Council of BC Yacht Clubs

*Advocating for Recreational Boaters*

BC MARINE PARKS FOREVER SOCIETY

## Newsletter - November 12.26

**Quick Catch-Up Since October**

- The CBCYC Executive met online on November 8.
- A new BC government puts a whole new light on DPA's and all coastal planning
- CBCYC to focus on influencing action on derelict boats and mooring buoys
- AGM and regular general meeting to be a combined dinner evening and business mtg the next morning at WVYC

**CBCYC Executive Mtg November 8 - Key Takeaways**

1. **AGM Dinner and Meeting Attendance Confirmation (WVYC November 20–21)**
   - The AGM and regular General Meeting will be held at West Vancouver Yacht Club on November 20–21, with dinner on the evening of the 20th starting at 5:30/6:00 PM and the AGM beginning at 11:00 AM on the 21st. So far 13 CBCYC delegates have signed up for the dinner and a presentation by Tom Dakin on sounds marine animals use to communicate underwater. More delegates are welcome, but should notify WVYC Past Commodore, Phil Aldrich, at aldrichphil@gmail.com. See the formal invitation details on the CBCYC website.

2. **Kelowna Yacht Club Breakwater Planning**
   - Kelowna YC is planning a new floating breakwater for the club and is seeking the advice from others with relevant experience. KYC delegate and Region 4 VP Michael Newcombe would appreciate hearing from other clubs on their experiences that could help KYC with its planning. Michael can be reached at office@newcombelaw.com

3. **Election Impact on Planned Regulations — Southern Gulf Islands + Dock Management Plans for Pender Harbour and Howe Sound**
   - With the new government and its stated goal to repeal DRIPA, the planning to date for dock and shoreline restrictions throughout the whole coast are called into question. While CBCYC has spent considerable effort over the last year trying to influence the various working committees involved, with more practical, less expensive and more scientifically sound suggestions for regulations, we are now placed in a wait-and-see mode until the government's intentions are clarified. The new Conservative government may revisit or abandon the Dock Management Plans entirely; once the ministerial appointments are clarified, our focus will be to develop new relationships to communicate our previous concerns and advocate for better policies.

4. **Mooring Buoy and Derelict/Abandoned Vessel Issue**
   - Council has determined that the mooring buoy and derelict/abandoned vessel issue is too large for the Council alone to resolve. Moving forward we propose to work with other stakeholders to convene a multi-stakeholder symposium to investigate the complexity of the problem and how to overcome the blockages to action.

     Jurisdiction over mooring buoy anchors on the land under BC waters is provincial (Crown Lands/WLRS), but Canada (DOT) also has jurisdiction over placement and type of the buoys themselves. Feedback from the RBAC (Regional Boating Advisory Committee), however, is that the federal government's role is limited to marking/identification of buoys in navigable waters. The seabed in BC is provincially owned (a unique condition of BC's confederation terms), thus making the province the key jurisdiction for the focus of any lobbying efforts.

The Saanich Inlet Protection Society and Brentwood Bay Inlet Protection Society obtained a six-page legal opinion from West Coast Environmental Law outlining the federal/provincial framework for mooring buoys, which discussed the complexity of the issue. At the same time, Brentwood Bay applied for a License of Occupation (provincial) in order to gain control over the proliferation of unmarked mooring buoys (and often the derelicts attached to them); it was approved by the province but rejected by District of Central Saanich council in camera, likely due to liability concerns. On the other hand, several successes include Brentwood Bay, which has had removed 24 derelict boats and 20,000 pounds of debris over two years, largely funded through First Nations grants.

As is often the case, much of the reluctance to regulate and enforce is because of concern about the related costs. It was agreed that financial successes in Washington State as well as in New Zealand and Australia should be researched to learn lessons that can be applied to BC. Our coastal province is overburdened with the problem in Canada because of our mild climate which allows for ice-free conditions year-round.

It was concluded that a symposium/workshop is the appropriate vehicle to bring together experts, regulators, and stakeholders in an organized manner. To get this organized, it was proposed that OPP (Ocean Protection Plan), which received $120 million in funding, be approached to fund and co-host the symposium, or Boating BC might be able to take on this leadership role.

**Resulting Action:**
1. CBCYC delegates are asked to reach out to one or two community contacts (e.g., planning officers, waterfront bylaw officers) with relevant knowledge to build the symposium participant list that can be proposed.

2. Delegates Larry Ross and Agathe Gaulin will prepare a joint report/synopsis for the AGM on November 21st summarizing the RBAC experience and proposed path forward.

3. At the AGM, November 21, we will determine how and who should contact the OPP folks and Boating BC with the request to organize and lead the charge for a symposium.

5. **Ocean Protection Plan (OPP) Presentation Development**

- The OPP is a funded federal initiative to develop policies and regulations to ensure that commercial shipping is taking place in a way that is safe for mariners and that protects and sustains the economic, environmental, social, and cultural health of our oceans and coasts. It has been charged with the responsibility to seek advice from the many marine stakeholders in the process. Symposiums and forums are planned at regular times over the next year to seek this input and OPP has invited CBCYC to make a presentation to one of their regular meetings. Member at Large Steve Macdonald has developed a presentation that he will present at the upcoming AGM in order to get feedback from CBCYC members before it is used at the OPP forum.

**6. Salish Sea Pilot Cruising Guide Partnership Proposal**

- An interesting proposal was received from Lynn Picard on the behalf of the Salish Sea Pilot Cruising Guide about a revenue sharing initiative that the company has launched with yacht clubs in BC and Washington. Their product is an interactive digital cruising guide, and **this short video** offers a good look at how it works, the cruising areas covered and some of its innovative features.

  First impressions are quite impressive in terms of the depth of information and the ease with which it is accessible.

  The company offers a simple arrangement that benefits both yacht clubs and their members:

- **Yacht club members save 10%** when purchasing their cruising guide using a unique promotional code provided for each club.
- **Yacht clubs earn 33% of the sale price** to support their own programs and activities.
- **Salish Sea Pilot does all the work**, including providing promotional materials, tracking purchases and distributing earnings three times a year.

The amount each club earns simply depends on how many boaters use its code.

For reference, their guide costs $89 for first-time purchasers, with subsequent purchases available for $39 through their Supporter Price Plan.

For details on the program and more on how it can financially support your club's programs, check their website at https://salishseapilot.com or email Lynn Picard at **lynnep@gmail.com**

**7. Pender Harbour Residents Association (PHARA) - DRIPA Constitutional Legal Challenge**

- PHARA is pleased to report positive progress in their legal action following a judicial management conference held on September 23 before Justice Ramsay. She established Clear timelines were established for the parties to work through the remaining procedural matters and keep the case moving forward. Both sides now have some work to complete, with a further case management conference scheduled recently to determine the next steps. PHARA is encouraged by the Court's focus on moving the case toward trial without unnecessary delay. While the current trial date is November 2027, Justice Ramsay indicated that an earlier trial date may be possible, potentially in the summer or fall of 2027.

**8. Nominations and Committee Positions for 2027 CBCYC Executive**

- All executive positions are filled (Thanks so much to these volunteers for all their efforts)
  - Roger Hind – President (reappointed)
  - Ralph Lapp - Vice President (newly appointed)
  - Andreas Trockenbrodt - Secretary (reappointed)
  - Pat Miles - Treasurer (reappointed)
  - Phil Aldrich – VP Region 1 (reappointed)
  - Georg Reuter - VP Region 2 (reappointed)
  - Murray Wiseman – VP Region 3 (reappointed)
  - Michael Newcombe – VP Region 4 (reappointed)
- A committee chair is needed to replace the late Peter Stockdill in the water lot leases role. He is sorely missed. Delegates are requested to please offer suggestions or express interest.

**9. General Meeting schedule for the coming year.**

- AGM — November 20–21 at West Vancouver Yacht Club.
  Zoom — Saturday, February 13.
- In-person/Zoom — May 22 at Nanaimo Yacht Club
- Zoom — September 11.
- In-person/Zoom — November 20, 2027, tentatively back at Ladner.