

An aerial photograph of a tidal flat, showing a complex network of winding water channels and sandbars. The water is a light, milky color, and the sandbars are a darker, brownish-grey. The background shows a vast expanse of water meeting a hazy, overcast sky.

# Shared Waters Alliance Delegation

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May 10, 2021



# Shared Waters Alliance (SWA) Background

- Transboundary working group focused on water quality of shared waters of Boundary Bay
- Boundary Bay includes a critical section of BC's rare coastline habitat
- Primary impetus for SWA formation was shellfish harvesting closure on the Canadian side of the border due to bacteriological contamination
- Indigenous peoples (including Semiahmoo First Nation) traditionally harvested the abundant fish and shellfish resources for their livelihood and cultural practices

***SWA Vision:*** *Boundary Bay is a healthy, vibrant ecosystem, with diverse and abundant flora and fauna, and robust water quality including clean rivers and creeks, providing First Nations food, social and ceremonial security and a rich natural heritage for future generations.*

# Participants

- City of Delta
- City of Surrey
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Fraser Health Authority
- Langley Environmental Partners Society
- Little Campbell Watershed Society
- Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance
- Pacific Shellfish Institute
- South Coast Conservation Land Management Program
- University of British Columbia
- Washington State Department of Health
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Fraser Basin Council
- Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society
- Metro Vancouver Regional district
- BC Ministry of Agriculture
- BC Ministry of Environment
- Nikomekl Enhancement Society
- Semiahmoo First Nation
- Surrey Environmental Partners
- Township of Langley
- West Coast Environmental Law
- Whatcom County



# Current Activities



- Roundtable meetings (2-3 annually) to share information, resources and brainstorm strategies and action plans
- Engaging a water quality technical working group to meet (4-6 annually) to develop and implement a collaborative water quality monitoring plan in the Little Campbell (Tatalu) River watershed
- ***Currently engaging municipal leadership to take a more active role in collaborative work***

# Shared Waters Alliance

## Alignment with City of White Rock

The City of White Rock has numerous policies, programs and priorities that are well-aligned with Shared Waters Alliance goals and current activities, including:

- Council's 2018-2022 Strategic Priorities - Focused on immediate actions to increase collaboration with the Semiahmoo First Nation and improve water quality.
- OCP Objectives - Protection of watercourses and the ecological integrity of Semiahmoo Bay and protecting natural areas, the environment and human health.
- City's Environmental Strategic Plan - Focused on protecting and enhancing Semiahmoo Bay by working with partners to improve the water quality and aquatic life.

# Our Requests

The time is right for a South of Fraser Gathering!

- Summer or Fall 2021
- A meeting where local and Indigenous government leaders can get to know each other better and explore ways to collaborate more actively on shared water quality and Reconciliation goals.
- Our request is for the City of White Rock elected officials to attend



## Our Requests (Cont'd)

We would welcome formal City staff engagement

- Informal engagement of staff to date has been much appreciated
- A designated staff person to work more actively with Shared Water Alliance would support more alignment and synergies and facilitate follow-up briefings to Mayor and Council.

Thank you for this opportunity.