

## Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project

### Field studies information sheet – October 2020

At the port authority, as we respond to the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19, the safety and health of our employees, customers, operators and stakeholders is our top priority.

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is continuing field studies in October 2020 as part of ongoing environmental and technical work for the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project. Due to the quickly-evolving nature of COVID-19, the fieldwork noted below may be subject to change.

### 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 project has completed a federal environmental assessment by an independent review panel. In August 2020, the government requested we provide further information, through an information request. As a result, the federal timeline for decision making has been paused, and will resume once the information provided satisfies the request. We will look to provide this information to government by early 2021 and are hopeful that a decision can be made prior to next summer. The project will require other permits and authorizations before it can proceed. Visit the [project website](#) to learn more.

### Field studies – October 2020

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

Overview
<b>Coastal geomorphology</b>
Abiotic parameters study
<b>Coastal birds</b>
Diving birds baseline data collection
<b>Coastal birds</b>
Barn owl baseline data collection

Some field studies taking place in October 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 may also be conducting other fieldwork in October to assess the suitability of potential offsetting projects at a variety of locations.

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 [here](#). A description of each field study listed above is provided on the following pages.

Study name	Summary
<b>Coastal geomorphology – Abiotic parameters study</b>	<p><b><u>Purpose:</u></b>            To determine the physical conditions (e.g., temperature and salinity) influencing biofilm presence and distribution at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><b><u>Study area:</u></b>            Roberts Bank in the upper and mid-intertidal zones north of the Roberts Bank causeway.</p> <p><b><u>Methods:</u></b>            Water quality measurements (conductivity, temperature, and depth) will be recorded in the mid and upper intertidal zones of Roberts Bank.</p> <p><b><u>Timing:</u></b>            This study will continue in October 2020.</p>
<b>Coastal birds – Diving birds baseline data collection</b>	<p><b><u>Purpose:</u></b>            To collect baseline data on the abundance of diving birds to support the development of a diving birds follow-up program.</p> <p><b><u>Study area:</u></b>            The intertidal and subtidal areas of Roberts Bank, Sturgeon Bank, and Boundary Bay.</p> <p><b><u>Methods:</u></b>            Biologists will undertake boat-based transect surveys to collect diving birds abundance data.</p> <p><b><u>Timing</u></b>            This study began in September 2020 and will continue into spring 2021.</p>
<b>Coastal birds – Barn owl baseline data collection</b>	<p><b><u>Purpose:</u></b>            To collect baseline data on the mortality rate of barn owls through the collection and recording of carcasses.</p> <p><b><u>Study area:</u></b>            Road and rail right-of-ways at the east end of the Roberts Bank causeway.</p> <p><b><u>Methods:</u></b>            Biologists will perform walking and driving carcass searches to document barn owl mortalities or injuries within the study area.</p> <p><b><u>Status update</u></b>            This study is expected to restart in 2021.</p>

**For further information**

For further information, please visit our website at [robertsbankterminal2.com](http://robertsbankterminal2.com) or contact us at:

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