Field Studies Information Sheet – May 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 May 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 independant 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 – May 2020

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

Overview
Coastal Geomorphology
Abiotic Parameters Study
Marine Fish
Juvenile Salmon Baseline Sampling
Marine Fish
Eulachon Hydroacoustic Pilot Study

Some field studies taking place in 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 here.

A description of each field study listed above is provided on the following page.

Study Name	Summary
Coastal Geomorphology –Abiotic Parameters Study	Purpose: To determine the physical conditions (e.g., temperature and salinity) influencing biofilm presence and distribution at Roberts Bank. Study Area: Roberts Bank in the upper and mid-intertidal zones north of the Roberts Bank causeway. Methods: Water quality measurements (conductivity, temperature, and depth) will be recorded in the mid and upper intertidal zones of Roberts Bank. Timing: This study will continue in May 2020.
Marine Fish – Juvenile salmon baseline sampling	Purpose: To collect baseline data on the density and distribution of juvenile salmon, including chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*) and Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) to support the development of a juvenile salmon follow-up program. Study Area: The intertidal and subtidal areas north and south of the Roberts Bank causeway, as well as the intertidal marsh habitats seaward of Westham Island. Methods: 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. Timing: Intertidal sampling locations will be visited four times in the spring (April and May) and four times in the summer (June and July). This field work began on April 23, 2020 and will continue through May.

Study Name	Summary
Marine Fish – Eulachon Hydroacoustic Pilot Study	Purpose: To test the efficacy of hydroacoustic techniques in detecting schools of migrating adult eulachon along the delta foreslope at Roberts Bank. Study Area: Within the proposed marine terminal/dredge footprint and seaward. Methods: Multi-frequency acoustic zooplankton and fish profilers (AZFPs) are deployed to undertake hydroacoustic sampling of the water column. The AZFPs can detect presence and adundance of eulachon within the water column due to their lack of a swim bladder and high lipid content. Timing: Deployment of the AZFPs occurred March 25, 2020 and retrieval is expected to occur May 12, 2020, subject to weather. Following retrieval of the equipment, the technology's effectiveness in detecting eulachon and its potential use as a mitigation measure will then be assessed.

For further information
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