

Oct. 4, 2012

New process for boat ramp maintenance and foreshore protection in place

The City of Campbell River and Fisheries and Oceans Canada have agreed to a faster method for planning and approving work along the community's shoreline.

"The memorandum of understanding signed last week outlines a process for ongoing foreshore management that streamlines DFO's review process and clarifies acceptable work procedures in and around the marine foreshore," says Terri Martin, the City's environmental coordinator.

"This agreement supports the City's soft-shore restoration strategy and will be especially helpful with annual boat ramp maintenance," adds Grant Parker, the City's parks operations supervisor.

The agreement is based on Campbell River's Marine Foreshore Habitat Assessment and Restoration Plan, complies with the *Federal Fisheries Act* and is expected to shorten the DFO review process time from months to 10 working days.

The agreement also outlines plans for removal and storage of gravel and driftwood cleared during boat launch maintenance, allowing the City to maintain (both Ken Forde and Big Rock) boat ramps from May through September each year.

The agreement applies to projects such as soft-shore restorations that restore natural beach slope to allow natural movement of wood and gravel and to protect the shoreline and foreshore amenities such as roads, sewer and water lines and the seawalk from erosion during storms and flooding.

"With this agreement, Campbell River has demonstrated how seriously it takes its obligation to restore degraded and eroded foreshore areas," says Ross Milnthorp, the City's general manager of parks, recreation and culture *"The City's Marine Foreshore Habitat Assessment and Restoration Plan is an innovative long-term foreshore management strategy. This approach is particularly essential in view of anticipated rise in sea/tidal levels linked to climate change, and this agreement sets an example for other coastal communities to follow."*

Video posted on the City's YouTube channel demonstrates how restored shorelines at Ellis Park along Hwy 19A weathered the powerful waves during November 2011 storms. The City of Campbell River has also restored marine shore habitat at Dick Murphy Park and at other locations along the Island Highway. Beaches in these locations were re-contoured using native materials. Campbell River's soft-shore restoration work at Dick Murphy Park received a gold level rating from the Green Shores Technical Working Group, a project of the Stewardship Centre for BC.

Hard shore foreshore treatments (rip rap and sea walls) remain outside the scope of this agreement.

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