

Field Studies Information Sheet – July 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 July 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. We will communicate any field studies updates on [field studies webpage](#).

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 has completed a federal environmental assessment by an independent review panel. The federal government will now review the panel's findings and issue a decision on the project later this year. The project will require other permits and authorizations before it can proceed. Please visit the [project website](#) for more information, including past consultation materials, to learn more about the project.

Field Studies – July 2020

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

Overview
Coastal Geomorphology
Abiotic Parameters Study
Marine Fish
Juvenile Salmon baseline data collection
Coastal Birds
Great Blue Heron baseline data collection
Marine Invertebrates
Juvenile Crab baseline data collection
Coastal Birds
Barn Owl baseline data collection

The port authority may also be conducting other fieldwork in July to assess the suitability of potential offsetting projects at a variety of locations. Updates on this work will be posted to the [field studies webpage](#) as required. Some field studies taking place in July 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.

Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project Field Studies Information Sheet

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 below:

Study Name	Summary
Coastal Geomorphology –Abiotic Parameters Study	<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 will continue in July 2020.</p>
Marine Fish – Juvenile salmon baseline data collection	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To collect baseline data on the density and distribution of juvenile salmon, including chum (<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>) and Chinook (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>) to support the development of a juvenile salmon follow-up program.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> The intertidal and subtidal areas north and south of the Roberts Bank causeway, as well as the intertidal marsh habitats seaward of Westham Island.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Juvenile salmon data will be collected in the intertidal zone using beach seine net during the daytime hours. Beach seines will be deployed on foot from the shoreline and three seine hauls will be collected during each sampling event. Subtidal spot sampling locations will be accessed by boat during high tide and performed without disembarking the vessel.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> Intertidal sampling locations will be visited four times in the spring (April and May) and four times in the summer (June and July). The spring sampling field work began on April 23, 2020 and was completed May 29, 2020. The summer sampling fieldwork began June 1, 2020 and will continue through July 2020.</p>

Study Name	Summary
Coastal Birds – Great blue heron baseline data collection	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To collect baseline data on the abundance of great blue heron to support the development of a follow-up program element.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> The intertidal zones at Roberts Bank, Sturgeon Bank and Boundary Bay.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Biologists will undertake great blue heron counts simultaneously at Roberts Bank, Sturgeon Bank and Boundary Bay during peak heron usage of the Fraser River estuary (June – August). Surveys will be undertaken once every four days (for a total of 25 surveys) and conducted during daytime hours within two hours of low tide.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study began in June, 2020 and will continue into August 2020.</p>
Marine Invertebrates – Juvenile crab baseline data collection	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To collect baseline data on the density of juvenile crab in available nursery habitat to support the development of a juvenile crab follow-up program.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> The intertidal zone on the north side of the Roberts Bank causeway and the inter-causeway area.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Sampling will be focused on three nearshore marine vegetated habitats that are known to provide settlement and nursery habitat for juvenile crab: native (<i>Zostera marina</i>) and non-native (<i>Zostera japonica</i>) eelgrass beds as well as <i>Ulva</i> hummocks. Sampling will be undertaken using three 0.5m x 0.5m (0.25m²) quadrats.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study began in June 2020 and will continue into September 2020.</p>

Study Name	Summary
<p>Coastal Birds – Barn owl baseline data collection</p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To collect baseline data on the mortality rate of barn owls through the collection and recording of carcasses.</p> <p><u>Study Area:</u> Road and rail right-of-ways at the east end of the Roberts Bank causeway.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Biologists will preform walking and driving carcass searches to document barn owl mortalities or injuries within the study area.</p> <p><u>Timing:</u> This study will begin in July 2020 and continue into 2021.</p>

For further information

For further information, please visit our website at portvancouver.com/RBT2 or contact us at:

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