

FOCI

2020 AGM REPORTING

Sabina Leader Mense

MARINE STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

A. Cortes Island Foreshore Monitoring Program; celebrating 25 years; 1995-2020!! Summer 2020 saw data collection at all twelve of our permanently established transect sites in the Cortes Island foreshore. To the great delight of Helen and I, the Strait of Georgia Data Center agreed to receive our original foreshore field data and enter it digitally into their data banks at UBC. They even provided the summer student to do the data entry; comes no sweeter!!

B. Sensitive Marine Habitat Mapping Programs; 3 Reefs & Seagrass BC
Basic field monitoring work conducted on lowest tides of summer 2020.

C. Subtidal Biodiversity Program

Our spring 2020 dives catalyzed the collation of 5 years of field work into comprehensive reporting based on landscape components, biological communities and species inventory... complete with video and still underwater photography. Coming soon to the FOCI website!

D. Forage Fish Program; Team Sweevy celebrated recognition as the most productive reporting station coordinated by Project Watershed on their winter 2019/2020 forage fish monitoring program. Manson's Spit produced the highest records of spawning Pacific sand lance (PSL) on eastern Vancouver Island. The Cortes Wild! ECOLab playing a pivotal role in providing lab space to microscopically detect PSL spawn. On Nov10, 2020, Team Sweevy began our second season of sampling for PSL spawn.

The lion's share of FOCI's marine stewardship field & lab work is carried out by dedicated Cortes Island volunteers; an ocean full of THANKS to one and all!!

Of note in 2020...

1. Marine Species List; as part of the BIOdiversity Cortes Project, marine species observed on/around Cortes Island were collated, for the first time!!! We broke the 500 species mark with the local contributions from Andy Lamb & Donna Gibbs/ Pacific Marine Life Survey. **Mega-marine thanks to Gerri Davis** for entering the species data; that was 500+ species entered as Latin and common names!!!

2. FOCI has formalized a request for a research skiff to support all marine stewardship programs; \$15,000.00 budgeted to cover expenses for skiff, 50HP 4-stroke and trailer. Covid19 unfortunately knocked out our very promising, 1% for the Planet possibility for funding but we continue to reach out.

YOUTH WORKING FOR NATURE

Youth mentorships were offered summer 2020 to two Cortes Island science graduates, Shannon Hogan and Liam Baron Preston by SLM, to undertake field research to determine the feasibility and logistics of a dedicated landscape level strategic conservation plan for Cortes Island. Field research conducted in the northern sector of Cortes Island; CWHxm1 biogeoclimatic zone. Reporting due December 31, 2020.

WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE

*Listening & Dialogue 2020; spring conference cancelled due to Covid19

*WildCAM data collection continues in the Douglas-Harrison Wildlife Corridor

*Black Bear primer written May 2020 and posted throughout the community

*Black bears arrived in Whaletown area late summer 2020 & Squirrel Cove fall 2020, reminding Cortes islanders that Cortes Island IS black bear country and challenging the Cortes community to... REMOVE ALL ATTRACTANTS!!!!!!!
FOCI will be hosting a series of workshops winter 2020/2021 to engage community in skills workshops to effect positive coexistence with black bears. We have much to learn..
Bear-sized thanks to Autumn Barrett-Morgan who teamed up with me to provide Islanders with local support in the arena of wildlife coexistence.

CORTES WILD! PARTNERSHIP

FOCI is 1/5 partners in the Cortes Wild! Partnership, dedicated to promoting ECOLiteracy on Cortes Island.

I initiated a BIOdiversity Cortes Project obo Cortes Wild! to collate fauna & flora lists for Cortes Island. This project is part of the Salish Sea BIOdiversity Initiative, which is a cross-border project administered by BIOdiversity Galiano.

Cortes Island's master lists draw on local indigenous and ecological knowledge, historical records, conservation covenant baselines and government studies to produce a starting point for Cortes Wild! to pursue comprehensive biodiversity studies on Cortes Island. December 31, 2020 deadline for completion of the collation.

Earth-sized ECOthanks to FOCI for continuing to support the ecological integrity of our island HOME!!!

Sabina/ November 16, 2020

FOCI

Volunteer Hour Tally

Marine Stewardship 2020

Cortes Island Foreshore Monitoring Program; 5hr/site/person

40hr = 5x8x1 for Sabina Leader Mense

40hr = 5x8x1 for Dennis Mense

10hr = 5x1x2 for Kathy Smail & Hugh Barton

10hr = 5x1x2 for Tosh & Ryan Harvey

10hr = 5x1x2 for Autumn Barrett Morgan & Shannon Hogan

10hr = 5x1x2 for Christine & Cec Robinson

Sensitive Marine Habitat Mapping Program; 6hr/tide cycle/person

18hr = 6x3x1 for Sabina Leader Mense

Subtidal BIOdiversity Program; 5hr/dive/person

20hr = 5x4x1 for Dennis Mense

Forage Fish Program; field time & lab time

01hr for Christian Gronau

04hr for Elizabeth Anderson

07hr for Justine Staniforth

10hr for Mike Manson

11hr for Bruce Ellingsen

12hr for Helen Hall

13hr for Russ Haddow

13hr for Maureen Williams

27hr for Autumn Barrett Morgan

41hr for Arlene Tompkins

49hr for Sabina Leader Mense

Marine Species Inventory

20hr for Sabina Leader Mense; collation of observations

xxhr for Gerri Davis; data entry

Youth Working for Nature mentorships

30hr Total for Sabina Leader Mense

=20hr with Liam Baron Preston +

=10hr with Shannon Hogan

Wildlife Coexistence & Cortes Community Wolf Project

65hr Total for Sabina Leader Mense

=18hr Listening & Dialogue Wildlife conference preparations +

=12hr Douglas-Harrison Wildlife Corridor wildlife cam data collection +

=10hr Black Bear Primer production +

=25hr Black Bear coexistence work with COS on site during wildlife conflict