


# Teamwork makes the Dreamwork

## Collaborative management of Vancouver's Intertidal Ecosystem

### Executive summary

- Intertidal ecosystems have important ecological, social, and cultural values to the City of Vancouver, but have been neglected from the environmental management plans
- British Columbia is one of the only remaining regions in North America that lacks comprehensive law and management plans for our coast
- A Coastal Marine Management Strategy Plan should be established in collaboration with all jurisdictions involved in intertidal manage

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▲ Rocky intertidal area around Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC

### Importance of Intertidal Area

#### Ecology

- Provide habitat, food, and spawning ground
- Maintain the water quality and integrity of the shores

#### Society

- Contributes to the well-being of Vancouverites.
- Attractions for both locals and tourists

#### Culture

- Hold immeasurable value for coastal First Nations and local populations.
- Supporting food sovereignty, recreation and cultural connection

### Current Management Regime

#### City of Vancouver

In charge of regulating shoreline development through zoning and permitting [1].

#### BC Provincial Gov

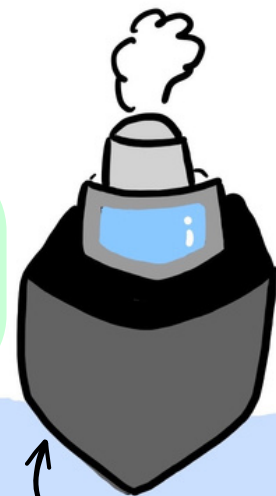
Typically own land at the intertidal up the “low tide mark” and “inland waters”(incl. Vancouver coast) [3]

#### Vancouver Park Board

Designated jurisdictional control and management over public parks in Vancouver [2]

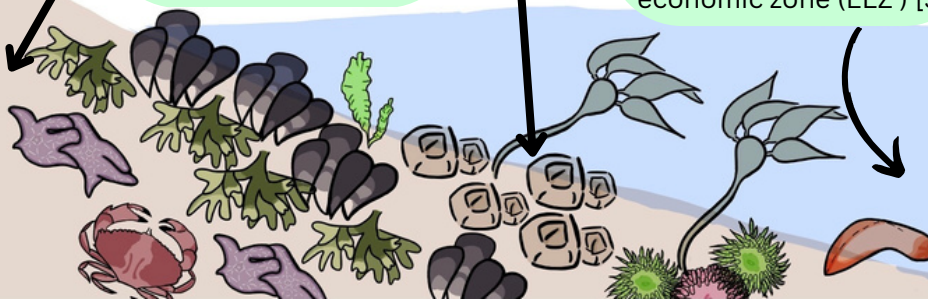
#### Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Responsible for regulating Canada’s water column within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ ) [5]



#### Transport Canada

Responsible for management shipping lanes and granting intertidal ownership to ports



## Why collaboration

1. Clarify complex jurisdictional responsibilities to prevent user conflicts and implement effective ecosystem-based management
2. Strengthen coastal adaptation to climate change and sea-level rise, as evident by the mass intertidal species mortality during the 2021 heat dome event
3. Prevent coastal habitat loss by regulating anthropogenic activities such as urban encroachment and shoreline hardening
4. Minimize inefficient decision-making by ensuring improved cooperation and coordination among all orders of government.



▲ Intertidal organisms found along the Vancouver coast

## Case Study: Shoreline Management Act - Washington, USA

The Shoreline Management Act was created to prevent the “inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state’s shorelines”. [6] Under the Act, the Department of Ecology (DOE, state government agency) coordinates coastal policy at the state level by setting requirements for local governments in regard to planning and regulation and represents the State’s interest while cooperating with the Federal government. Meanwhile, local government is delegated to construct a Shoreline Master Plan to be upheld by all government jurisdictions.

## Recommendation for Vancouver's Intertidal Management



▲ Intertidal organisms found along the Vancouver coast

- Incorporate intertidal species and habitats into the City of Vancouver’s infrastructure, recreation, development, and climate change planning
- Develop a Coastal Marine Strategy plan [1] that engages with all jurisdictions including the federal government (DFO, TC, PC, ECCC), BC provincial government (Ministry of Environment), Indigenous government (Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Wauthut Nations), and local government (CoV and VPB).
- Set up regular community collaboration programs to conduct monitoring and research on the City’s intertidal areas, so to develop a baseline that will be referenced across all parties
- Initiate an ecosystem-based management regime through collaboration with all levels of jurisdictions, the preserve and restore the City’s current intertidal ecosystems and their functions

## Reference:

- [1] Government of British Columbia (Dec 2022). A Coastal Marine Strategy for British Columbia Policy Intention Paper. <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2022/12/Coastal-Marine-Strategy-Intentions-Paper.pdf#OutcomeC>
- [2] Vancouver Charter, SBC 1953 Chapter 55, Part XXIII - Parks [https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/vanch\\_24](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/vanch_24)
- [3] West Coast Environmental Law. Provincial Jurisdiction of British Columbia over Coastal and Ocean Matters. <https://www.wcel.org/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06-faq-provincialjurisdiction-coastal-updated.pdf>
- [4] Fisheries and Oceans Canada. (2023) <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/index-eng.html>
- [5] Transport Canada. (2010). Marine Act and Regulation. <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/2-marine-acts-regulations>
- [6] Shoreline Management Act, 90 Wash Rev Code § 58 (Statute Law Committee 1971)

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