

**Field Studies Information Sheet – March 2020**

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is continuing field studies in March 2020 as part of ongoing environmental and technical work for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project.

**Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project**

The [Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project](#) is a proposed new three-berth container terminal that would provide 2.4 million TEUs of additional container capacity annually. The Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project is undergoing a federal environmental assessment by an independent review panel, under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, and requires other permits and authorizations before it can proceed. Please visit [www.portvancouver.com/RBT2](http://www.portvancouver.com/RBT2) for more information, including past consultation materials, to learn more about the project.

**Field Studies – March 2020**

An overview of field studies that will be taking place in March 2020 is below.

<b>Overview</b>
<b>Coastal Geomorphology</b>
Abiotic Parameters Study
<b>Marine Vegetation and Invertebrates</b>
Subtidal Habitat Survey
<b>Marine Fish</b>
Eulachon hydroacoustic pilot study

Some field studies taking place in March require environmental authorizations and/or access to public and private land. Prior to starting any studies, the port authority will obtain any required permits and landowner permission before accessing private property.

The port authority has produced monthly field studies information sheets summarizing work planned during that month. Past updates regarding the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project are available at [www.portvancouver.com/RBT2](http://www.portvancouver.com/RBT2).

A description of each field study listed above is provided on pages 2-3.

Study Name	Summary
<b>Coastal Geomorphology –Abiotic Parameters Study</b>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To determine the physical conditions (e.g., temperature and salinity) influencing biofilm presence and distribution at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> Roberts Bank in the upper and mid-intertidal zones north of the Roberts Bank causeway.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Water quality measurements (conductivity, temperature, and depth) will be recorded in the mid and upper intertidal zones of Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study will continue in March 2020.</p>
<b>Marine Vegetation and Invertebrates – Subtidal Habitat Survey</b>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To obtain field data on the distribution of subtidal marine vegetation, orange sea pen distribution, infaunal and bivalve communities, and fish habitats.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> The subtidal zone at Roberts Bank within, and adjacent to, the proposed terminal footprint.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Bathymetric and underwater videography data will be collected using vessel-based side scan sonar and a remotely operated vehicle to map subtidal marine vegetation, invertebrates and fish habitats. Sediment samples will be collected using a sediment grab sampler deployed from a boat. Samples will be sieved for infaunal macroinvertebrates and sent to a laboratory for quantification, biomass estimation, and taxonomic identification.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> Field data collection on the distribution of intertidal and subtidal marine vegetation, orange sea pen distribution, and infaunal and bivalve communities began in October 2019 and was completed in November 2019. Data on rock reef fish habitat was collected in February 2020 and will continue in March 2020 as part of SCUAB surveys.</p>

Study Name	Summary
<b>Marine Fish – Eulachon hydroacoustic pilot study</b>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To test the efficacy of hydroacoustic techniques in detecting schools of migrating adult eulachon along the delta foreslope at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> Within the proposed marine terminal/dredge footprint and seaward.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Multi-frequency acoustic zooplankton and fish profilers (AZFP) will be deployed to undertake acoustic sampling of the water column. The AZFPs can detect presence and abundance of eulachon within the water column due to their lack of a swim bladder and high lipid content. Following retrieval, the technology’s effectiveness in detecting eulachon and its potential use as a mitigation measure will be assessed.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> The pilot study will be undertaken over seven weeks, with deployment expected during the week of March 23 and extending to mid-May 2020 to coincide with peak eulachon spawning migration.</p>

**For further information**

For further information, please visit our website at [portvancouver.com/RBT2](http://portvancouver.com/RBT2) or contact us at:

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