



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada's oceans  
*A natural resource, a national treasure*

# Race Rocks (XwaYeN) Public Advisory Board Meeting #5



**RACE ROCKS**  
Marine Protected Area

November 23rd, 2010

Canada



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

# Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report

Canada's oceans  
*A natural resource, a national treasure*

- Presentation Outline
  - Purpose
  - Results of Overview
  - Assessment

# Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report

- Purpose
  - To supplement the original report with any new data that is available
  - Not to replace the original report
  - To make comment on new knowledge concerning trends in species distribution and oceanographic conditions
  - Identify changes in use of the area
  - Begin to identify human induced stressors in the area

# Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report

- **Results**

Physical Oceanographic Conditions:

- SST added to and shows summer warming trend continues
- Salinity consistent with previous report

Biological Systems:

- Plankton consistent with previous reports
- Abalone continue to decline
- Some surveys of rockfish but unable to establish trend
- Harbour seal numbers have stabilized
- Elephant Seal breeding is new

# Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report

- Results con't

- Biological Systems:

- California sea lions range continues to move northward. Numbers have recently declined from peak in 2004.
    - Steller sea lions in BC waters continue to increase
    - new studies done on disturbance of pinnipeds and birds by human activities
    - updated bird counts show increase in diversity
    - pelagic cormorant and glaucous-winged gull nests show sharp decline at RR

# Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report

- Results con't

## Recent Ecological Studies:

- numerous studies done by Pearson College and others on invertebrates, algae, Killer Whales and wind and tidal resources

## Global and Regional Climate

- warming trends continue to accelerate
- frequency of El Nino events increased

# Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report

- Results con't

Changes in Use and Management:

- much education moved to Web based to reduce visits
- changes to energy use and supply to Great Race
- Species at Risk Act
- Rockfish Conservation Area status

Current stressors from human activities in the area that may effect meeting conservation objectives

# Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report

- **Assessment**

Conservation Objectives:

- to identify the overall features that need protection
- used to develop monitoring protocol to measure success
- to identify stressors and threats from human activity in the area
- to guide management strategies for effective action

Overview of the types of activities that may or may not be compatible with the conservation objectives.



# For more information

**Glen Rasmussen**  
**ICZM Coordinator**  
**South Coast**  
**(250) 754-0358**

[Glen.Rasmussen@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Glen.Rasmussen@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Gabrielle Kosmider**  
**Oceans Program Advisor –**  
**South Coast**  
**(250) 754-0360**

[Gabrielle.Kosmider@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Gabrielle.Kosmider@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Hilary Ibey**  
**Marine Planning & MPA Specialist –**  
**Vancouver**  
**(604) 666-2873**

[Hilary.Ibey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Hilary.Ibey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

