

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE  
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**  
TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY APRIL 23, 2025, at 6:00 pm  
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VILLAGE OFFICE



**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

*We are privileged to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Quatsino First Nations.*

**(3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

*THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for April 23, 2025, be approved; AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the agenda be received.*

**(4) DELEGATIONS:**

**(5) MINUTES:**

Pg 3

**a.) THAT the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2025, be approved.**

**(6) COMMUNICATIONS:**

Pg 5

**a.) Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program**

April 9, 2025, Letter from Matthew Scott-Moncrieff, Director Rural Programs Branch

Pg 7-10

**b.) Local Government – Letter of Support**

April 11, 2025, Letter from Scott Simpson, CityWest

Pg 11-31

**c.) 2025 Field Report – Salish Sea Gull Project**

April 2025, Field Report, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Pg 33-44

**(6) REPORTS:**

**a.) Planning Report for 1250 Variance Request**

April 17, 2025, Report from Jonathon Schmidt, Bluerock Planning

**(7) BYLAWS:**

Pg 45-47

**a.) Bylaw 697 – Levy of Property Tax Rates for the Year 2025**

Recommendation:

*THAT Bylaw 697-2025 Levy of Tax Rates be given First, second, and third reading.*

**(8) QUESTION PERIOD:**

**(9) ADJOURNMENT:**

*THAT the meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held April 23, 2025, be adjourned*

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a.) AVICC Feedback Requested: Reforming the Local Government Act – A Roadmap
- b.) BC Government News Release, Funding will strengthened emergency support for evacuees
- c.) BC Government News Release, Attorney general’s statutes amendment act introduced



VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025  
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VILLAGE OFFICE



**Present**  
Mayor Kevin Cameron  
Councillor Sean Watson  
Councillor Holly Aldis  
Councillor Russell Murray

**Absent**  
Councillor David Stewart

**Staff**  
Tanya Spafford, Deputy CAO/CFO  
Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO  
Ryan Nicholson, Ec Dev Officer

**Call to order 5:37pm**

25/25  
Resolution to  
closed  
meeting

**RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING - 5:37pm**  
*THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to the following sections of the Community Charter:*

*Section 90 (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;*

**RECONVENE 6:06pm**

26/25  
Adoption of  
Agenda

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**  
Moved, Seconded and CARRIED  
*THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for April 9, 2025, be approved; AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the agenda be received.*

**DELEGATION:**

27/25  
Minutes of  
March 26,  
2025

**MINUTES:**  
Moved, Seconded and CARRIED  
*THAT the Minutes from the Council Meeting of March 26, 2025, be approved.*

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Bill 7 – re Interprovincial Trade Barriers and Economic Challenges  
March 2025, Letter from Anna Kindy, MLA

**BYLAWS:**

28/25 Bylaw  
696 – 2025  
Financial Plan

Bylaw 696 -Financial Plan for 2025 – 2029  
Moved, Seconded and CARRIED  
*THAT the Village of Port Alice Bylaw 696 – Financial Plan for 2025-2029 be given fourth reading and adoption.*

**QUESTION PERIOD:**

29/25  
Resolution to  
closed  
meeting

**RESOLUTION TO RE-ENTER TO CLOSED MEETING – 6:08pm**

*THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to the following sections of the Community Charter:*

*Section 90 (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;*

**RECONVENE 6:28m**

30/25  
Adjournment

**ADJOURNMENT: 6:29pm**

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

***THAT the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice held April 9, 2025, be adjourned at 6:29pm.***

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held April 9, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer



April 9, 2025

Application #: 700CCCA3  
Village of Port Alice

Dear Bonnie Danyk,

**Re: Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program**  
**Application #: 700CCCA3 - Link River Improvements**

Thank you for your application for funding under the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP). We would like to advise that, after careful consideration, the above-noted project was not selected for funding.

REDIP received a large number of applications during the intake period and unfortunately the total funding requested significantly exceeded the Program's available funds. As a result, the Program was not able to provide funding to your project.

This decision does not reflect on the importance of this project for your community, but rather the degree to which the program has been oversubscribed. We know significant effort goes into developing proposed projects and we appreciate the time you took to prepare your application.

Program staff are available to review your application and provide further details regarding the funding decision. If you would like to book a virtual follow up meeting, please contact the Program Office by phone at 250-356-7950 or by email at [ruraldevelopment@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ruraldevelopment@gov.bc.ca).

The 2024-25 REDIP intake marked the third year of the program. Future funding opportunities may be announced via the REDIP website at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/REDIP>. To stay informed, we encourage you to subscribe for email updates on the REDIP website.

Please note that JEDI Regional Economic Operations staff are also available to offer support for economic development in your community. The Regional Manager for your area is Geoff Crawford and their contact information is: 250-850-1899, [Geoff.Crawford@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Geoff.Crawford@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you for your interest in REDIP.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Scott-Moncrieff".

Matthew Scott-Moncrieff, Director  
Rural Programs Branch  
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation



## Tanya Spafford

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**From:** treasurer@portalice.ca  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 10:01 AM  
**To:** info@portalice.ca  
**Subject:** Fwd: Request - Letter of Support  
**Attachments:** 2024 local government - letter of support.docx

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Request - Letter of Support  
**Date:** Fri, 11 Apr 2025 15:08:53 +0000  
**From:** Scott Simpson <Scott.Simpson@cwct.ca>  
**To:** "cao@portalice.ca" <cao@portalice.ca>

Hi Bonnie,

I'm reaching out from CityWest, a telecommunications provider operating in British Columbia. Our company specializes in providing fibre-optic services to rural and remote communities, bringing connectivity that rivals urban centres.

CityWest is applying for funding through the Connecting Communities British Columbia program for a fibre-to-the-home project in Port Alice. This application requires no financial contribution from Port Alice or the Regional District of Mount Waddington. The RDMW has already provided a letter of support for our application.

I am hoping the Port Alice Mayor & Council could provide a letter of support for our project application. Are you able to add this item to the next board meeting?

Attached is a sample letter of support. If successful in our application, CityWest could bring advanced fibre-optic connectivity to over 500 homes in Port Alice, offering reliable Internet, TV, and phone services.

Please feel free to reach out by e-mail or phone if you have any questions. I would also be happy to jump on a call if you wanted more information about CityWest and our application for your community.

Regards,

Scott

**Scott Simpson**  
**Senior Marketing Manager**

○ (778) 634-7207 | ☎ (250) 631-9761

[www.citywest.ca](http://www.citywest.ca)





*Local government letterhead*

DATE

CityWest  
248 3 Ave W,  
Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1

Attention: Chief Executive Officer, Stefan Woloszyn

Re: Letter of Support for Connecting Communities BC Application to improve connectivity through the Connected Coast Network and last mile infrastructure.

Dear Mr. Woloszyn,

SAMPLE LETTER

The name of local government Board of Directors or Council is pleased to support CityWest's Connecting Communities BC application to enable high-speed connectivity to underserved residents and organizations within our region/community.

This project will enable our residents and visitors to have reliable and affordable access to high-speed internet, which is vital in today's high-tech connected world. Improved connectivity will result in positive social and economic impacts allowing participation and access to online healthcare, education, social service programs, tele-work and entrepreneurship activities. *Insert specific examples if available see suggestions on page 2)*

We look forward to assisting you in every way possible to complete viable plans and arrangements as required for construction, permitting and tenure agreements, as well as permissive tax exemptions. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to help expedite processes and agreements to implement this initiative.

On behalf of the local government, we wish you success with this exciting initiative, which will benefit our residents and make the local government a more desirable and sustainable place in which to live and do business.

Sincerely yours,

*The Connecting Communities BC Application suggests that Letters of Support from the Community include descriptions of benefits should demonstrate the specific, tangible, and expected benefits a Project is likely to provide within and around its targeted community(ies). This could include, but is not limited to, how the Project will:*

- *Impact the community's economic growth, social development, resiliency, employment, ongoing viability and/or capacity to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic effects.*
- *Improve access to essential services, including tele-health, distance learning, social inclusiveness, and telework.*
- *Facilitate participation in the digital economy by underrepresented groups, including women, persons who are 2SLGBTQ, First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, living in OLMCs, belonging to a visible minority, children, seniors, or persons with disabilities.*
- *Connect institutions, including schools, libraries, hospitals, and other social services or community institutions, and/or enhance the services these institutions deliver.*
- *Connect or facilitate the development of small businesses or entrepreneurship.*
- *Connect or facilitate industrial applications.*
- *Contribute to governmental efforts such as Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy, Canada's Homelessness Strategy, Indigenous Community Development National Strategy, Women Entrepreneurship Strategy or the Action Plan for Official Languages.*

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2025

# FIELD REPORT

## SALISH SEA GULL PROJECT



Photo credit: Josh Green



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

# 2025

## FIELD SUMMARY

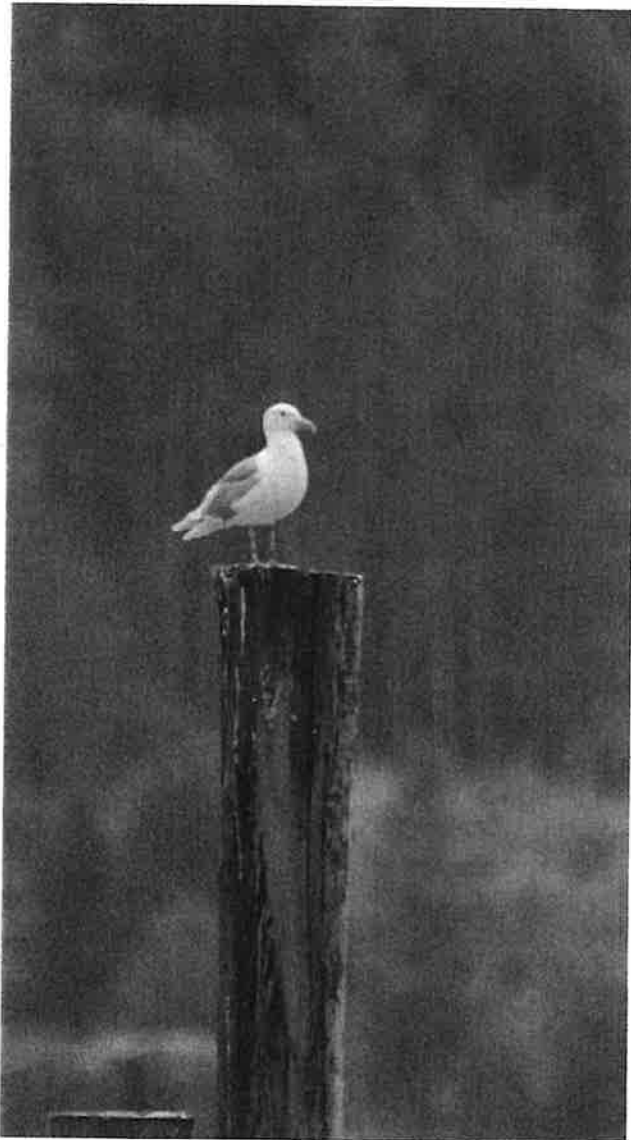


Photo credit: Chantal Jacques and John Costello

Adult Glaucous-winged Gull with colour band combination blue over green (left leg) and blue over federal metal band (right leg) standing on a piling pole in Sooke, BC.

- Completed 6th year of research on gulls as indicators of the health of the Salish Sea.
- Conducted field work at 47 sites across coastal BC: 34 sites in the Salish Sea and 13 sites outside of the Salish Sea.
- Banded 114 Glaucous-winged Gulls with unique colour band combinations.
- Collected 59 health and 71 genetic blood samples from Glaucous-winged Gulls.
- Deployed GPS tracking tags on 22 adult Glaucous-winged Gulls.
- Banded and deployed GPS tracking tags on 8 adult Short-billed Gulls.

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

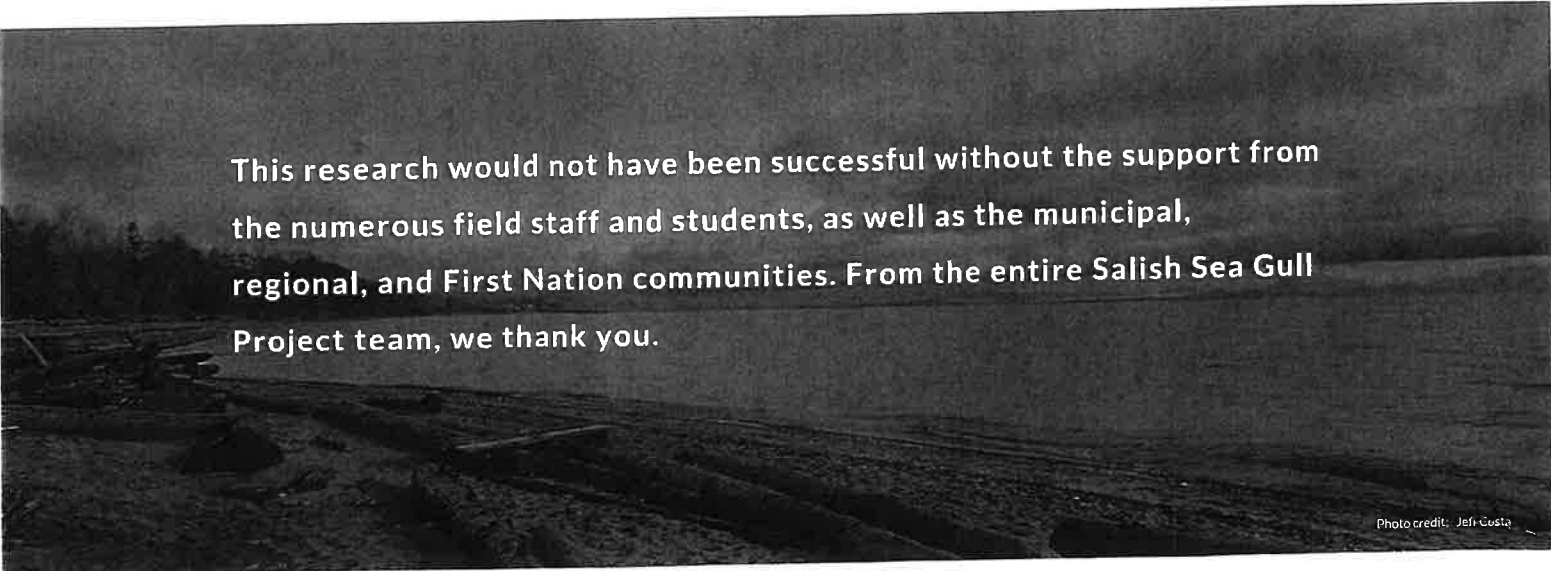
## Gulls as Indicators of Marine Health

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The Salish Sea is an important wintering area for many species of marine birds that is facing increasing pressure from urbanization, population growth, and marine transportation. The Salish Sea Gull Project is part of the Salish Sea Marine Bird Monitoring and Conservation Program to monitor marine birds as indicators of the health of the Salish Sea and to collect baseline data for conservation planning.

Gull species are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act of 1994 and are identified as a stewardship priority by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Our research assesses the health of marine birds in this highly human-impacted area focusing on the survival rates, population structure, movements, habitats, diets, pathogens and diseases, as well as contaminant levels of gull species in the Salish Sea.

This project is a collaboration between ECCC and academia, led by Dr. Mark Hipfner (Wildlife Research Division, ECCC) in collaboration with Dr. Tony Williams (Centre for Wildlife Ecology, Simon Fraser University), Drs. Amy Wilson and Marie Auger-Méthé (University of British Columbia), Dr. Theresa Burg (University of Lethbridge), as well as Dr. John Elliott and Kevin Kardynal (ECCC). In 2025, we coordinated field work engagement with Jeff Costa (Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC) who led the Short-billed Gull research.



**This research would not have been successful without the support from the numerous field staff and students, as well as the municipal, regional, and First Nation communities. From the entire Salish Sea Gull Project team, we thank you.**

# RESEARCH SPECIES

## Common Wintering Gulls in the Salish Sea

The Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) is one of the largest species of gulls to occupy coastal habitats in both urban and natural areas in the northeastern Pacific from Oregon to Alaska. Along the coast of British Columbia, Glaucous-winged Gulls are abundant, generalist foragers that include variable amounts of both natural marine and human foods in their diets, making them excellent monitors and indicators of ecosystem health.

Photo of an adult Glaucous-winged Gull, in breeding plumage.

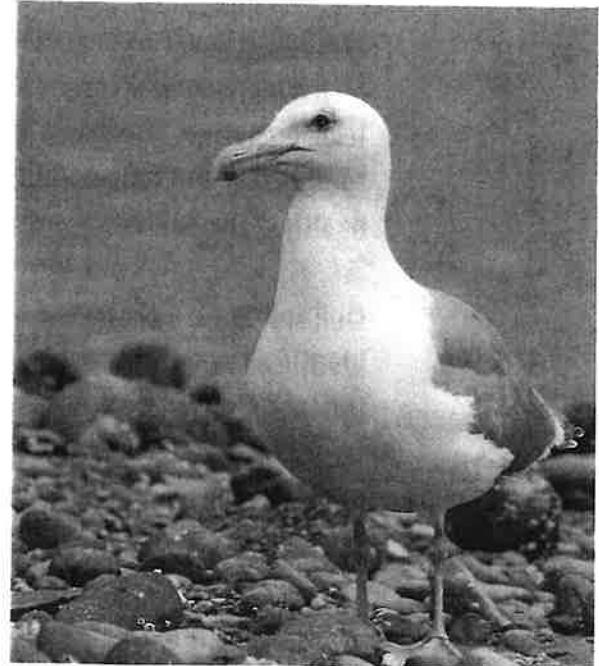


Photo credit: ECCC

The Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*) is the smallest “white-headed” gull in North America. It was formerly known as the Mew Gull until 2021, when genetic analyses determined it should be separated into a distinct species from its counterpart in Europe and Asia (the Common Gull). In winter, the Short-billed Gull is present in high numbers throughout coastal British Columbia. They are also observed here all year but move inland away from the coast to breed on islets in freshwater lakes. However, there have been very few studies to understand its behaviour, as well as timing of seasonal and annual movements.

Photo of an adult Short-billed Gull, in winter plumage.



Photo credit: Alice Demallk

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# PROJECT OUTREACH

## First Nation Engagement and Collaboration

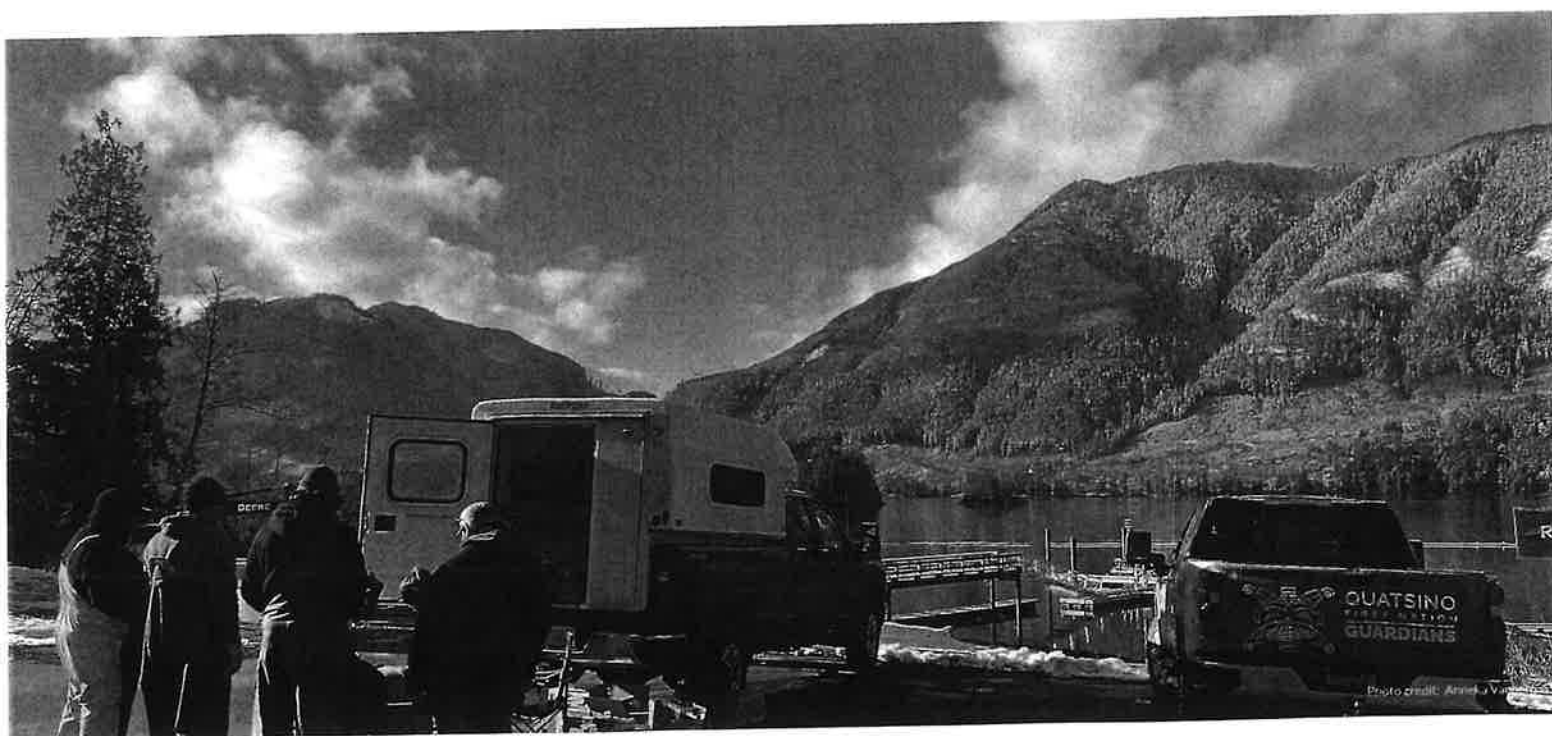
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With gratitude, we respectfully acknowledge that this work takes place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of many Indigenous Peoples in Coastal British Columbia. As visitors and public servants, we have a responsibility to the land and to the people who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial.

We strive for meaningful engagement in hopes this project can provide opportunities to build deeper relationships and to support information sharing that is purposeful for stewardship and reconciliation.

This year, researchers met with Guardians and members from the Squamish Nation, Tla'amin Nation, Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw Nations, Quatsino First Nation, 'N̓amgis First Nation, Pacheedaht First Nation, and K'ómoks First Nation. Thank you for welcoming us, exchanging stories, and providing invaluable insight along with assistance with the fieldwork.

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the many First Nations who reviewed our request, offered access to their lands, as well as their fieldwork assistance. To become involved in future field seasons, or if you would like more information on this project, please contact [Mark.Hipfner@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Mark.Hipfner@ec.gc.ca).



# PROJECT OUTREACH

## Community Events

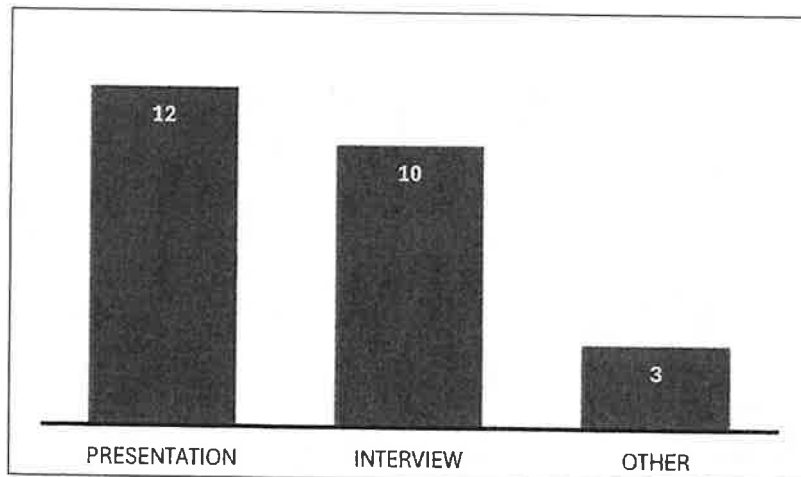
From 2020 – 2025, researchers have coordinated and presented updates on the Salish Sea Gull Project to communities and media through in-person presentations, virtual interviews, podcasts, exhibitor events, and field training (see Figure 1)

Thank you to the First Nations, municipalities, radio, tv, and film opportunities for welcoming us and providing a space for us to share our message far and wide. We genuinely appreciate your interest, time, and support.



Photo credit: Aneka Vanderpas

Aneka Vanderpas (Marine Outreach Coordinator, ECCC) at the White Rock Sea Festival, in August 2024.



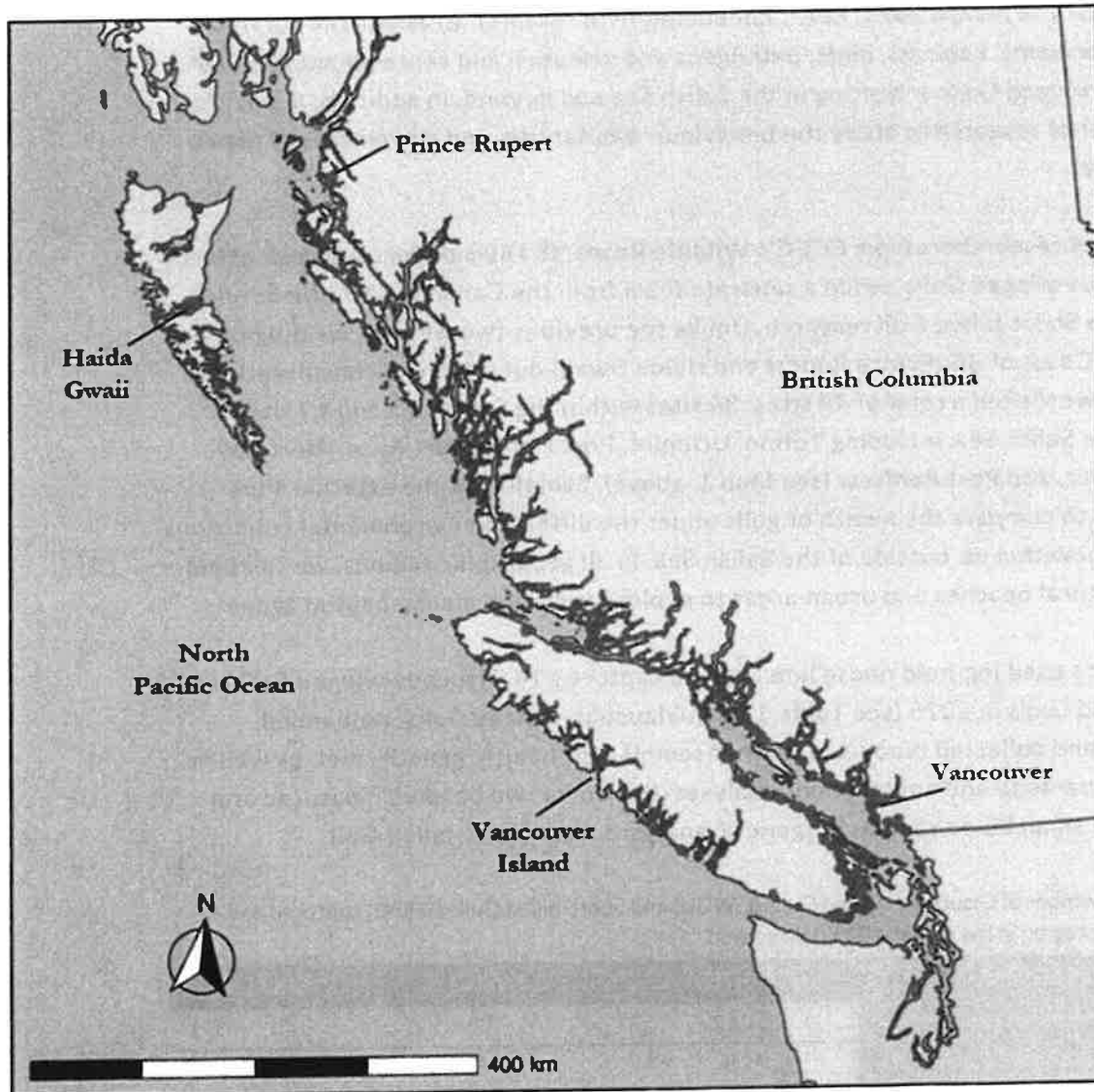
**Figure 1.** The Salish Sea Gull Project outreach by number and type from 2020 – 2025 (total n = 25). Presentations and interviews have been held in-person and virtually, while the other category encompasses exhibitions/events and training opportunities.





# PROJECT AREA

## Map of Sites



**Map 1.** Locations of the Salish Sea Gull Project winter 2020 - 2025 sampling sites in British Columbia (BC), Canada. Sampling sites are focused in the Salish Sea, along the eastern coast of Vancouver Island and southwestern coast of BC. Comparison sites outside of the Salish Sea are located along the west and north coasts of Vancouver Island as well as the north coast of BC, including Haida Gwaii.

# FIELD METHODS

## Site Selection and Sampling

From January to March 2025, ECCC conducted field research to assess the survival rates, movements, habitats, diets, pathogens and diseases, and contaminant levels of Glaucous-winged Gulls wintering in the Salish Sea and beyond. In addition, it was the first winter of research to study the behaviour, habitat use, and movements of Short-billed Gulls.

One team of researchers from ECCC's Wildlife Research Division focused their efforts on Glaucous-winged Gulls, while a separate team from the Canadian Wildlife Service piloted the Short-billed Gull research. Unlike the previous two winters, we did not visit the North Coast of BC (Prince Rupert and Haida Gwaii) due to timing considerations. However, we visited a total of 47 sites: 34 sites within the Salish Sea and 13 sites outside the Salish Sea, including Tofino, Ucluelet, Port Hardy, Port Alice, Alert Bay, Jordan River, and Port Renfrew (see Map 1, above). Sampling at the external sites enables us to compare the health of gulls under the different environmental conditions that prevail within vs. outside of the Salish Sea. In all geographic regions, we sampled gulls at natural beaches and urban areas to explore variation among habitat types.

Researchers used leg-hold noose line traps to capture 114 Glaucous-winged Gulls and 8 Short-billed Gulls in 2025 (see Table 1). For Glaucous-winged Gulls, we banded, measured and collected blood and feather samples for health, genetic, diet, as well as pathogen, parasite and contaminant analyses. Moreover, we banded, measured and collected a small blood sample for genetic analyses from Short-billed Gulls.

**Table 1.** Number of Glaucous-winged Gulls (GWGU) and Short-billed Gulls (SHOG) captured and banded by region in the winter 2025 field season.

REGIONS	SITES	GWGU	SHOG
Metro Vancouver	12	27	0
Sunshine Coast	8*	15	1
Juan de Fuca to Saanich Peninsula	13	30	0
Nanaimo to Campbell River	5*	15	7
Cowichan Valley	1	2	0
North Vancouver Island	4	12	0
West Vancouver Island	4	13	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>8</b>

\*Includes SHOG capture locations: 1 site visited in Powell River and 1 site visited in Comox.

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# FIELD METHODS

## Site Selection and Sampling

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Of the adult gulls captured, 22 Glaucous-winged Gulls and 8 Short-billed Gulls received a rechargeable solar GPS tag to track movements and habitat use over time. In the 2025 season, we collaborated with the University of British Columbia who provided the GPS tags for Glaucous-winged Gulls as part of their project investigating parasite loads and their effects on behaviour in gull species. Tags are meant to retrieve data for 2 – 5 years before the Teflon straps that hold them on deteriorate from environmental conditions and the tags fall off the bird. We also took a small blood sample from GPS tagged Glaucous-winged Gulls to directly connect movement data with blood sample analyses.



Photo credit: Sonya Pastran

An adult Glaucous-winged Gull with a leg-loop harness mounted rechargeable solar GPS tag and colour bands (white over grey on the left leg, and white over federal metal band on the right leg). This gull received a GPS tag in February 2024 and was re-sighted by an ECCC researcher from the Salish Sea Gull Project. Photos provide valuable information to sightings data, to verify colour band combination, as well as the status of the bird's physical condition.

[Click here to see the Salish Sea Gull Project video  
by Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)



# COMMUNITY SCIENCE

## Gull Colour Band Re-Sightings Form

Since 2022, each Glaucous-winged Gull and California Gull captured have been banded with a unique combination of three colour bands and a federal numerical metal band. Gulls are banded with two colour bands on their left leg and one colour band over a metal band on their right leg. The colour bands enable observers to recognize individual gulls and provide valuable re-sighting data when reported to the ECCC research team through [the online form](#) and/or the [Canadian Bird Banding Office](#).

Data collected from the colour-band re-sighting form helps us understand the short-term and long-term habitat use and movements of gull species to inform management planning and emergency response preparedness. Over time, we can also develop an estimate of age-specific survival rates, the most important population-level demographic metric.

As of April 2025, we have received nearly 1000 sightings of colour-banded gulls – with almost 300 sightings reported within the last year! The form data has even allowed us to cross international borders, with several sightings and reports of colour-banded gulls from Washington and Alaska, USA. Sightings like yours have a tremendous impact on our research, and photographs of your sightings further the value of your reports as we can assess age-related conditions such as rate of molt as well as verify band colours.

Thank you to the community members and scientists who have and continue to contribute to the gull colour-band re-sightings form. Please feel free to share the poster with the live QR code and form link to report colour-banded gull sightings in your area!

Report sightings here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/i9PG9zHCfs>

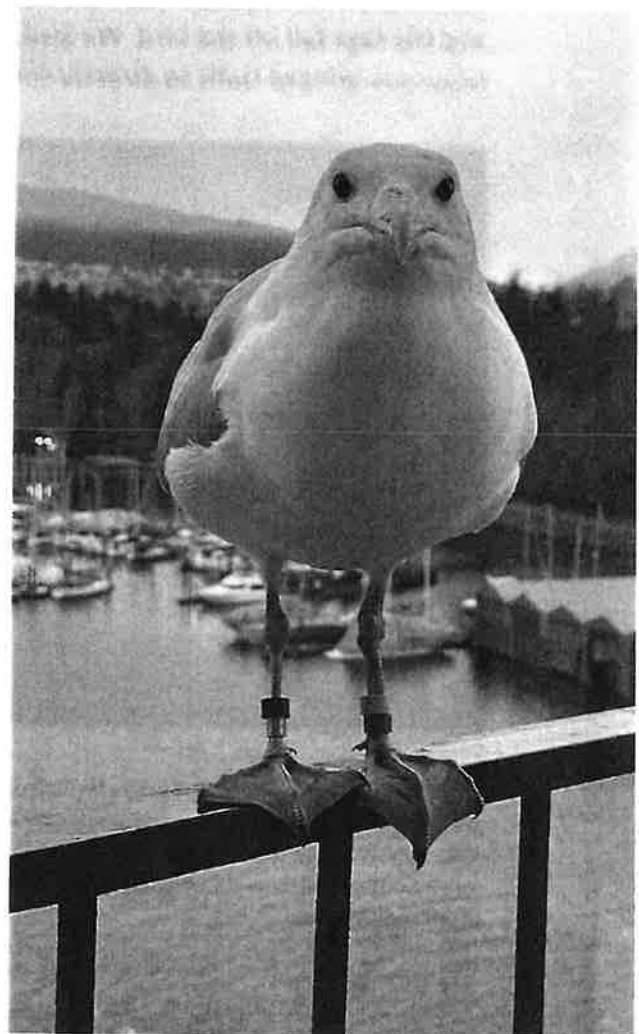


Photo credit: Willow Naranjo

The infamous Westin Bayshore gull, as seen in downtown Vancouver on February 15, 2025.

# COMMUNITY SCIENCE

## Interesting Updates of Colour-Banded Gulls

To date, we have received over 50 reports of a colour-banded adult male Glaucous-winged Gull that frequently visits the balconies of a hotel in downtown Vancouver (see photo to the right). It was banded with yellow over green on its left leg and black over federal metal band on its right leg at Vancouver's Devonian Park on February 2, 2022. This gull's repetitive behaviour gives us key insights into the day-to-day movements and habits, and every report matters immensely for our research.

In March 2025, we received reports of a colour-banded juvenile Glaucous-winged Gull taking advantage of the herring spawn off the coast of eastern Vancouver Island near Lantzville, British Columbia (see photo below). It was banded with light blue over black on its left leg and black over federal metal band on its right leg in winter 2024 in nearby Nanaimo – highlighting the survival of this young gull to its second year, possibly in part due to the abundance of natural food locally available.

Report sightings here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/i9PG9zHCfs>



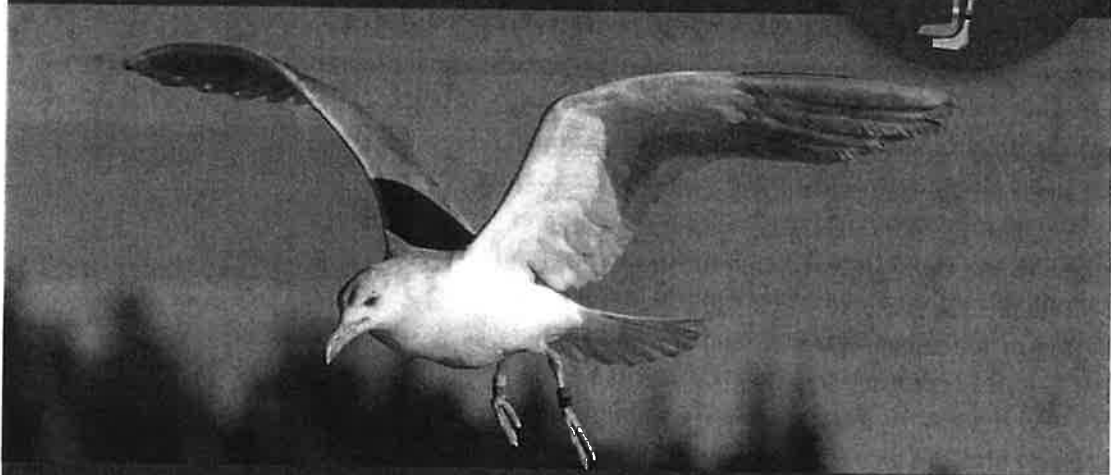
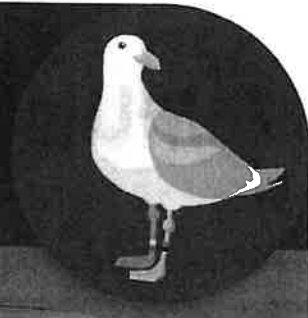
Photo credit: Martin Espina



21  
Photo credit: Robert Walker

See a  
colour-banded gull?

Let us know!



Vous avez vu un  
goéland avec des bagues colorées ?

On veut le savoir !



- Snap a photo (with colour bands on the legs visible).
- Take note of the time and location.
- Share your data with us and contribute to science!

We acknowledge this work takes place within the unceded territory of many First Nations who have lived on this land since time immemorial.

- Prenez une photo (avec les bagues de couleur visibles aux pattes).
- Notez l'heure et le lieu.
- Partagez vos données avec nous et contribuez à la science !

Nous reconnaissons que ce travail se déroule sur le territoire non cédé de nombreuses Premières nations qui vivent sur cette terre depuis des temps immémoriaux.

In partnership with / En partenariat avec



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



University of  
Lethbridge



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

# PRELIMINARY RESULTS

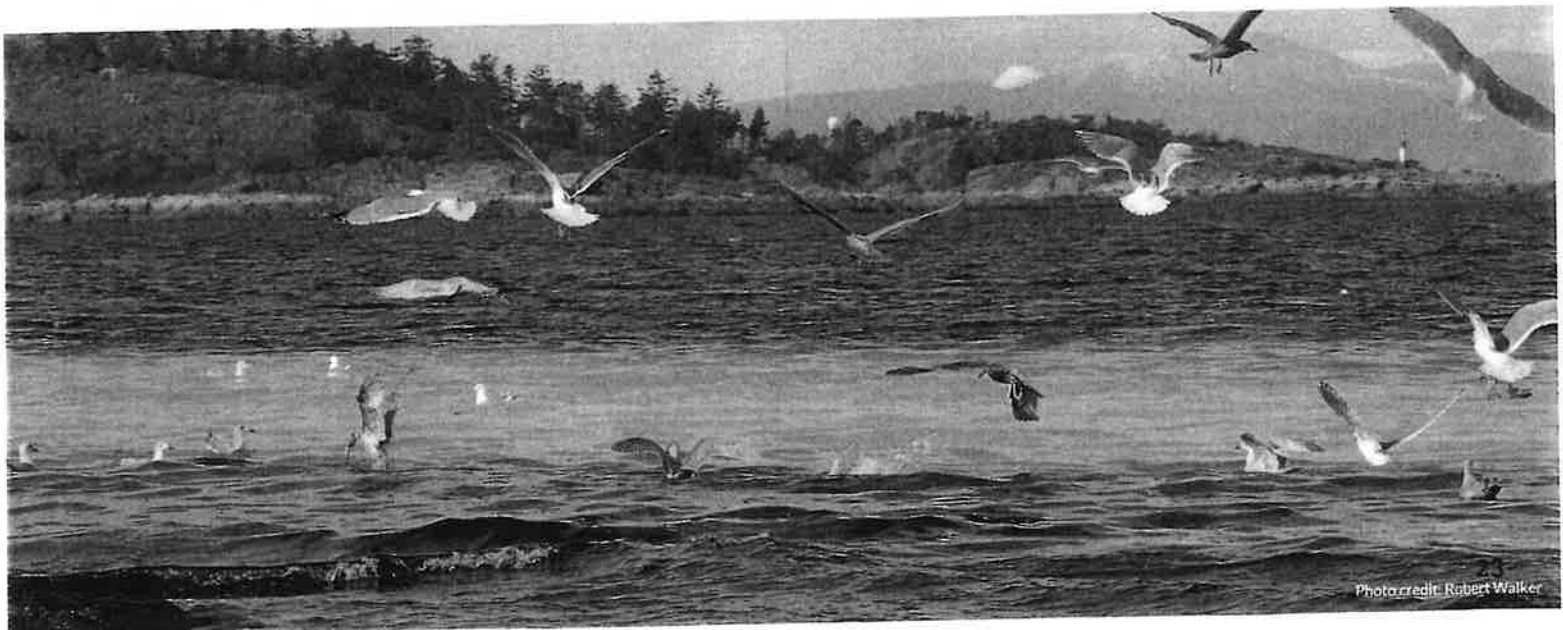
## Field Data: Nearly 1000 Gulls Sampled

We have completed six years of the Salish Sea Gull Project winter sampling. In total we visited 347 sites in the Salish Sea and beyond, we sampled a total of 988 gulls, including 955 Glaucous-winged Gulls, 25 California Gulls, and 8 Short-billed Gulls. We colour-banded 708 individuals (684 Glaucous-winged and 24 California Gulls) and deployed GPS tags on 86 Glaucous-winged Gulls, 20 California Gulls, and 8 Short-billed Gulls (see Table 2).

**Table 2.** Totals for 6 years (2020-2025) of gull species sampled in the Salish Sea Gull Project. Targeted species included Glaucous-winged, California, and Short-billed Gulls.

YEAR	SITES	GULLS	GPS TAGS DEPLOYED
2020	26	64	14
2021	78	188	18
2022	64	197*	13*
2023	60	195*	10*
2024	72	222	29
2025	47*	122*	30*
<b>Totals</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>114</b>

\*In 2025, two sites were only visited for Short-billed Gull captures. In 2022 and 2023, 14 and 11 gulls captured were California Gulls, respectively. In 2025, 8 gulls captured were Short-billed Gulls. In 2022 and 2023, 10 GPS tags were deployed on California Gulls each year and otherwise deployed on Glaucous-winged Gulls. In 2025, 8 GPS tags deployed were on Short-billed Gulls.



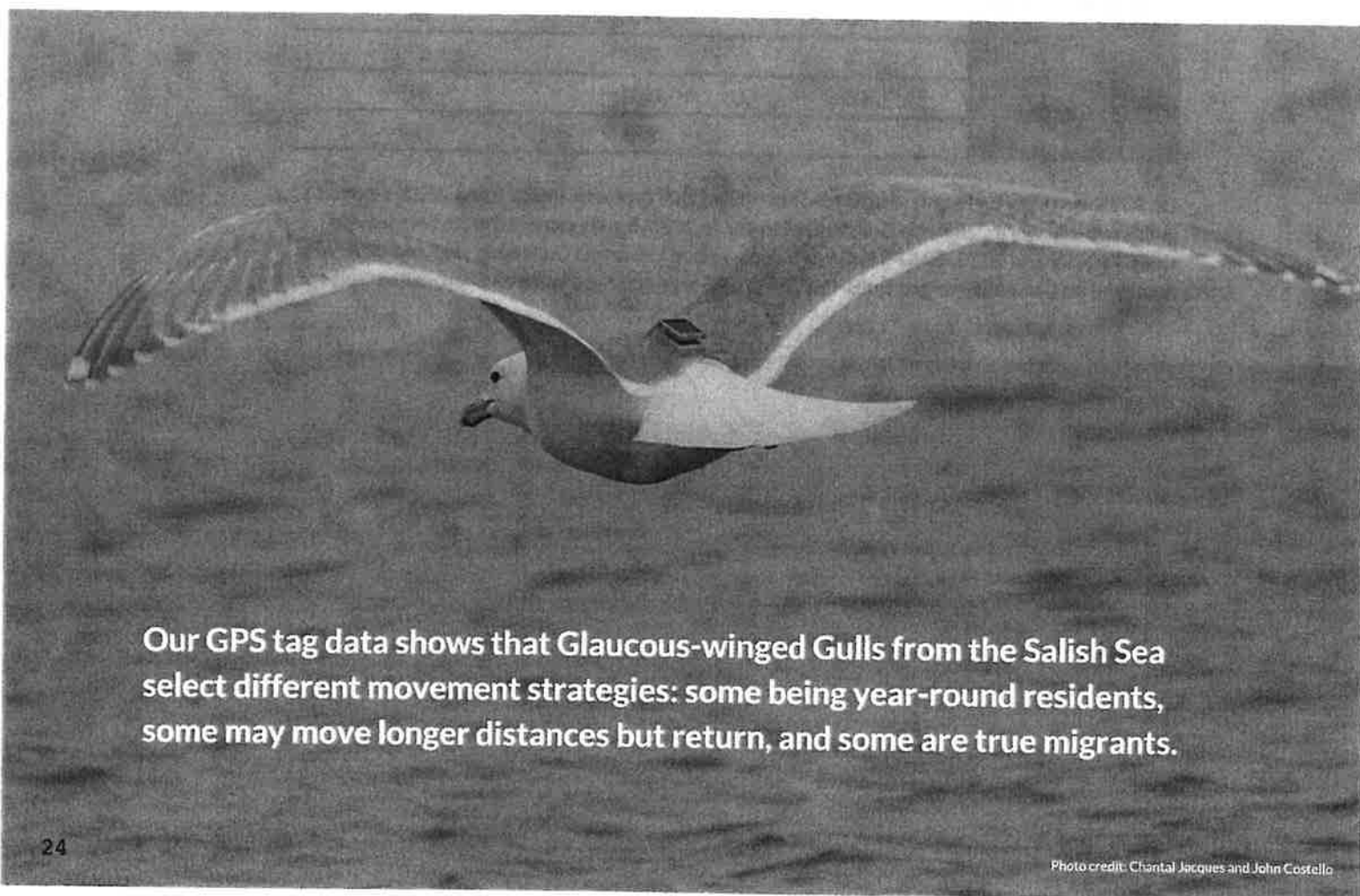
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# PRELIMINARY RESULTS

## GPS Tracking Data: Faithful Residents and True Migrants

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In the first five years, GPS tag tracking data shows that most (>75%) of the Glaucous-winged Gulls tagged here in winter are year-round Salish Sea residents. These year-round residents generally maintain small home ranges, but most also make short-distance movements to visit ephemeral food source events, such as herring spawns. However, some individuals make longer trips, moving outside of the Salish Sea, including to California, before returning to British Columbia to breed (n = 1), and travelling north to Alaska to breed (n = 3). Overall, our GPS tag data shows that Glaucous-winged Gulls from the Salish Sea select different movement strategies: some being year-round residents, some may move longer distances but return, and some are true migrants.



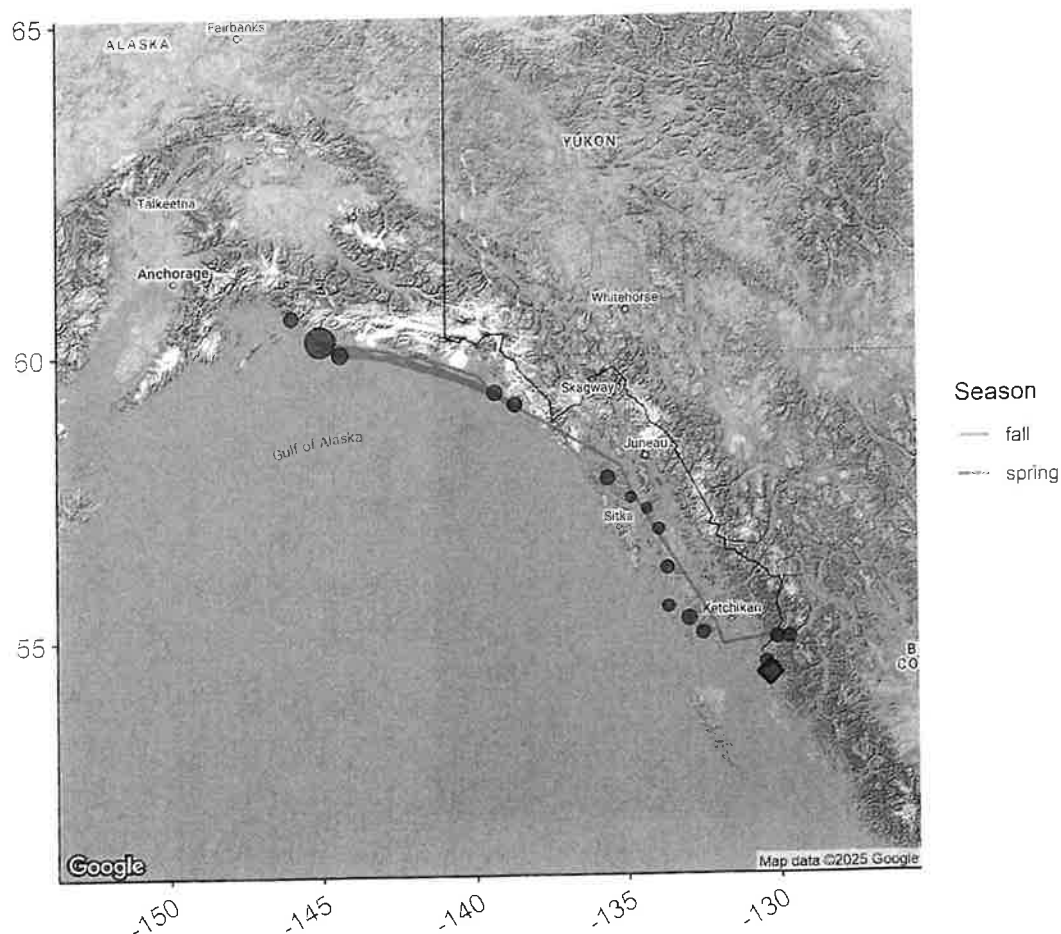
**Our GPS tag data shows that Glaucous-winged Gulls from the Salish Sea select different movement strategies: some being year-round residents, some may move longer distances but return, and some are true migrants.**



# PRELIMINARY RESULTS

## GPS Tracking Data: True Migrants

One gull GPS tagged in Prince Rupert in February 2024, with colour band combination black over yellow on its left leg, and red over federal metal band on its right leg, travelled approximately 1000km north to Cordova, Alaska shortly after capture. It spent a month travelling back and forth between Cordova and Yakutat – about a 300km distance one way. In the summer, it bred in the Cordova area before making its trip southward in the fall, following nearly a similar route along coastal inlets (see Map 2).

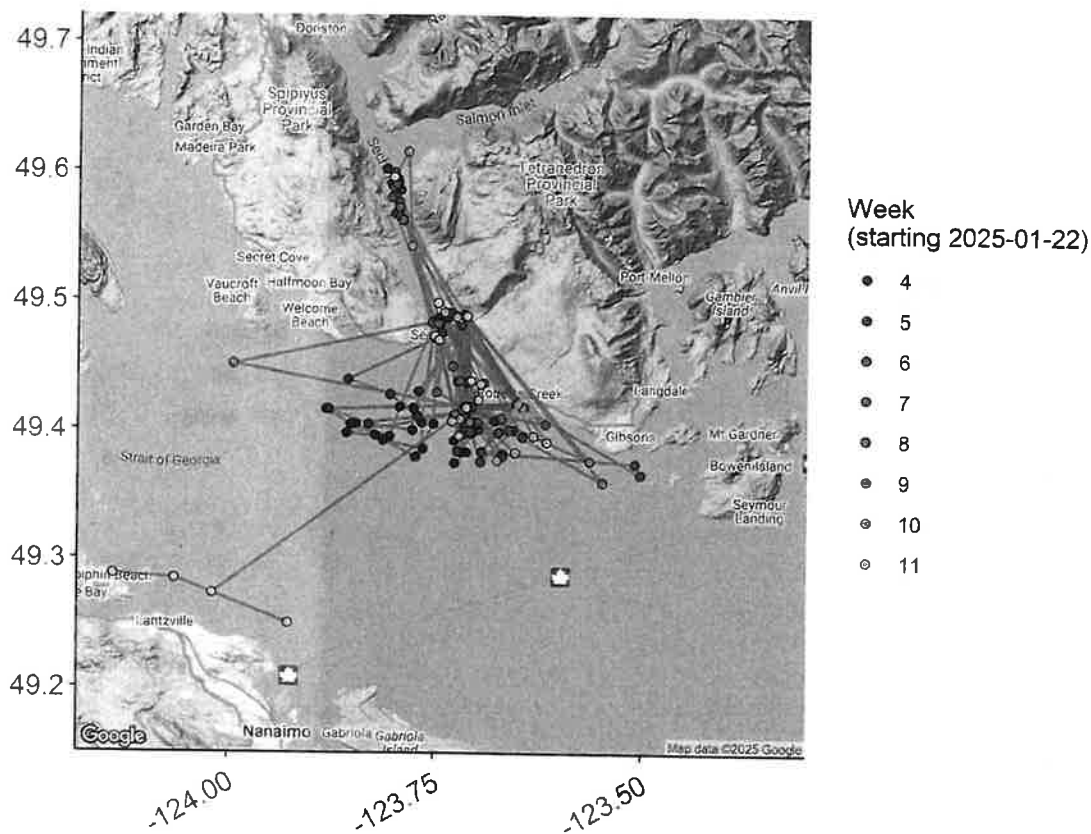


**Map 2.** A year-long journey (March 2024 – March 2025) of a Glaucous-winged Gull GPS tagged in Prince Rupert, BC in February 2024 (capture location shown as a diamond shape). The purple line describes the spring migration northward to breeding grounds in Alaska, and the orange line describes the return trip in the fall. Circle clusters represent stopover sites of at least 18 hours, where the larger the cluster point, the longer the bird spent in that region.

# PRELIMINARY RESULTS

## GPS Tracking Data: Faithful Residents

In comparison, a gull GPS tagged within the Salish Sea in January 2025 (colour band combination grey over black on its left leg and green over federal metal band on its right leg) has remained faithful to its capture region along the Sunshine Coast (see Map 3). Of note, in early March it made a short-distance migration across the Salish Sea to take advantage of the herring spawn in the Nanaimo area – a pattern we have observed in most other tagged gulls in the region.

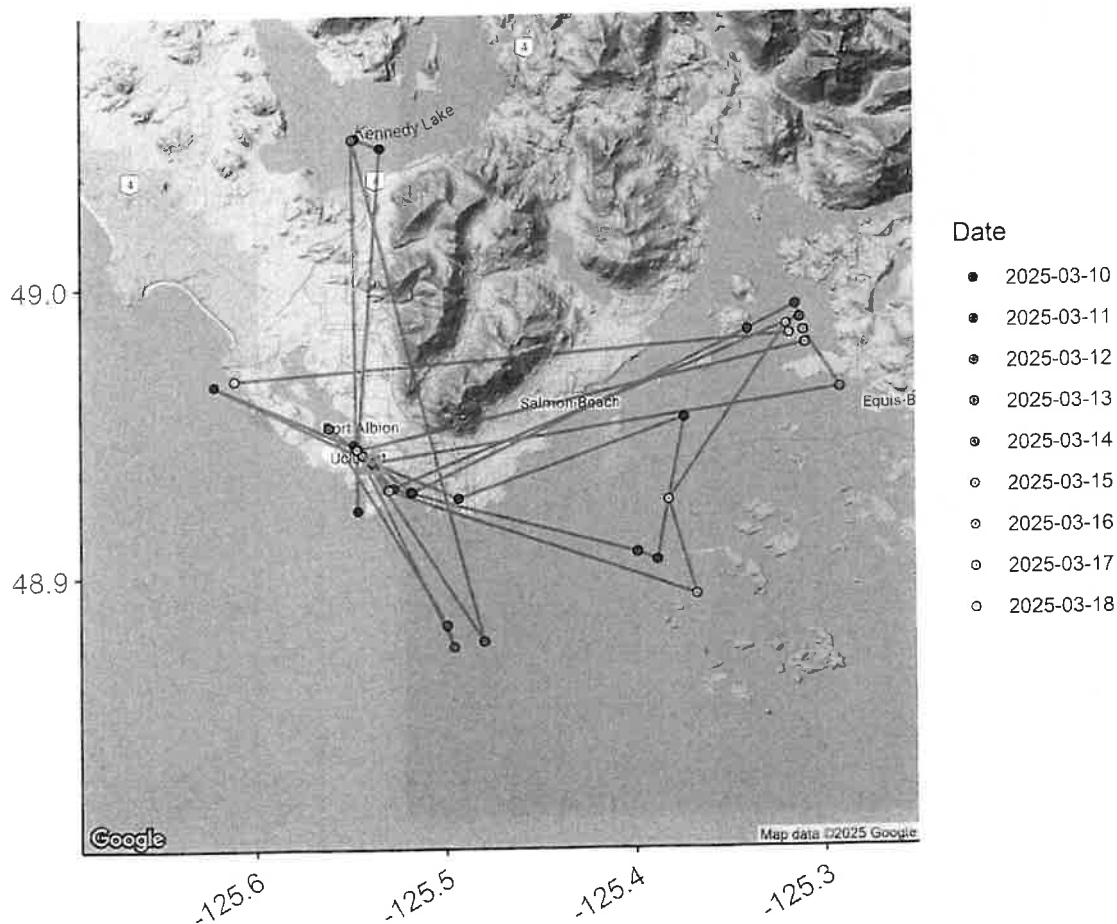


**Map 3.** Local and short-distance movements of a Glaucous-winged Gull GPS tagged in Roberts Creek, BC on January 22, 2025 (capture location shown as the orange triangle). The colour coded numbers and points in the legend refer to the number of weeks since the tag date, starting from darkest (purple) to lightest (yellow). Each point represents an hour.

# PRELIMINARY RESULTS

## GPS Tracking Data: Faithful Residents

In 2025, we GPS tagged 12 gulls outside of the Salish Sea. Movements from a Ucluelet gull with colour bands yellow over orange on its left leg and light blue over federal metal band on its right leg show this individual taking advantage of different habitat types. In only a one-week period, this gull spent time in town around seafood markets and harbours, while also utilizing nearby marine and freshwater environments (see Map 4).

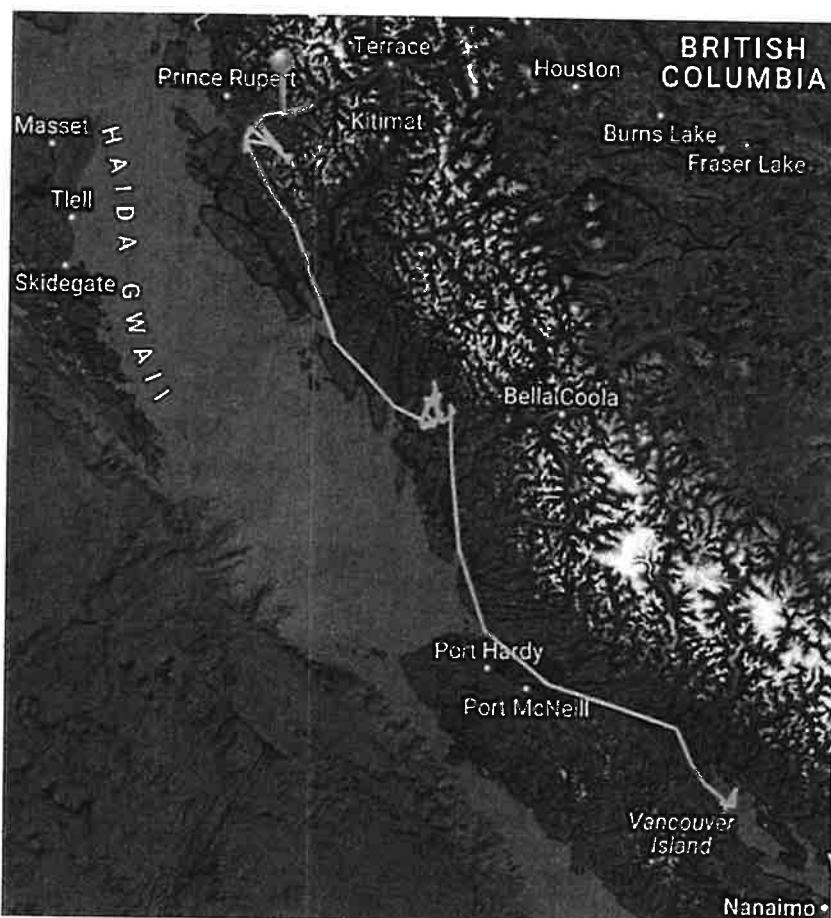


**Map 4.** Local and short-distance movements of a Glaucous-winged Gull GPS tagged in Ucluelet, BC on January 14, 2025 (capture location shown as the orange triangle). The dates in the legend are colour coded starting from darkest (purple) to lightest (yellow). Each point represents an hour.

# PRELIMINARY RESULTS

## GPS Tracking Data: Short-billed Gull Movements

In 2025, it was the first year studying the movements of Short-billed Gulls from the Salish Sea. Of special note, an individual GPS tagged in Comox on March 6 immediately travelled north, and in less than three weeks arrived in Prince Rupert (see Map 5).



**Map 5.** A three-week journey of a Short-billed Gull GPS tagged in Comox, BC on March 6, 2025. This map shows the raw data tracks that will be compiled and then analyzed along with seven other individuals to understand movements of this species across coastal BC and beyond.

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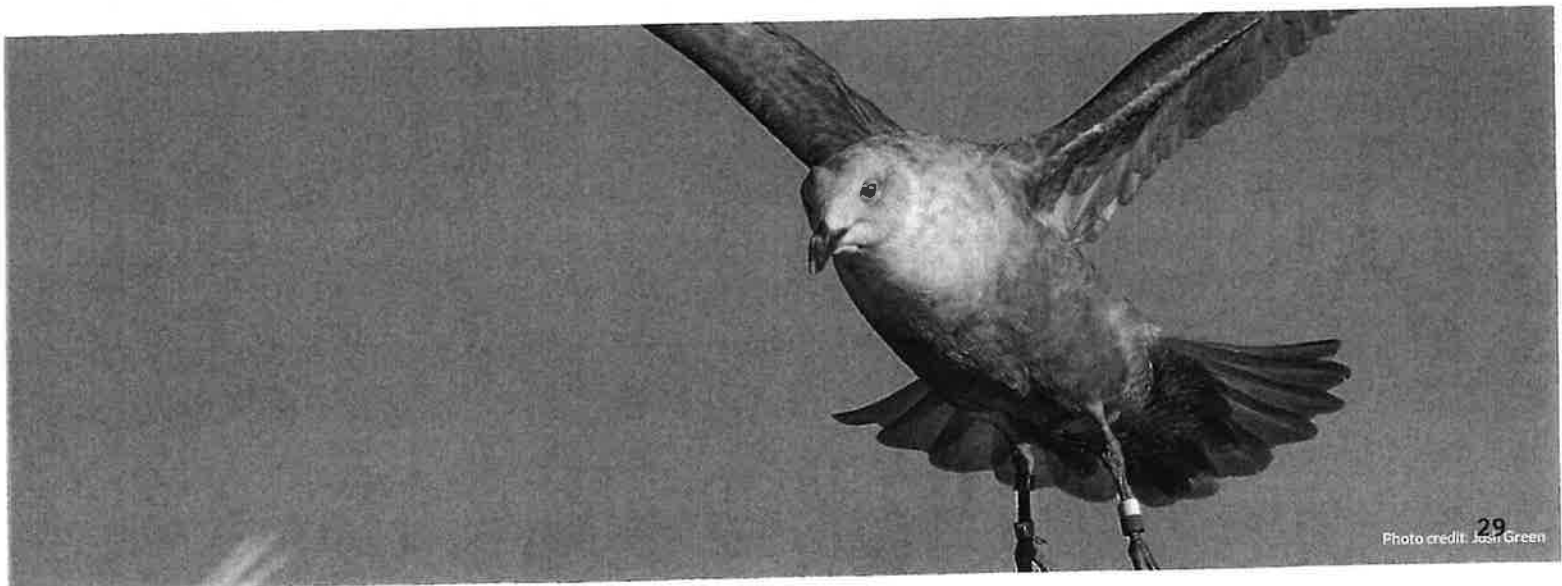
# FUTURE FIELDWORK AND ANALYSIS

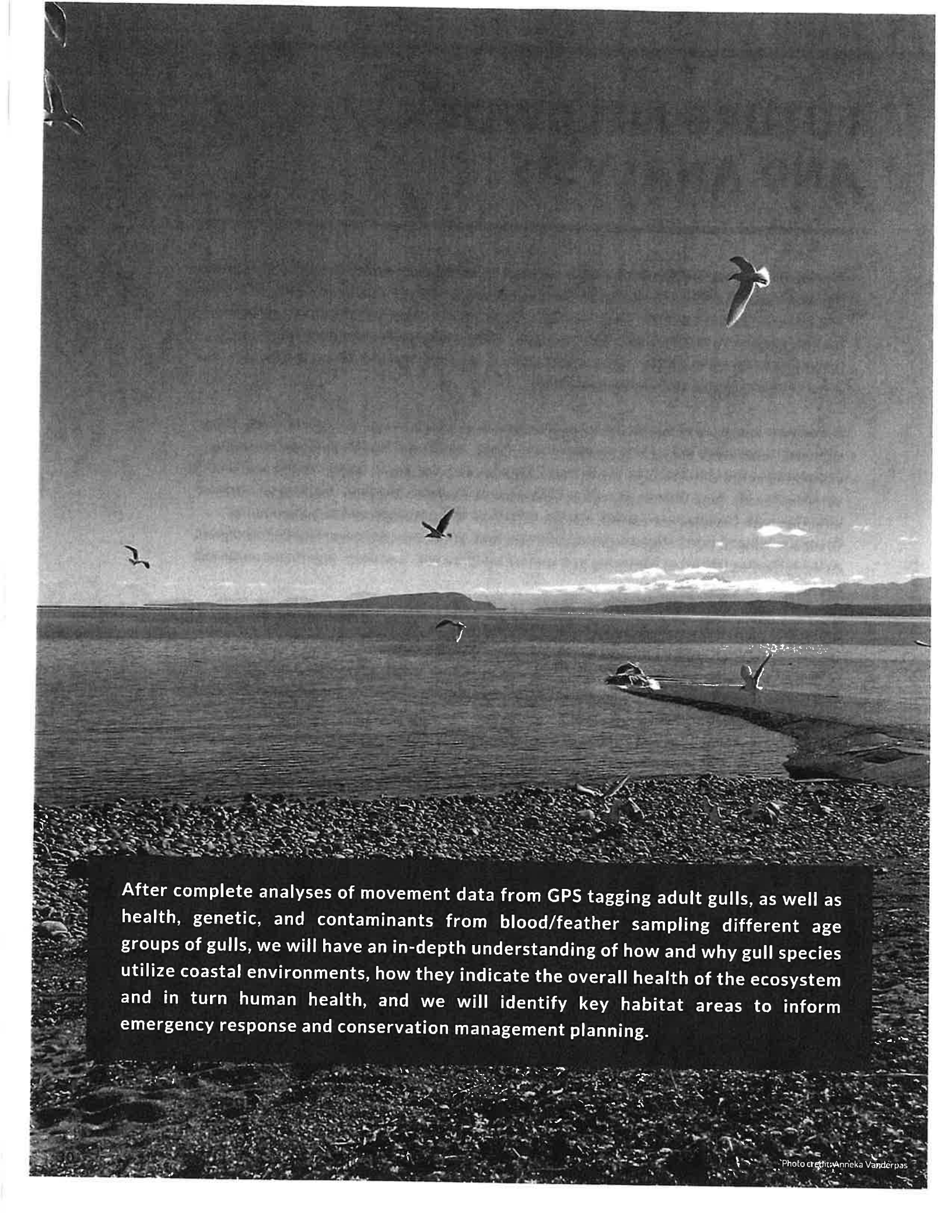
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As original funding sources have ended, we were fortunate to complete a sixth year of winter fieldwork on gull species in the Salish Sea and beyond for movement, health, genetic, pathogen and disease, and contaminant analyses. We hope to pursue other collaborative approaches and funding sources to continue with this research – most importantly the colour-band and resighting program to derive rigorous estimates of age-specific survival and the factors that drive variation in this key demographic trait.

A five-year summary of health analyses is underway at Simon Fraser University in Dr. Tony Williams' laboratory led by MSc student Tessa Craig. Additional health analyses are being completed at the University of the British Columbia with Dr. Marie Auger-Méthé and wildlife veterinarian Dr. Amy Wilson, as well as PhD student Shabnam Shadloo, focusing on rates of infection with *Toxoplasmosis gondii* and the effects of this pathogen on the behaviour of Glaucous-winged Gulls. Blood analyses will also look at the prevalence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in wintering gull species sampled pre- and post- significant outbreak events.

Other work currently underway includes isotopic analyses on blood and prey of wintering gull species by Kevin Kardynal (ECCC) at the Northern Wildlife Research Centre in Saskatchewan to inform our understanding of marine food-web structure in the Salish Sea. Additionally, with ECCC's Dr. John Elliott, we are investigating contamination of marine ecosystems with a suite of chemicals including heavy metals and the "forever chemicals" (PFAS) using gull blood samples collected within and outside of the Salish Sea, to inform public health risk. Dr. Theresa Burg's laboratory at the University of Lethbridge will complete genetic analyses from our dataset to determine population structure, rates of hybridization, and provenance (i.e. where they come from) of winter gull species in the Salish Sea.





After complete analyses of movement data from GPS tagging adult gulls, as well as health, genetic, and contaminants from blood/feather sampling different age groups of gulls, we will have an in-depth understanding of how and why gull species utilize coastal environments, how they indicate the overall health of the ecosystem and in turn human health, and we will identify key habitat areas to inform emergency response and conservation management planning.

---

# THANK YOU



Salish Sea  
Gull Project

The Salish Sea Gull Project research team would like to express their sincerest gratitude to the many people, groups, and communities for their support:

Thank you to the Council of the Haida Nation, Skidegate Band Council, Metlakatla First Nation, Lax Kw'alaams Band, 'Nəm̓gis First Nation, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations, Quatsino First Nation, Kwakiutl First Nation, Nanwakolas Council, Wei Wai Kum First Nation, K'ómoks First Nation, Songhees Nation, Tseycum First Nation, T'Sou-ke Nation, Pacheedaht First Nation, Tsawout First Nation, Tsartlip First Nation, Cowichan Tribes, Malahat Nation, Lyackson First Nation, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Ucluelet First Nation, Tla-O-Qui-Aht First Nation, Ahousaht First Nation and Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society, Tla'amin Nation, shíshálh Nation, Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation, and Semiahmoo First Nation for responding to our request and the opportunity to work within their traditional territories.

Thank you to the North Coast Regional District, Regional District of Mount Waddington, Capital Regional District, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Regional District of Nanaimo, Comox Valley Regional District, Strathcona Regional District, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Metro Vancouver Regional District, Sunshine Coast Regional District, and the qathet Regional District for supporting our work in regional parks. Thank you to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship for the chance to work in the West and South Coast Conservation Lands of British Columbia.

Thank you also to the Vancouver Island municipalities: Port Renfrew, Sooke, Metchosin, Langford, Colwood, Esquimalt, View Royal, Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich, North Saanich, Sidney, North Cowichan, Ladysmith, Campbell River, Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Courtenay, Comox, Tofino, Ucluelet, Sayward, Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Port Alice, and Alert Bay. As well as Metro Vancouver, Sunshine Coast, and North Coast municipalities: West Vancouver, North Vancouver, Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, Delta, White Rock, Surrey, Port Moody, Gibsons, Sechelt, Powell River, Prince Rupert, Port Edward, Masset, Daajing Giids, and Skidegate for the opportunity to work in local parks and beaches. Thank you as well to the Nanaimo Landfill, Victoria Landfill, Sechelt Landfill, and Vancouver Landfill for providing safety training and coordinating field days at your sites over the years. Furthermore, we would like to thank the Raptors, also known as the Pacific Northwest Raptors Ltd., for their expertise. An additional thank you to Sara Couper with Idea Camp Communications and the Town of Qualicum Beach for their previous community engagement and outreach support.

This project was funded by the Government of Canada in response to recommendation 3 from the National Energy Board's (NEB) Reconsideration Report for the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) Project. Aneka Vanderpas (ECCC) coordinated with Indigenous communities, municipalities, districts, and the Province of British Columbia. All work was conducted under the appropriate federal permits (Banding #10667F and Animal Care #25MH03).



Dr. Mark Hipfner, Research Scientist  
Mark.Hipfner@ec.gc.ca





## Staff Report to Council / Request for Decision

<b>To:</b>	Port Alice Administration & Council
<b>From:</b>	Jonathan Schmidt, RPP, MCIP, Bluerock Planning, Planning Advisor
<b>Date:</b>	April 17, 2025
<b>Subject</b>	Setback Relaxation Request for Garage -- 1250 Marine Drive
<b>File #:</b>	VR 2025-01
<b>Property:</b>	1250 Marine Drive
<b>Legal:</b>	Lot 6, District Lot 2137, Rupert District, Plan 33970, PID: 000-269-999
<b>Zoning:</b>	R1

### Recommendations:

That Council does approve the applicant's request to relax the minimum interior side yard setback requirement from 1.5 metres to 0.75 metres under Zoning Bylaw 688-2024, to permit the construction of a garage for a boat on the property located at 1250 Marine Drive, legally described as Lot 6, District Lot 2137, Rupert District, Plan 33970, PID: 000-269-999.

### CAO Comments:

I agree with the recommendations of the planning advisor.

### Background:

The applicants purchased the subject property at 1250 Marine Drive in November 2024 to construct a garage for boat storage. According to their submission, this decision was based on the perceived size of the lot and the presence of existing concrete pads, which they assumed could accommodate a garage of the desired dimensions.

The applicants previously owned two strata units in the Village that required off-site boat storage. They anticipated this property would allow for a secure, on-site structure with improved access to the waterfront.

A survey commissioned in January 2025 confirmed that the existing concrete pads encroach into the required 1.5-metre interior side yard setback under Zoning Bylaw 688-2024, measuring approximately 1.16 metres from the side lot line.

To build a garage suitable for their boat the applicants are requesting a relaxation to accommodate a **0.75 metres setback rather than the required 1.5 metre side yard setback**, amounting to a 50% reduction from the required standard.

The rationale cited by the applicant includes:

- Desire to accommodate the size of their boat and maintain a functional side yard between the garage and adjacent property.
- Preferred garage door orientation toward the ocean for improved access and safety.
- General support from adjacent neighbours.

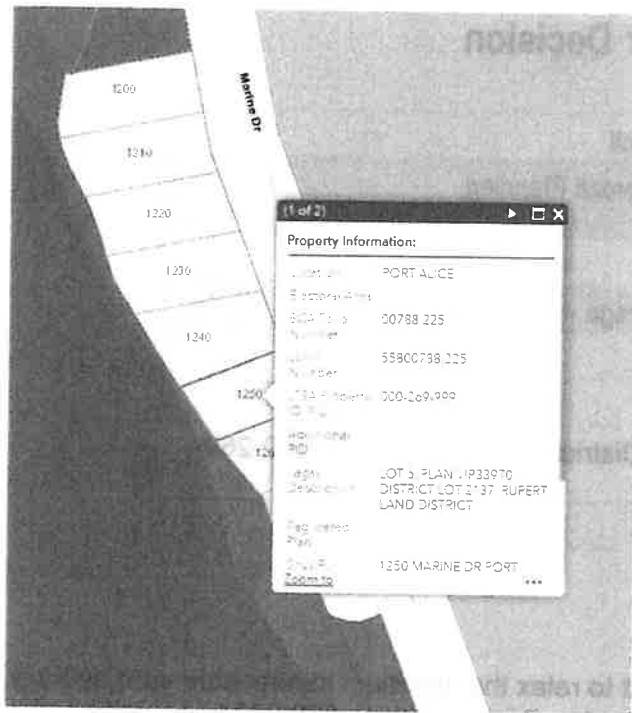


Figure 1: Subject Site at 1250 Marine Drive (R1 Zoning – yellow)

## Planning Merit & Considerations

The subject property is zoned Residential 1 (R-1) under Zoning Bylaw 688-2024 and is one of the narrower lots along Marine Drive, as confirmed by the subdivision plan. The request for a variance of 50% of the required side yard setback is substantial as it could undermine the integrity of the Bylaw and result in more requests for similar variances. However, this is a unique case and each planning application should always be contextual to the unique site and circumstances.

The purpose of side yard setbacks are to promote a sense of spaciousness within a community and avoid neighbourly conflicts between landowners. Also, in Port Alice, the views of the water should be always a consideration and the Village should ensure there's sufficient ocean views to maintain the Village's natural beauty as mentioned in its Official Community Plan. In this case these are not a concern because of the following:

- a) The neighbour already has a building wall along the side yard (see photo), which does not have any windows and which would not be impacted by the construction of a garage on the subject property. In short, the spaciousness and sight lines between the two properties would only be impacted by a minor amount, but the quality of life on the nearby adjacent property would not be affected.



- b) The neighbour has stated support for the garage and thus acknowledges the lack of impact from the proposed development.

## Recommendation

The proposed reduction from 1.5 to 0.75 metres while a significant variance at 50% is recommended for approval with the following suggested conditions:

- a) The applicant provide in writing a letter from the neighbour stating support for the project.
- b) The applicant comply with all other regulations of the Village's Zoning Bylaw.
- c) The applicant provide a surveyed plan or survey certificate following completion of the project to verify compliance with the variance at no greater than 0.75 metres from the nearest side yard.
- d) The applicant apply for the proper building permits prior to construction.

## Supporting Documents

- Applicant's letter (email)
- Site Plans (1 and 2)
- Subdivision Plan
- Photo 1: Spray-painted lines indicating property line, required setback (1.5m), existing condition (1.16m), and proposed (0.75m)
- Image 2: Boat in the driveway near house



**From:** <info@portalice.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2025 8:22 AM  
**To:** cao@portalice.ca  
**Subject:** FW: 1250 Marine Drive - Relaxation of Minimum Setback in a R-1 Zone  
**Attachments:** Boat in Driveway.JPG; 4 Spray Painted Lines.JPG; 085 SitePlan-signed (1).pdf; 085 SitePlan with Image-signed (2).pdf; Subdivision Plan.pdf

**Flag Status:** Flagged

**To:** info@portalice.ca  
**Subject:** Fwd: 1250 Marine Drive - Relaxation of Minimum Setback in a R-1 Zone

To Whom It May Concern,

We purchased 1250 Marine Drive in November 2024. We specifically chose this property as it appeared to have enough space to build a garage for our boat. The property included existing cement pads and we made the assumption we could build a garage to that size. We previously owned two Strata's in Port Alice for several years and had to take the boat down Island for indoor storage.

As part of the building process, we gathered information regarding the current bylaws which included information on minimum setbacks. We had the property surveyed in January 2025, and it became apparent that the current cement pads were not within the minimum setback of 1.5 metres. The attached surveys show part of the concrete pads are closer to the setback than allowed. The Surveys include markings in green for the side yard setback as per the current Bylaws (1.5m). The drawings also include a setback of 1.16m which would be acceptable under Bylaw 323,1990.

We are requesting a relaxation of the Bylaw to allow a setback of .75 which would be half of the regular setback of 1.5 metres. This would allow us to build the garage and still have a setback beside the garage between the two properties. We are building a garage with a door facing the ocean side to ensure good access is available if needed for safety reasons.

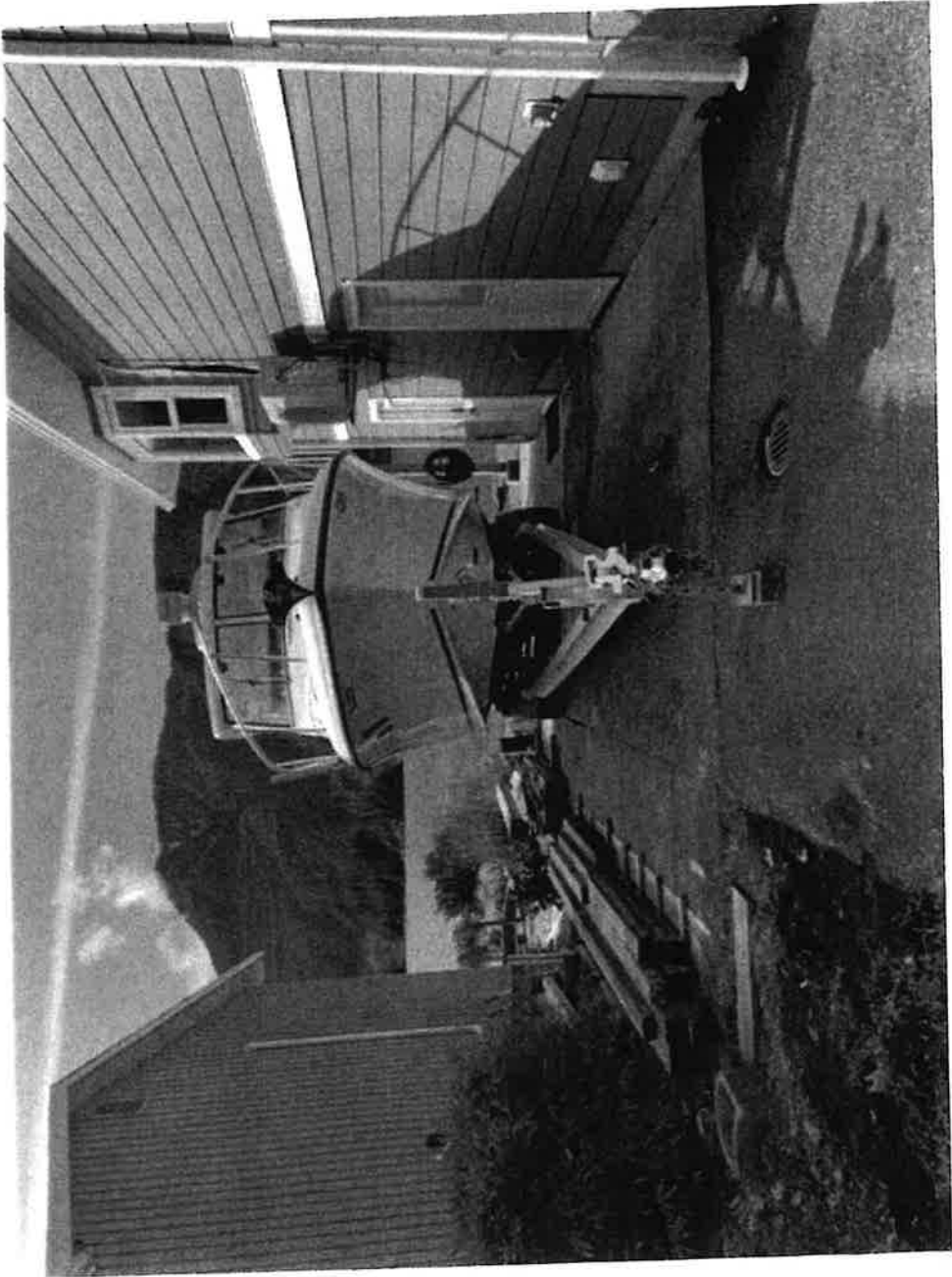
I have included a picture with four spray painted lines. The white line to the left is the property line. The Grey line is a setback of .75 and the two white lines to the left represent 1.16m and 1.5 metres. I have also included a picture with the boat in the driveway. The garage door has to accommodate the boat and then we need room on each side of the garage. I have also included a copy of the development plan which indicates this lot is smaller and narrower than most on Marine Drive

We have discussed our request with our neighbors, Bruce and Venus and they are in agreement. If we cannot build the garage big enough, we will not build it as we will have to have room to park our boat in

the driveway. We are hoping to increase our property value by building a garage that accommodates our boat and is aesthetically pleasing.

Thanks for your consideration.

Livia

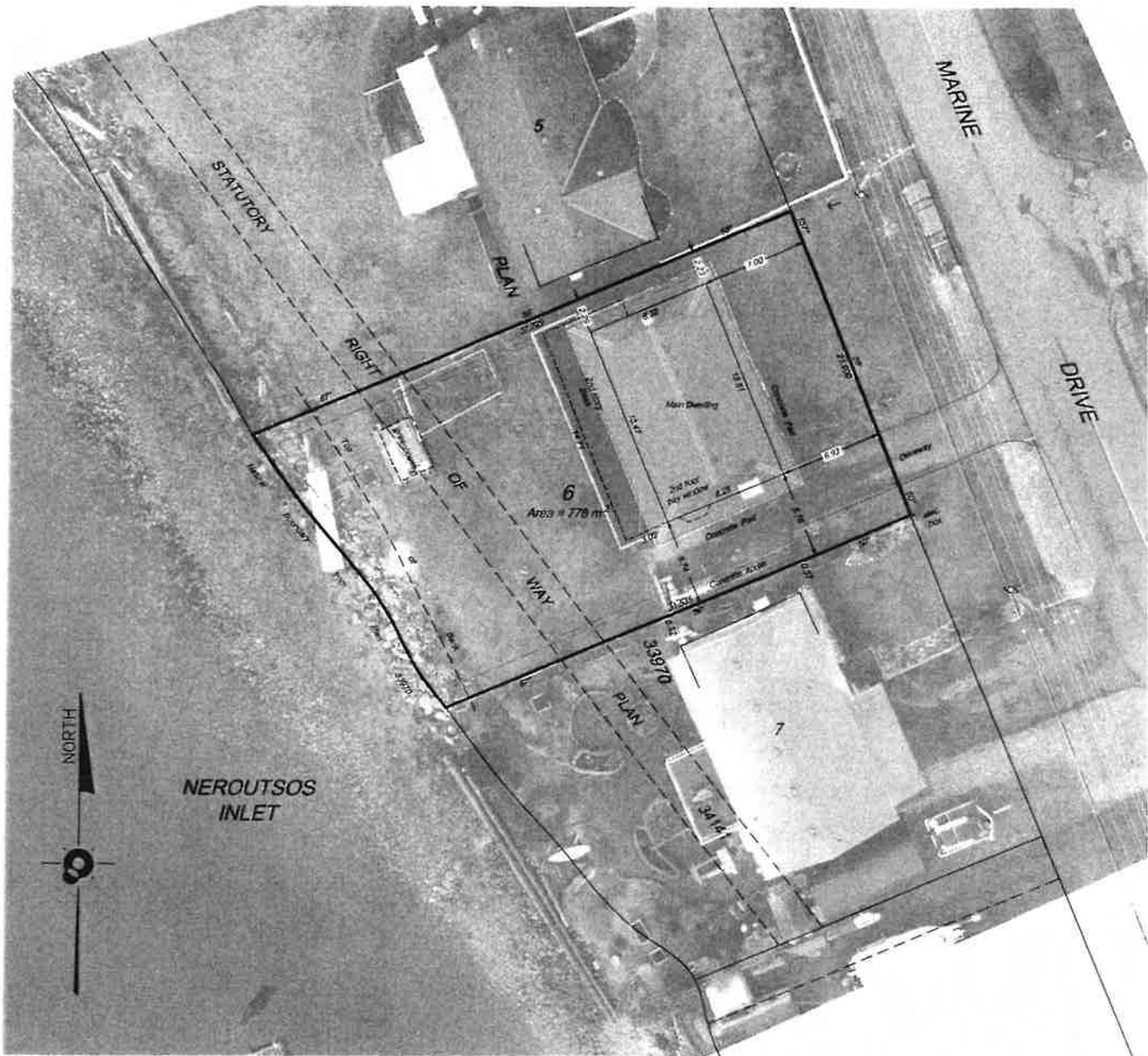






WARREN





**SITE PLAN OF LOT 6, DISTRICT LOT 2137,  
RUPERT DISTRICT, PLAN 33970**

1250 MARINE DRIVE, PORT ALICE  
PID: 000-269-999



The intended plot size of this plan is 432 mm in width by 560 mm in height (C size) when plotted at a scale of 1:200.

**LEGAL NOTATIONS:**

Lot 6, Plan 33970 is subject to the following non-financial legal charges:  
Right of Ways: Document 424642G (British Columbia Telephone Company)  
Document J69403 (Village of Port Alice - See Plan 34141)  
Statutory Building Scheme: Document J20604  
Unregistered interests have not been included or considered.

**LEGEND:**

- denotes edge of pavement
- denotes edge of concrete
- denotes fence line
- denotes overhead powerline
- denotes utility pole / anchor
- denotes structure without a permanent foundation

**Existing Structures:**

Main Dwelling - building footprint = 112 m<sup>2</sup>  
Accessory Building & Deck - total footprint area = 55.9 m<sup>2</sup>  
Existing Lot Coverage = 21.7%

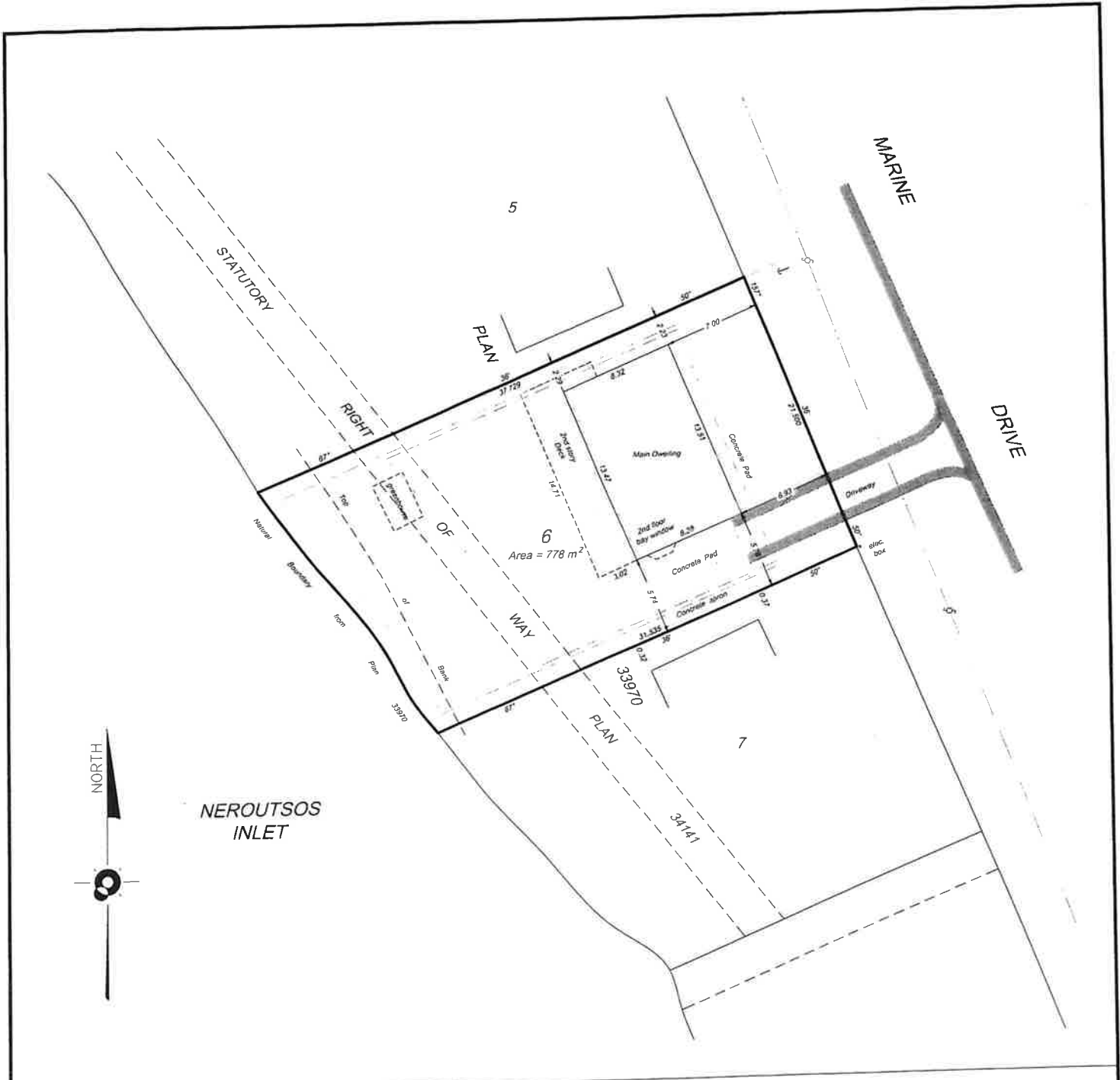


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KSEECN  
DN: cn=Justin Petras, KSEECN  
c=CA, o=BC Land Surveyor  
ou=Verify ID at  
www.juncert.com/FLKUP\_cfm?id=KS  
EECN  
Date: 2025-02-07 15:23:08:00

**NOTES:**

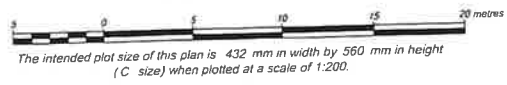
Survey Date: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
Dimensions are in metres and decimals thereof.  
This document shows the relative location of the surveyed structures and features with respect to the boundaries of the parcel described above.  
Building and offset dimensions are measured from the building's finished exterior trim and are perpendicular to the property lines.  
Aerial image date: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 - DJI drone  
Setbacks from Village of Port Alice Zoning Bylaw 200, 1980  
Zone Residential 1 (R-1) (Primary Use in Green / Accessory Use in Brown)  
Front Yard: 6.0m  
Rear Yard: 9.0m / 1.5m (see Bylaw J23 (1990))  
Side Yard: 1.5m / 1.5m  
Total Lot Coverage Shall not exceed 33%





**SITE PLAN OF LOT 6, DISTRICT LOT 2137,  
RUPERT DISTRICT, PLAN 33970**

1250 MARINE DRIVE, PORT ALICE  
PID: 000-269-999



**LEGAL NOTATIONS:**

Lot 6, Plan 33970 is subject to the following non-financial legal charges:  
 Right of Ways: Document 424642G (British Columbia Telephone Company)  
 Document J69403 (Village of Port Alice - See Plan 34141)  
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 Unregistered interests have not been included or considered.

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- denotes edge of pavement
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**NOTES:**

Survey Date: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
 Dimensions are in metres and decimals thereof.  
 This document shows the relative location of the surveyed structures and features with respect to the boundaries of the parcel described above.  
 Building and offset dimensions are measured from the building's finished exterior trim and are perpendicular to the property lines.  
 Aerial image date, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 - DJI drone  
 Setbacks from Village of Port Alice Zoning Bylaw 200, 1980  
 Zone Residential 1 (R-1) (Primary Use in Green / Accessory Use in Blue)  
 Front Yard: 3.0m  
 Rear Yard: 2.0m / 1.6m (see Bylaw 323 1990)  
 Side Yard: 1.5m / 1.6m  
 Total Lot Coverage Shall not exceed 33%



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 CN: c=ca, o=Justin Petras KSEECN c=CA  
 =BC Land Surveyor and Verity ID at  
 www.janicent.com/LSUP-clm7hankSEECN  
 Date: 2025-02-07 15:22:08.00



# 06-MW-R-9

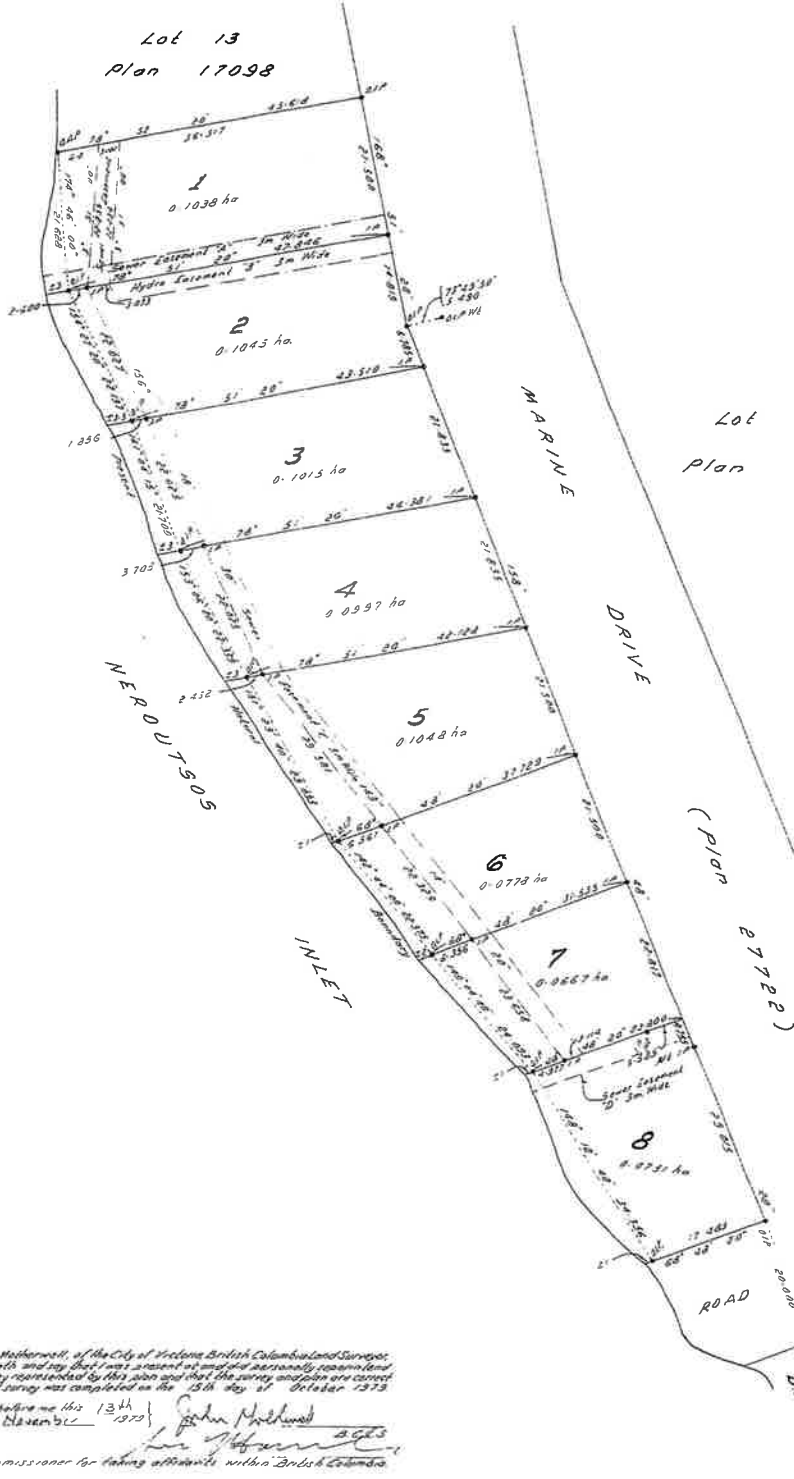
## PLAN OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT F, PLAN 33212, DISTRICT LOT 2137, RUPERT DISTRICT.

Scale - 1:500

Distances are in Metres, unless otherwise indicated  
Astronomic Bearings, derived from Plan 27722

### Legend

- 0.4 P Denotes aluminum post found
- 0.1 P Iron post found
- 1 P standard iron post set
- W1 witness
- 2 more or less



J33544 bt  
**PLAN 33970**

Deposited in the Land Title Office of Victoria, B.C. this 13 day of June 1980

*David A. Miller*  
Deputy Registrar

Approved under the Land Title Act this 30th day of October 1979

*William Rydberg*  
Approving Officer  
Village of Port Alice

This Plan lies within the Mount Waddington Regional District

Approved under the Land Title Act this 25th day of February 1980

*William Rydberg*  
Approving Officer  
Village of Port Alice

Approved under the Land Title Act this 25th day of May 1980

*William Rydberg*  
Approving Officer  
Village of Port Alice

Approved As To Building Scheme  
LTI Industries of Canada Ltd

*J. L. Loutch*  
Authorized Signatory - President  
*W. J. Loutch*  
Authorized Signatory - Secretary  
Seal

Registered Owner  
Luna Projects Suspension Limited

*J. L. Loutch*  
Authorized Signatory - President  
*W. J. Loutch*  
Authorized Signatory - Secretary  
Seal

I, John Malherwell, of the City of Victoria British Columbia Land Surveyors make oath and say that I was present at and personally examined and the survey represented by this plan and that the survey and plan are correct. The said survey was completed on the 13th day of November 1979.

Sworn before me this 13th day of November 1979

*John Malherwell*  
Commissioner for taking affidavits within British Columbia

John Malherwell & Associates  
Surveyors & Engineers  
Victoria, B.C.  
File # P 19-55

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE  
BYLAW NO. 697, 2025

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A Bylaw for the Levying of Property Tax Rates for the Year 2025.

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WHEREAS, under section 197 of the Community Charter, each year after the adoption of the financial plan, but before May 15<sup>th</sup>, Council must impose property value taxes for the year by establishing tax rates for:

- a) the municipal revenue proposed to be raised for the year from property value taxes, as provided in the Financial Plan, and
- b) the amounts to be collected for the year by means of rates established by the municipality to meet its taxing obligations in relation to another local government or other public body.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Port Alice, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. The following rates in Schedule "A", attached to and forming part of this Bylaw are hereby imposed and levied for the year 2025.
2. The minimum amount of taxation upon a parcel of real property is \$1.00
3. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the Village of Port Alice Annual Tax Rates Bylaw No. 697, 2025.

Read a first time this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2025.  
Read a second time this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2025.  
Read a third time this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2025.  
Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

Certified a true and correct copy of Bylaw No.697, as adopted by Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer



Annual Tax Rates (2025)

Bylaw No. 697

**SCHEDULE 'A'**

PROPERTY CLASS	MUNICIPAL	REG. DIST. MT. WADD.	MT. WADD. REG. HOSP. DIST.	Totals for Bylaw
Residential	5.01643			
Library	0.24313			
<b>1</b> Total Residential	5.25956	0.60136	0.24828	6.10919
<b>2</b> Utilities	23.66801	2.10474	0.86899	26.64174
<b>4</b> Major Industrial	0.00000	2.04461	0.84416	2.88877
<b>5</b> Light Industrial	31.55734	2.04461	0.84416	34.44611
<b>6</b> Business	9.46720	1.47332	0.60829	11.54881
<b>8</b> Recreation	5.25956	0.60136	0.24828	6.10919
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>75.21166</b>	<b>8.86999</b>	<b>3.66216</b>	<b>87.74381</b>







# INFORMATION ITEMS





March 20, 2025

AVICC Member Legislative Services  
AVICC Member Councils, Boards, and CAOs

**RE: FEEDBACK REQUESTED: Reforming the Local Government Act - A Roadmap**

I am reaching out to formally request that this communication be included as a Board or Council Communication on your upcoming agenda.

Feedback is requested on the initiative to modernize the *Local Government Act (LGA)*. It has been identified that the input from member staff and elected officials is crucial, and we are asking that this opportunity be shared throughout your organization, and that time be allocated to allow for participation.

Don Lidstone K.C. has written a document, "[Regional District Legislation Roadmap](#)", as a framework to gather feedback from all five area associations on the challenges local governments are experiencing with the *LGA*. The *Roadmap* document has been transposed into a survey that is now available at the following link:

**[Reforming the Local Government Act: A Roadmap – SURVEY LINK](#)**

- The survey may be completed by individuals or as a group – we would like to hear from local government and First Nations elected officials and staff with comments about the legislation and recommendations, examples of how the current legislation impacts the work that you do, and potential solutions or additional recommendations.
- The *Roadmap* document has been divided into 9 survey pages in SurveyMonkey, consisting of an executive summary with recommendations, followed by examinations of Parts 5-12 of the *LGA*.
- Each of the 9 survey pages is followed by questions that you are invited to respond to as you wish. There is no requirement to answer all the questions – any degree of input is beneficial.
- Survey responses will be anonymously compiled to produce a report for UBCM and the Province that defines issues and specific preferences for modernizing the current legislation.
- There is an option in each section to input your contact information if you are willing to provide more information about your comments, or if you would like a response - this is not required.
- Your responses will be saved after each page, so that you can pause and return to the survey at your convenience – you must use the same device and web browser to access your saved survey.

P.O. Box 28058, Victoria, BC V9B 6K8  
Email: [info@avicc.ca](mailto:info@avicc.ca) • Tel: 236-237-1202 • [www.avicc.ca](http://www.avicc.ca)

Representing Local Government on Vancouver Island, qathet, Sunshine, North and Central Coasts

- You may edit your responses, or add additional comments up until May 31, 2025 at 11:59pm – you must use the same device and web browser to access your previously submitted survey.

**Any survey responses received by March 28 will be included in content provided to the area associations' annual conventions. The final deadline to submit responses to any of the survey pages is 11:59 pm on Saturday, May 31.**

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please reach out to AVICC Executive Director, Theresa Dennison, at [info@avicc.ca](mailto:info@avicc.ca).

Sincerely,



Ben Geselbracht  
AVICC President  
Councillor, City of Nanaimo

cc: Theresa Dennison, Executive Director, AVICC; [info@avicc.ca](mailto:info@avicc.ca)

- [Environment and Parks](#)
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- [Health](#)
- [Housing and Municipal Affairs](#)
- [Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#)
- [Infrastructure](#)
- [Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat](#)
- [Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation](#)
- [Labour](#)
- [Mining and Critical Minerals](#)
- [Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills](#)
- [Public Safety and Solicitor General](#)
- [Social Development and Poverty Reduction](#)
- [Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport](#)
- [Transportation and Transit](#)
- [Water, Land and Resource Stewardship](#)
- [Skip to main content](#)
- [Skip to footer](#)

British Columbia News

## Funding will strengthen emergency support for evacuees

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/32208>

Local governments and First Nations throughout the province will receive funding to improve emergency support services (ESS) for people evacuated from their homes during emergencies in British Columbia.

“Emergency support services can be a lifeline for people who have to leave their homes during disasters,” said Kelly Greene, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. “By investing in training and equipment, we help to ensure people receive the support they need quickly and efficiently.”

The Province is providing more than \$5 million through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), through the ESS equipment and training stream, for 113 projects. The funding will help communities expand their capacity to provide emergency support services, through volunteer recruitment and retention efforts, volunteer training and the purchase of ESS equipment.

“The people who provide Emergency Support Services are often the first source of respite and help for those impacted most by emergencies,” said Trish Mandewo, president, Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). “This funding will help make those services more robust and resilient so help is there when British Columbians need it. UBCM is pleased to administer this program in partnership with the Province.”

Local community projects include:

- boosting training and response capacity in the Strathcona Regional District, through emergency exercises and ESS volunteer training;
- enhancing Quatsino First Nation’s emergency-support capacity through volunteer training, digital registration tools, portable generators and comfort kits, as well as volunteer engagement activities to strengthen and sustain local response teams;
- strengthening emergency response in Fort St. James and Nak’azdli Whut’en by developing a new ESS program for Nak’azdli and building capacity within Fort St. James’s existing program, with a focus on co-ordinated training and mutual support during emergencies;
- enhancing Pouce Coupe’s emergency preparedness with a fully equipped, self-sufficient mobile ESS trailer to support more effective on-site emergency response with power, communication tools and



trailer to support more effective on-site emergency response with power, communication tools and essential supplies; and

- improving group lodging supplies, office equipment and registration systems for Kwikwetlem First Nation to enhance emergency shelter capacity and support staff and volunteers in the southwestern B.C.

The CEPF is a suite of funding programs designed to help local governments and First Nations better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate. These programs include public notification and evacuation-route planning, emergency operations centre equipment and training, volunteer and composite fire department equipment and training, and Indigenous cultural safety and humility training. Composite fire departments are those that have a mix of paid staff and volunteers.

Since its establishment in 2017, the Province has committed \$369 million into CEPF. To date, approximately \$315 million has been provided for approximately 2,400 projects across all CEPF streams. This fund is administered through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

#### **Quotes:**

##### **Danielle Veach, mayor, Village of Pouce Coupe –**

“This funding for our mobile emergency response trailer will significantly enhance Pouce Coupe’s emergency preparedness and regional response capacity, and the fully equipped unit will strengthen on-site emergency services with power, communication tools and vital supplies. Beyond local needs, it will support regional emergency training and collaboration between local governments and Indigenous partners. This investment is a critical step toward a more connected, resilient and inclusive emergency response network across northeastern B.C.”

##### **Chief James Nelson, Quatsino First Nation –**

“This funding is helping Quatsino First Nation strengthen emergency preparedness and local response capacity. Investments in equipment such as digital registration tools, portable generators and comfort kits, along with volunteer training and mock disaster exercises, are helping us build a strong, community-led ESS program. These resources ensure we can respond quickly and confidently when emergencies arise, while also engaging and supporting our members to lead emergency response efforts on the ground.”

##### **Chief Ron Giesbrecht, Kwikwetlem First Nation –**

“This funding will significantly enhance our capacity for emergency response. The allocation of these resources will enable us to acquire essential group lodging supplies, office equipment, and registration systems. These enhancements will support timely and effective assistance during emergencies, ensuring first responders are well-prepared to meet community needs during an evacuation. This funding represents a vital step toward strengthening local resilience and improving the overall effectiveness of regional emergency response efforts.”

##### **Ryan McVey, fire chief/protective services director, District of Fort St. James –**

“This funding for equipment, training and recruitment will help the Nak’azdli Whut’en–Fort St. James joint ESS team strengthen the region’s ability to respond to emergencies. By investing in co-ordinated training and mutual support, this project continues to ensure our joint effort can assist not only those living in our community, but anyone in our northern region who needs essential services during an emergency.”

##### **Mark Baker, chair, Strathcona Regional District Board –**

“The support and compassionate care provided to displaced individuals depends greatly on the commitment of volunteers who selflessly dedicate their time to SRD’s emergency support services program. This funding

will enhance both recognition and training for emergency support teams across eight communities, strengthening the heart of the region's emergency response.”

**Quick Facts:**

- Since 2017, the Province has provided more than \$18 million to support approximately 598 projects through the ESS Equipment and Training stream.
- This funding program covers 100% of eligible costs, as much as \$40,000 per eligible applicant.
- CEPF projects support the implementation of the Emergency and Disaster Management Act by enhancing community response and recovery efforts.

**Learn More:**

For a backgrounder with details about CEPF recipients under the ESS Training and Equipment stream, visit: [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BKGRND\\_CEPF\\_Emergency\\_Support\\_Services\\_APRIL2025.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BKGRND_CEPF_Emergency_Support_Services_APRIL2025.pdf)

For more information about Emergency Support Services, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/local-emergency-programs/ess>

For more information about the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, visit:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/funding-programs/local-government-program-services/community-emergency-preparedness-fund>

**Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness**

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The B.C. Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out our work on these lands. We acknowledge the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit - respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.



- [Environment and Parks](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Forests](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Housing and Municipal Affairs](#)
- [Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#)
- [Infrastructure](#)
- [Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat](#)
- [Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation](#)
- [Labour](#)
- [Mining and Critical Minerals](#)
- [Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills](#)
- [Public Safety and Solicitor General](#)
- [Social Development and Poverty Reduction](#)
- [Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport](#)
- [Transportation and Transit](#)
- [Water, Land and Resource Stewardship](#)
  
- [Skip to main content](#)
- [Skip to footer](#)

British Columbia News

## Attorney general's statutes amendment act introduced

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/32221>

Government introduced the attorney general statutes amendment act, 2025, to the legislative assembly on Monday, April 14, 2025.

If passed by the legislature, the amendments will affect the following provincial statutes:

### **Judicial Compensation Act:**

Amendments to the Judicial Compensation Act will statutorily implement the 2022 Judicial Compensation Commission's recommendation with respect to non-judicial pensionable-service provisions in the Judicial Compensation Act. This will ensure Provincial Court judges, who were public servants before being appointed to the bench, receive the same benefits for their non-judicial service as other Public Service Pension Plan members.

### **Land Title Act:**

Amendments to the Land Title Act will clarify the Land Title Office's ability to transfer a deceased person's land to a special administrator appointed by the court. Appointing administrators is a standard procedure that allows administrators to temporarily manage an estate, while there are ongoing legal proceedings about a will or other special circumstances. The amendment specifically addresses the transfer or sale of land, which may be desirable to preserve the value of an estate.

### **Libel and Slander Act:**

Amendments to the Libel and Slander Act will update the description of the court document used to initiate a legal action for libel.

### **Members Remuneration and Pensions Act:**

Amendments to the Members Remuneration and Pensions Act will implement the March 2025 decision of

the legislative assembly management committee to forgo the statutorily authorized increase to members of the legislative assembly's remuneration for 2025.

### **Police Act:**

Amendments to the Police Act will allow the appointment of an acting chief civilian director of the Independent Investigations Office in the event that the director is unable to fulfil their role. Amendments will also authorize the appointment of a deputy chief civilian director of the Independent Investigations Office, to whom the chief civilian director could delegate their powers and duties. These amendments will allow the Independent Investigations Office to reduce operational risks and help ensure investigations into incidents involving police officers are conducted proficiently, without unnecessary delays and with the ability to adapt to unforeseen circumstances.

### **Small Claims Act:**

Housekeeping amendments to the Small Claims Act will remove an outdated reference to a provision that was repealed in the Civil Resolution Tribunal Act. The provision concerned a previous process where a Civil Resolution Tribunal decision could be made void, and the claim could be disputed in the Provincial Court. Regular housekeeping amendments, such as this, provide clarity and make legislation easier to understand.

### **Wills, Estates and Succession Act:**

Amendments to the Wills, Estates and Succession Act will add First Home Savings Accounts to the definition of a benefit plan. This will allow people to name beneficiaries for these accounts, helping in their life planning by ensuring surviving beneficiaries can access First Home Savings Accounts efficiently, in the same way they can access other registered savings plans, such as Tax Free Savings Accounts.

The amendments will allow the government to quickly add new plans without needing to amend the legislation.

### **Learn More:**

For more information about B.C. legislation, visit: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/Legislation>

### **Ministry of Attorney General**

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250 415-0474

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