

Field Studies Information Sheet – February 2014

Port Metro Vancouver is continuing field studies in February 2014 as part of ongoing environmental and technical work for the proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project.

Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project

The Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project is a proposed new three-berth container terminal which could provide 2.4 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit containers) of additional container capacity annually. The project is part of the Container Capacity Improvement Program, Port Metro Vancouver’s long-term strategy to deliver projects to meet anticipated growth and demand for container capacity until 2030.

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, which began in June 2011 with Pre-Consultation, continued in October/November 2012 with Project Definition Consultation, and in October/November 2013 with Pre-Design Consultation. Please visit www.portmetrovancover.com/RBT2 for more information, including past consultation materials.

The proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project will be subject to an environmental assessment by Independent Review Panel.

Field Studies – February 2014

An overview of field studies that will be taking place in February 2014 is below.

Overview
Biofilm
Annual Variability Study
Coastal Geomorphology
Continuous Measurement of Discharge Study
Coastal Seabirds
Dunlin Use of the Fraser River Estuary during the Overwintering Period
Lighting Impact
Lighting Impact Assessment Study
Marine Mammals
Marine Mammal Observation Study
Underwater Noise Study
Land Use
Land Use Study

Some field studies may require access to public and private land. Port Metro Vancouver will obtain permission before accessing private property. As part of the Adaptive Management Strategy developed as part of the Deltaport Third Berth Project, Port Metro Vancouver will continue studies at Roberts Bank in addition to those outlined in this information sheet.

Port Metro Vancouver will produce monthly field studies information sheets summarizing work to occur each month. These updates will be available at www.portmetrovancover.com/RBT2.

Study Name	Summary
<p>Biofilm – Annual Variability Study</p> <p>(continued from August 2013)</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> The purpose of the study is to assess the temporal fluctuations of the biofilm communities in relation to bird migration periods, and assess any variability in terms of food availability.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> This study will be conducted at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Sediment samples will be collected from the intertidal mudflats and measured for the following parameters of biofilm quantity and quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photopigment density • Carbohydrate • Total Organic Carbon • Microphytobenthos Taxonomy <p><u>Timing:</u> This study will continue in February 2014 and will take place during daylight hours.</p>
<p>Coastal Geomorphology – Continuous Measurement of Discharge Study</p> <p>(continued from January 2014)</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> The purpose of the study is to collect data relating to the flow discharge in Canoe Pass.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> The study area includes Canoe Pass (the southern-most arm of the Fraser River).</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Sensors and probes will be installed within the study area. These will be connected to computers to collect and monitor data.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study will continue in February 2014.</p>

Study Name	Summary
<p>Coastal Seabirds – Dunlin Use of the Fraser River Estuary during the Overwintering Period</p> <p>(Continued from January 2014)</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> The purpose of this study is to assess the abundance and distribution of Dunlin across the Fraser River Estuary during the overwintering period. Data gathered will be used to document spatial use in relation to site characteristics and predation pressures.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> The study area is comprised of the intertidal mudflats at Roberts Bank, Sturgeon Bank and Boundary Bay.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Dunlin distribution and abundance will be recorded with binoculars or night vision scopes and sediment samples will be taken at a range of locations and sent to a laboratory for analysis.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study will continue in February 2014 and will take place during daylight and nighttime hours. Crew members will be accessing the Roberts Bank, Sturgeon Bank and Boundary Bay dykes, as well as the intertidal mudflats in the study area, during the nighttime and early morning hours to coincide with specific tidal cycles. Crew members will be using flashlights/head lamps during low light hours.</p>
<p>Lighting Impact – Lighting Impact Assessment Study</p> <p>(continued from December 2013)</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> The purpose of this study is to assess existing visual impacts at Roberts Bank, as measured from selected vantage points, as well as identify any potential lighting changes associated with the proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> This study may be conducted at the existing Roberts Bank terminals and from various viewpoints at Roberts Bank and the Lower Mainland, and potentially at Point Roberts in the United States.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Light meters will be used to measure existing lighting conditions at the Roberts Bank terminals.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study may continue in February 2014 and would take place during nighttime hours.</p>

Study Name	Summary
<p>Marine Mammals – Marine Mammal Observation</p> <p>(continued from January 2014)</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> The purpose of this study is to document marine mammal presence and behaviour in the waters surrounding the marine terminals at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> The study area includes the waters in the vicinity of the marine terminals at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> A ground-based remote video surveillance system may be used to observe the proposed project footprint for marine mammals.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study may continue in February 2014 and would take place during daylight hours.</p>
<p>Marine Mammals – Underwater Noise Study</p> <p>(continued from January 2014)</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> The purpose of this study is to capture baseline data on ambient underwater noise levels and southern resident killer whale (SRKW) presence at Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> The study area includes the waters in the vicinity of Roberts Bank.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> At Roberts Bank, both ambient noise levels and marine mammal vocalizations will be recorded continuously for one year using a hydrophone cabled to shore.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> Acoustic recordings at Roberts Bank will continue in February 2014.</p>
<p>Land Use – Land Use Study</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> The purpose of this study is to confirm the existing land uses in upland areas in proximity to the east end of the Roberts Bank causeway.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> The study area includes upland areas in Delta and on Tsawwassen First Nation land that are in close proximity to the Roberts Bank causeway.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Aerial photographs will be used to develop a baseline land use map which will be verified by field checking. Land uses will be visually verified in the field.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study will begin in February 2014 and will take place during daylight hours.</p>

For Further Information

For further information, please visit our website at www.portmetrovancover.com/RBT2
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