.

Indigenous coastal communities share ties to Canada's oceans that span generations. They rely on them as a source of livelihood, food security, and valuable transportation routes. We are actively engaging with Indigenous peoples and coastal communities across the country.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has established the Coastal Restoration Fund to address historically degraded areas and will support projects that contribute to coastal restoration plans; support the identification of restoration priorities; and threats to marine species located on Canada's coasts. Potential priority activities of this new fund across Canada.

Coastal restoration priority areas include Strait of Georgia, British Columbia ENCOMPASSING THE GULF ISLANDS:

- estuaries
- coastal watersheds
- nearshore habitats
- salt marshes
- eelgrass beds
- beaches used by forage species for:
 - spawning
 - fry rearing
 - shellfish beds
- migratory corridors for salmon and char
- addressing habitat needs for species at risk

Government of Canada launched the \$1.5 billion national Oceans Protection Plan.

Canada's coastal marine environments greatly contribute to the overall health of our oceans. They are vital to a vast array of marine life, crucial indicators of global marine environmental

health, critical to the Canadian economy and important to all Canadians. However, there is global recognition that marine and coastal ecosystems are suffering a decline in biodiversity and irreparable alterations to ecosystem functions. Under the Oceans Protection Plan the Government has identified coastal restoration as a key priority to addressing threats to aquatic ecosystems and marine biodiversity loss.

PROVINCE OF BC

The Province of British Columbia has recently committed to develop a new coastal marine strategy – in cooperation with the federal government, Indigenous peoples, and coastal communities – to provide a blueprint for future stewardship, economic resilience and management of our coastal waters. This work will complement BC’s existing commitments to collaboratively develop a network of Marine Protected Areas.

The long list of provincially regulated activities includes: environmental assessments, tourism and recreation, aquaculture (marine plants, shellfish and finfish), marinas and yacht clubs, log handling, renewable energy projects, conservation and scientific research, commercial harvest of vegetation, ferries and heritage conservation.

The construction, placement and use of private moorage facilities on Crown land require authorization from the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Private moorage facilities include docks, boat ways/ramps or boat lifts that are used for private residential use.

Land Act authorization of existing or new docks can be provided through granting of a tenure which requires an application (see below under ‘Applications’), or in some cases may be provided by way of a General Permission (described below).

Note that other legal requirements (i.e. provincial, federal and local government) may also be applicable to the construction, placement and use of private moorage facilities. Those wanting to construct a dock should contact their local government (municipality, township, regional district, etc) to determine if there are any additional legal requirements that must be met. Non-compliance with local government bylaws and zoning will result in the dock not being eligible for a Land Act authorization.

A General Permission may be granted for ocean, lake and river docks located on aquatic Crown land. As long as a person constructs and uses their dock in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the General Permission (see link below) they will be deemed authorized. A Crown land application is not required.

Islands Trust Marine Shoreline DIRECTIVES IN THE TPS – DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PRACTICES AT TAXPAYERS EXPENSE:

- Reviewing local trust committee and Bowen Island Municipality foreshore policies and regulatory bylaws and developing model policy and regulatory bylaws for protecting the foreshore and nearshore.
- Working with scientists and Cultural Knowledge Holders to understand how climate change could impact shorelines. ALREADY BEING DONE BY FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.
- Mapping the extent of eelgrass beds throughout the Trust Area. - ALREADY BEING DONE.

- Offering stewardship education programs.
THE EXPERTISE?

WHERE IS

- Advocating to minimize the impact of commercial activities on the marine environment and taking part in Canada's Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) recovery plan. ALREADY BEING DONE BY DFO. KILLER WHALES ARE NOT WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE ISLANDS TRUST AREA LAND MASS.
- Helping you protect shorelines with the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP).
- Collaborating with First Nations and conservation groups to monitor nature reserves and conservation covenants. ALREADY BEING DONE BY FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.
- Ensuring applications conform to the legal requirements necessary to preserve and protect shoreline archaeological sites Conducting mapping and inventories of shoreline ecosystems and fragile cultural heritage sites. ALREADY BEING DONE BY FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.
- Enforcing shoreline bylaws and development permit area regulations where they are in place. ALREADY BEING DONE BY FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. SEE ABOVE.

BANNING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DOCKS. - Docks are a necessity as an escape route in case of forest fire. Docks are already under strict construction rules – why ban them?

THE ISLANDS TRUST HAVE NO STAFF OR EXPERTISE IN MARINE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT AND WOULD HAVE TO HIRE STAFF OR CONSULTANTS ADDING TO OUR TAX BURDEN.

IS THIS GOOD VALUE FOR YOUR TAX DOLLARS? DUPLICATING SENIOR GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES.