

**Field Studies Information Sheet – May 2016**

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is continuing field studies in May 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 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 (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. The port authority is undertaking a comprehensive multi-round, multi-year community, stakeholder and public consultation process regarding the project. Please visit [www.portvancouver.com/RBT2](http://www.portvancouver.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 – May 2016**

An overview of field studies that will be taking place in May 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>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, 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).

<b>Study Name</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<p><b>Coastal Geomorphology – Abiotic Parameters Study</b></p> <p>(continued from April 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 May 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 May 2016.</p>

Study Name	Summary
<p><b>Marine Mammals – Marine Mammal Observation Study</b></p> <p>(continued from April 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 May 2016 during daylight hours.</p>
<p><b>Coastal Birds - Shorebird Foraging Studies</b></p> <p>(continued from April 2016)</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 analyzed 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.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study will continue in May 2016.</p>

### For Further Information

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

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