

### Field Studies Information Sheet – April 2016

Port Metro Vancouver is continuing field studies in April 2016 as part of ongoing environmental and technical work for the Container Capacity Improvement Program.

#### Container Capacity Improvement Program

The Container Capacity Improvement Program was announced in 2011, and is Port Metro Vancouver’s long-term strategy to ensure the timely delivery of required infrastructure to meet anticipated growth in the container sector. A key objective of the program is the use and capacity maximization of existing terminals before the construction of any new facilities. In planning for future capacity with this objective, Port Metro Vancouver considered opportunities to:

- Increase the capacity and efficiency of existing container terminals;
- Convert existing under-utilized terminals to handle containers; and
- Build a new terminal.

Improvements to existing container terminals within Port Metro Vancouver’s jurisdiction include:

- The Deltaport Terminal, Road and Rail Improvement Project (currently underway); and
- The Centerm Expansion Project (planning).

#### 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 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of additional container capacity annually.

No decision has been made to proceed with the proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project. Port Metro Vancouver is undertaking a comprehensive multi-round, multi-year community, stakeholder and public consultation process regarding the project. Please visit [www.portmetrovancover.com/RBT2](http://www.portmetrovancover.com/RBT2) for more information, including past consultation materials.

The Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project is undergoing a federal environmental assessment by an independent review panel, under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*. The Project is also undergoing an assessment under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*, and requires other permits and authorizations before it can proceed.

### Field Studies – April 2016

An overview of field studies that will be taking place in April 2016 is below.

<b>Overview</b>
<b>Coastal Geomorphology</b>
Abiotic Parameters Study
<b>Fresh Water Fish and Fish Habitat</b>
Fresh Water Fish Sampling
<b>Marine Mammals</b>
Marine Mammal Observation Study
<b>Marine Invertebrates</b>
Orange Sea Pen Pilot Transplant Monitoring
<b>Coastal Birds</b>

Shorebird Foraging Studies

Some field studies may require environmental authorizations and/or access to public and private land. Prior to starting any studies, Port Metro Vancouver will obtain any required permits and landowner permission before accessing private property.

Port Metro Vancouver 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.portmetrovancover.com/RBT2](http://www.portmetrovancover.com/RBT2).

Study Name	Summary
<p><b>Coastal Geomorphology – Abiotic Parameters Study</b></p> <p>(continued from March 2016)</p>	<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 is anticipated to continue in April 2016.</p>
<p><b>Fresh Water Fish and Fish Habitat – Fresh Water Fish Sampling</b></p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To document the presence of fish species within ditches on the north side of the Deltaport Way Overpass.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> Ditches on the north side of the Deltaport Way Overpass in Delta, B.C.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Fish traps will be placed in ditches to soak overnight. Captured fish will be identified to species and enumerated at site, before being released back to the ditch where they were captured.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study is anticipated to be conducted in April 2016.</p>

Study Name	Summary
<p><b>Marine Mammals – Marine Mammal Observation Study</b></p> <p>(continued from March 2016)</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To document marine mammal presence and behaviour in the waters surrounding the marine terminals at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> The waters in the vicinity of the marine terminals at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> A ground-based remote video surveillance system will be used to observe the proposed project footprint for marine mammals.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> To continue in April 2016 during daylight hours.</p>
<p><b>Marine Invertebrates – Orange Sea Pen Pilot Transplant Monitoring</b></p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To monitor the effectiveness of the pilot orange sea pen transplant completed in August 2014.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> Roberts Bank subtidal sea bed.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Evaluating the health and density of transplanted orange sea pens via vessel-based SCUBA and drop cameras.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> Dive monitoring will take place in mid-April 2016 during daylight hours.</p>

Study Name	Summary
<p><b>Coastal Birds - Shorebird Foraging Studies</b></p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To assess factors influencing shorebird foraging habitat quality and site selection.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> Roberts Bank in the upper and mid intertidal zones.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Sediment samples will be collected from the Roberts Bank intertidal zone and analysed for biofilm species composition and indicators of nutritional value for foraging shorebirds. An assessment of foraging habitat use will also be conducted by determining shorebird dropping densities in proximity to sampling locations. Shorebirds will be captured in mist nets. Their droppings will be collected and subsequently analyzed for dietary contents. A sub sample of four specimens of western sandpiper will be retained and euthanised by qualified biologists for subsequent analysis of stomach contents.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study will begin in April 2016.</p>

**For Further Information**

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

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