

Field Studies Information Sheet – April 2017

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is continuing field studies in April 2017 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 the port authority'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, the port authority 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 the port authority's jurisdiction include:

- [The Deltaport Terminal, Road and Rail Improvement Project](#). This project provides improvements that address road and rail constraints on and off-terminal, and includes additional equipment on the terminal. Once complete in 2017, this project will increase the container capacity of Deltaport to approximately 2.4 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).
- [The Centerm Expansion Project](#). This project is a proposed series of improvements to Centerm container terminal and off-terminal road and rail. Subject to regulatory approvals, the project would increase the container capacity of Centerm to approximately 1.5 million TEUs.

However, even with these improvements, and capacity increases planned for the Fairview Terminal in Prince Rupert, Canada's west coast will still require additional container capacity by the mid-2020s. To meet this demand, the port authority has proposed the construction of a new terminal at Roberts Bank in Delta, B.C.

- [The 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.

Field Studies – April 2017

An overview of field studies that will be taking place in April 2017 is below.

Overview
Biofilm
Biofilm Dynamics Study
Coastal Geomorphology
Abiotic Parameters Study
Marine Fish
Herring Spawn Survey
Marine Invertebrates
Orange Sea Pen Pilot Transplant Monitoring

Some field studies taking place in April may 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.

Study Name	Summary
Biofilm – Biofilm Dynamics Study	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To assess factors influencing biofilm community dynamics at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> Roberts Bank upper intertidal zones.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Biologists will collect sediment samples from the Roberts Bank upper intertidal zone and analyze the samples for biofilm species composition and indicators of nutritional value to shorebirds. Abiotic parameters (temperature, salinity and depth) will be monitored at the sampling locations during this study.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study will be conducted in April and May 2017 during daylight hours.</p>

Study Name	Summary
<p>Coastal Geomorphology – Abiotic Parameters Study</p> <p>(continued from March 2017)</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 2017.</p>
<p>Marine Fish – Herring Spawn Survey</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To document the presence and distribution of herring spawning activity at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> Subtidal and intertidal eelgrass beds at Roberts Bank north of the existing terminals and in the inter-causeway area.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Eelgrass beds will be surveyed using SCUBA and on-foot during low tides. Biologists will map the distribution of herring spawn and collect data on spawn and habitat.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study is anticipated to be conducted in April 2017 during daylight hours.</p>

Study Name	Summary
Marine Invertebrates – Orange Sea Pen Pilot Transplant Monitoring	<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 continue in April 2017 during daylight hours.</p>

For Further Information

For further information, please visit our website at portvancouver.com/CCIP or contact us:

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