



Trust Programs Committee Agenda

Date: Monday, May 3, 2021
Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Location: Electronic Zoom Meeting

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - 2.1. New Items and Re-Ordering of the Agenda
 - 2.2. Approval of Agenda
3. TOWN HALL AND DELEGATIONS
4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES/COORDINATION
 - 4.1. Minutes of Meeting
 - 4.1.1. Trust Programs Committee minutes of April 8, 2021 2 - 7
 - 4.2. Resolutions Without Meeting
None
 - 4.3. Follow Up Action List 8 - 10
5. TRUST COUNCIL BUSINESS
 - 5.1. Policy Statement Amendment Project - First Draft of New Policy Statement Bylaw - Briefing 11 - 78
6. NEW BUSINESS
7. CORRESPONDENCE
None
8. WORK PROGRAM
 - 8.1. Trust Programs Committee Work Program 79 - 80
9. NEXT MEETING
Friday, May 14, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
10. ADJOURNMENT

*Approximate time is provided for the convenience of the public only and is subject to change without notice.



Trust Programs Committee Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: April 8, 2021
Location: Electronic Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Deb Morrison, North Pender Island Local Trustee (Chair)
Paul Brent, Saturna Island Local Trustee
Scott Colbourne, Gabriola Island Local Trustee
David Critchley, Denman Island Local Trustee
Doug Fenton, Thetis Island Local Trustee
Michael Kaile, Bowen Island Municipal Trustee
Kees Langereis, Gabriola Island Local Trustee
Benjamin McConchie, North Pender Island Local Trustee
Timothy Peterson, Lasqueti Island Local Trustee
Dan Rogers, Gambier Island Local Trustee (EC Representative)
Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair (Ex Officio)

Staff Present: Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
Dilani Hippola, Senior Policy Advisor
Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder

Others Present: Delegates and one member of the public

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. Chair Morrison acknowledged that the meeting was being held in the traditional and treaty territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2.1 New Items and Re-Ordering of the Agenda

It was presented for consideration that the order of the agenda be amended so that Town Hall would be after Delegations.

2.2 Approval of Agenda

By general consent the agenda as amended was approved.

4. DELEGATIONS

A question was posed as to whether a trustee who is involved in any of the coordination groups who are requesting support under the Trust Council Policy Secretariat Services would be in a conflict of interest if they were to participate in the deliberation of the request of that group or in the deliberation of the requests from any or all of the groups and therefore should recuse themselves from those deliberations.

Trustee Critchley indicated that he may have a conflict of interest, as he is involved with the Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum Steering Committee, and indicated that he would recuse himself from the meeting during their presentation and during any discussion in regards to their request. Trustees Brent, Rogers and Morrison indicated their involvement in other organizations that are presenting and stated that they would not be declaring a conflict of interest. It was noted that the Trust Council policy on Secretariat Services requires local trustee involvement for a coordination group to be eligible for support.

4.1. Southern Gulf Islands Forum

Jane Wolverton, Galiano Island Local Trustee and Laura Parker, Outreach Coordinator, Constituency office of Adam Olsen, MLA spoke to the request.

Trustee Critchley left the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

4.2. Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum

Daniel Arbour, Comox Valley Regional District Electoral Area A Director and Dorrie Woodward, Chair, Association of Marine Stewards of Denman Island spoke to the request.

Trustee Critchley returned to the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

4.3. Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership

Kelly Chapman, Coordinator, Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership and Darryn McConkey, Steering Committee Chair, Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership P spoke to the request.

4.4. Howe Sound Community Forum and Ocean Watch Action Committee

Ruth Simons, Executive Director, Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society spoke to the request.

4.5. Rural Islands Economic Forum

Francine Carlin, President and Board Chair, Rural Islands Economic Partnership spoke to the request.

3. TOWN HALL

Michael Sketch spoke to the Committee in regards to his correspondence received by the Committee and which was included in the agenda.

Committee recessed at 10:22 a.m. and resumed at 10:28 a.m.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES/COORDINATION

5.1 Minutes of Meeting

5.1.1 Trust Programs Committee minutes of February 5, 2021

By general consent the minutes were approved as presented.

5.2 Resolutions Without Meeting

5.1.1 Trust Programs Committee RWM-2021-01

Received for information.

5.3 Follow Up Action List

Director Frater provided an update in regards to the items that are in progress, noting that Staff:

- will be presenting draft amendments to the Policy Statement at the next meeting;
- will be meeting with provincial staff next week to continue discussions in regards to the Crown Land agreements;
- contacting Fraser Basin Council is on hold until there is more capacity to engage with the Council;
- is waiting to receive a request from My Sea to Sky Society for a letter of support when they have a grant application prepared;
- will work with Trustee Peterson to refine his "Amending the Policy Statement Amendment Policy 1.2.1" Request For Decision once the draft amendments to the Policy Statement are presented to the Committee.

TPC-2021-016

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee request staff to provide a rough estimate of the amount of hours all staff have spent on the Trust Policy Statement Review during the last quarter, or any time period as appropriate.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Secretariat Services to Coordination Groups in the Trust Area - RFD

Discussion included:

- the nature of individual trustee involvement in the coordination groups and whether that involvement might create a potential conflict of interest;
- the total amount of staff time available for in-kind work is approximately 70 hours with an additional 70 hours for contract administration, although this is a flexible estimate;
- potential draft amendments to the Secretariat Services Policy to address the use of staff time for Secretariat Services;
- the financial information that is needed to be received from all coordination groups, such as their budget and financial statements, that would assist the Committee in evaluating requests;

- the impact, value and goal of supporting coordination groups;
- the reporting to the public of the Secretariat Services through the Annual Report and news release;
- the coordination groups' engagement with and information provided to Trust Council; and,
- the criteria used to help evaluate requests.

As the Committee then decided to discuss the coordination groups' requests, Trustee Critchley left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

The Committee indicated a need for an estimate of staff time that would be associated with supporting any individual coordination group.

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**,
that Trust Programs Committee allocate \$2500 to support the continuation of the Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum.

TPC-2021-017

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**,
that Trust Programs Committee postpone consideration of the motion "that Trust Programs Committee allocate \$2500 to support the continuation of the Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum" to the next regular meeting.

CARRIED

TPC-2021-018

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**,
that Trust Programs Committee postpone decisions on the funding of the Secretariat Services to the next regular meeting.

CARRIED

Trustee Critchley returned to the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Trustee Brent left the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

TPC-2021-019

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**,
that Trust Programs Committee request staff to seek a legal opinion on trustees' ability to vote on requests for Secretariat Services if they attend the forum associated with these services.

DEFEATED

Trustee Colbourne left the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Trustee McConchie left the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

TPC-2021-020

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee request staff to seek a legal opinion on a trustee's ability to vote on requests for funding for secretariat services where the trustee is a member of an unincorporated association and alternatively where the trustee is a part of a steering committee of an unincorporated association seeking funding.

CARRIED

7. NEW BUSINESS

None

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from Michael Sketch to the Trust Council March 9, 2021 meeting

Received for information

9. WORK PROGRAM

9.1 Trust Programs Committee Work Program

The Committee postponed review of the Work Program to the regular meeting scheduled for May 14, 2021.

10. NEXT MEETING

Staff suggested to the Committee to defer the special meeting of April 15 meeting to allow staff to prepare more fulsome materials.

TPC-2021-021

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Trust Programs Committee reschedule the April 15, 2021 special meeting to May 3, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CARRIED

11. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Deb Morrison, Chair

Draft

Certified Correct:

Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder

DRAFT



Follow Up Action Report

Trust Programs Committee

29-Feb-2016

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Implement Crown Land Protocol project charter V2, circulate past RFD to TPC members, keep charter on future agendas until project is complete, and consider inventory of current referrals if it helps demonstrate the need for updating the letter of understanding.	Clare Frater	Target: 31-Mar-2022	In Progress

06-Nov-2019

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that Trust Programs Committee request that staff work with the Fraser Basin Council to identify opportunities for coordination in the delivery of secretariat services in the Islands Trust Area.	Clare Frater	Target: 31-Mar-2022	In Progress

20-Oct-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that Trust Programs Committee endorse a potential commitment by Islands Trust Council to participate as a pilot region for the Climate Action Report Card Tool that is being developed by My Sea to Sky Society and partners.	Clare Frater Lori Foster	Target: 31-Mar-2022	In Progress

05-Nov-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
----------	----------------	-------	--------

Follow Up Action Report

Trust Programs Committee

05-Nov-2020

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to investigate options for a joint review with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure of road standards, incorporating the Climate Change Declaration and the Reconciliation Declaration, and report back to Trust Programs Committee.	Clare Frater David Marlor	Target: 31-Aug-2021	In Progress
2 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to work with Trustee Peterson to refine the Amending the Policy Statement Amendment Policy 1.2.1. RFD, and bring it back to Trust Programs Committee before the March, 2021 Trust Council meeting.	Clare Frater Dilani Hippola	Target: 14-May-2021	In Progress

05-Feb-2021

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 Discuss with the province and report to Trust Council on a process to identify potential governance and/or operational change that could be adopted in order to improve the delivery and integration of all the types of services that are delivered to the Islands Trust Area. By general consent, at its Dec 16, 2020 meeting, Executive Committee put this item on hold pending review by Trust Programs Committee.	Clare Frater		In Progress

08-Apr-2021

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
----------	----------------	-------	--------

Follow Up Action Report

Trust Programs Committee

08-Apr-2021

Activity	Responsibility	Dates	Status
1 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to provide a rough estimate of the amount of hours all staff have spent on the Trust Policy Statement Review during the last quarter, or any time period as appropriate.	Clare Frater	Target: 14-May-2021	In Progress
2 that Trust Programs Committee request staff to seek legal opinion on a trustee's ability to vote on requests for funding for secretariat services where the trustee is a member of an unincorporated association and alternatively where the trustee is a part of a steering committee of an unincorporated association seeking funding.	Clare Frater	Target: 14-May-2021	In Progress

BRIEFING

To:	Trust Programs Committee	For the Meeting of:	May 3, 2021
From:	Trust Area Services	Date Prepared:	April 27, 2021
SUBJECT:	First Draft of New Policy Statement Bylaw		

PURPOSE: To present Trust Programs Committee with a first draft of a new Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw for review and consideration.

BACKGROUND:

First Draft of a new Policy Statement Amendment Bylaw:

Staff has prepared a first draft of a new Policy Statement bylaw for Trust Programs Committee's (TPC) review and consideration prior to First Reading in June. TPC will have two opportunities to discuss this first draft prior to First Reading – on May 3 and on May 14. On May 3, staff will provide an introductory presentation with rationale for the proposed amendments based on input received from First Nations, the public, Trust Council, individual trustees, TPC and its three working groups, and staff. This meeting will also be an opportunity for early questions and comments from TPC. On May 14, TPC will have a second opportunity to review and discuss the draft document and then decide whether it wishes to forward the draft to Trust Council, via Executive Committee, for First Reading in June.

Attachment 1 is the first draft (Version 1.0) of the new Policy Statement bylaw. Amendments have been grouped into four categories and colour coded in relation to the project scope:

Sections highlighted in blue: primarily reconciliation-related amendments

Sections highlighted in green: primarily climate change-related amendments

Sections highlighted in pink: primarily housing-related amendments

Sections highlighted in yellow: general edits for clarity, accuracy, or brevity

Attachment 2 is the current Policy Statement (2003 consolidated version) with annotations to indicate which sections/policies have been moved or removed in the new document, along with the rationale.

Committee Consultations Prior to First Reading:

- **May 3 Special TPC Meeting:**
Staff will introduce the first draft of the new Policy Statement bylaw to TPC, provide an introductory presentation, and receive early questions and comments.
- **May 12 Regional Planning Committee (RPC) Meeting:**
Staff will provide the first draft to RPC and receive early questions and comments.
- **May 14 Regular TPC Meeting:**
Staff will provide a Request for Decision, recommending that TPC forward the new amended Policy Statement bylaw to Executive Committee (as is, or as amended by TPC).
- **May 25 Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) Board Meeting:**
Staff will provide the first draft to the ITC Board and receive early questions and comments.
- **May 26 Executive Committee Meeting:**
Staff will incorporate feedback from TPC and RPC and provide a Request for Decision, recommending that EC forward the bylaw to Trust Council for First Reading in June.

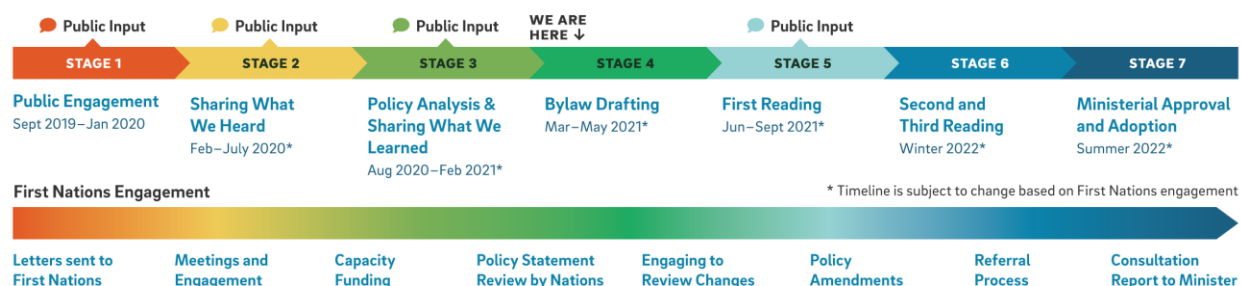
Policy Statement Amendment Project Background:

Trust Council has assigned the Executive Committee, with involvement from Trust Programs Committee as appropriate, the task of updating the Islands Trust Policy Statement, including:

- General update: Introduction, Part 1, Part 2 and 'Schedule 1 – Definitions';
- Update of the whole document through the lens of Reconciliation;
- Update of the whole document through the lens of Climate Change;
- Update regarding Affordable Housing to ensure that the document:
 - gives affordable housing a greater profile for its role in sustainable communities;
 - includes a reference to affordable housing in its policy direction to Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities;
 - includes a clear and well thought-out definition of 'affordability';
 - includes a clearly articulated vision, goals and objectives for affordable housing.

The first three stages of the Policy Statement Amendment Project were focused on First Nations engagement and relationship building, two phases of public engagement, regular meetings of three TPC working groups, a number of special TPC meetings, Trust Council discussions on interpretations of the Trust Object, individual trustee feedback, and ongoing staff research and analysis. A summary of input received through First Nations and public engagement processes, input from trustees, TPC and its working groups, and staff analysis, was included in the March 2021 Trust Council agenda package and will be further updated and refined prior to First Reading.

The project is now completing Stage Four of its timeline, dedicated to analyzing, synthesizing, and integrating all of the input received to date into a new Policy Statement bylaw. The project timeline aspires to reach Fourth Reading by the end of the 2018-2022 term.



ATTACHMENT(S):

1. DRAFT New Policy Statement Bylaw No. 183 (Version 1.0)
2. Annotated Current Policy Statement Bylaw No. 17 (2003 Version)

FOLLOW-UP: In order to promote an efficient discussion on May 14, TPC members will be encouraged to send written feedback to Staff/Dilani Hippola at dhippola@islandstrust.bc.ca after the May 3 meeting and no later than May 6, for inclusion in the May 14 TPC agenda package. Reconciliation related questions may be addressed to Staff/Lisa Wilcox at any time. Staff will provide a more detailed written rationale for the proposed amendments as part of the May 14 Regular TPC Meeting agenda package.

Prepared By: Dilani Hippola, Senior Policy Advisor, Trust Area Services

Reviewed By/Date: Gillian Nicol, Program Coordinator / April 27, 2021
Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor / April 27, 2021
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services / April 27, 2021
David Marlor, Director, Local Planning Services / April 27, 2021
Russ Hotsenpiller, CAO / April 27, 2021



Islands Trust

Amended Draft Version 1.0

Islands Trust Council **DRAFT** Bylaw No. 183:
ISLANDS TRUST POLICY STATEMENT BYLAW, 2021

ISLANDS TRUST POLICY STATEMENT

DRAFT 1.0 - April 27, 2021

Sections highlighted in blue: primarily reconciliation related amendments

Sections highlighted in green: primarily climate change related amendments

Sections highlighted in pink: primarily housing related amendments

Sections highlighted in yellow: general edits for clarity, accuracy, or brevity

References highlighted in (blue parentheses) at the end of each policy refer to the corresponding policy in the 2003 consolidated version of the Policy Statement or indicate (new) policies.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL DRAFT BYLAW NO. 183: ISLANDS TRUST POLICY STATEMENT BYLAW, 2021

PART 1:	INTRODUCTION
1.1	Acknowledgment
1.2	Establishment of the Islands Trust
1.3	Present Context
1.4	The Islands Trust Object and its Meaning
1.5	Location of the Islands Trust Area
PART 2:	PURPOSE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY STATEMENT
2.1	Purpose of the Islands Trust Policy Statement
2.2	Roles and Responsibilities
2.3	Implementation and Amendment Policies
PART 3:	REGIONAL GOVERNANCE
3.1	Regional Governance Policies
PART 4:	ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION
4.1	Environmental Integrity Policies
4.2	Freshwater Stewardship Policies
4.3	Forest Stewardship Policies
4.4	Agricultural Land Stewardship Policies
4.5	Soil and Mineral Stewardship Policies
4.6	Coastal and Marine Stewardship Policies
PART 5:	HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION
5.1	Natural, Cultural, and Community Heritage Policies
PART 6:	SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
6.1	Rural Island Planning Policies
6.2	Housing Policies
6.3	Transportation Policies
6.4	Waste Disposal Policies

PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT (new)

Islands Trust Council acknowledges that the Islands Trust Area is located within the treaty and territorial lands and waters of the BOKEĆEN, K'ómoks, Lək'wəŋən, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, Quw'utsun Tribes, scəwəθən məsteyəxʷ, Scia'new, səlilwətaʔt, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Spune'luxutth, STÁUTW, Stz'uminus, łaʔəmen, toq qaymıxʷ, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOŁŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwx/ʔop qaymıxʷ, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (collectively referred to hereinafter as 'First Nations').

Islands Trust Council acknowledges that the lands and waters encompassing the Trust Area are subject to the treaty and territorial rights of First Nations. The Trust Area has been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial and the close relationship of First Nations to these lands and waters continues to this day. Islands Trust Council honours the rich history and cultural heritage of the region and has committed to reconciliation and meaningful engagement with First Nations in the Trust Area.

1.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ISLANDS TRUST

To understand the Islands Trust governance model, it is helpful to understand its origins. In the 1960s, as the urban centres of Vancouver, Nanaimo, and Victoria were experiencing rapid population growth, the Gulf Islands in British Columbia began facing unprecedented pressure for residential development. Without any meaningful form of local government for non-incorporated island communities at the time, Gulf Island residents began expressing widespread concern that the area's highly-valued and fragile environment could be irreversibly damaged by unrestrained development. In 1969, the provincial government responded by instituting a temporary freeze on the subdivision of land until island communities could adopt plans and regulations to control growth.

In 1972, an all-party provincial Select Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs was established to investigate the unique problems facing the Trust Area. In its 1973 report to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, the Committee concluded that development pressures arising from the area's proximity to major urban centres were damaging the very features that made the region so attractive to residents and visitors. The Committee recommended the formation of an 'Islands Trust' to assume the primary responsibility for coordinated governance of the region.

In response to the Committee's recommendations, the Government of British Columbia enacted the *Islands Trust Act* in 1974. The Act established the Islands Trust as a special-purpose government with a conservation-oriented responsibility to preserve and protect the Islands Trust Area for the benefit of residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia more broadly.

In the years following the establishment of Islands Trust, pressure for development of the Trust Area islands continued. Between 1974 and 1987, the Area's resident population increased by sixty per cent, far exceeding the growth rate of adjacent areas. Several amendments were made to the *Islands Trust Act* during this period, giving the Islands Trust community planning and land-use authority comparable to that of a regional district under the *Local Government Act*. Aware of the urgent need for plans to guide decisions on growth management and land-use, Trust Area communities developed Official Community Plans. Nonetheless, pressure for residential development continued, as did public concern for the future of the Trust Area.

In 1987, the provincial government initiated a second review related to the Islands Trust Area, this time focusing on public opinion of Islands Trust and its role. The results showed overwhelming public support for both Islands Trust and the Islands Trust Object, and suggested ways in which the Trust and its legislation could be strengthened. In response, an amended *Islands Trust Act* was put into effect in 1990, reaffirming the Province's commitment to careful planning and development in the Trust Area. In the amended Act, Islands Trust retained its original authority and its dual responsibility to residents of both the Trust Area and British Columbians more broadly. The new legislation also amended the structure of Islands Trust and greatly broadened its functions and responsibilities. One of the most notable changes was the assignment of a regional-level planning function to Islands Trust Council.

1.3 PRESENT CONTEXT

The Trust Area continues to experience pressure from population growth and tourism, along with new and urgent demands to mitigate and adapt to the multifaceted impacts of climate change across the region. Increasingly unpredictable and volatile weather patterns are significantly compromising the well-being of ecosystems and the communities that live interdependently with them. Biodiversity loss is at an all time high in the fragile and sensitive ecosystems of the Trust Area, with hundreds of terrestrial and aquatic species at risk that are increasingly vulnerable to the cumulative effects of development and an ever-growing marine shipping industry. A lack of safe, secure, and affordable housing on many islands, and throughout the Province, is of major concern to the long-term sustainability and resilience of Trust Area communities. In addition, a broad recognition of the treaty and territorial rights and title of First Nations in the Trust Area is inspiring new governance approaches rooted in Trust Council's commitment to reconciliation. In this complex policy landscape, the Policy Statement plays a vital role in articulating Trust Council's general policy approach, centred firmly in the Islands Trust Object to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area, not only for this generation but also for many generations to come.

1.4 THE ISLANDS TRUST OBJECT AND ITS MEANING

The *Islands Trust Act* sets out the special-purpose mandate for the Islands Trust, referenced in the legislation as its "object":

"The object of the Trust is to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia." (*Islands Trust Act*)

The following sections provide a fuller explanation of the key phrases in the Islands Trust Object.

"... to preserve and protect the Trust Area..."

The area of jurisdiction of the Islands Trust is established by Schedule A of the *Islands Trust Act*. Islands Trust Council strives to ensure the long-term integrity of the 'unique amenities and environment' of the Trust Area. This entails first identifying the 'unique amenities and environment' and then instituting measures for their preservation and protection. The mandate to "preserve" requires policy approaches that place priority on preserving the integrity of the environment and Indigenous cultural heritage in the Trust Area. The mandate to "protect" calls for policy approaches that promote sustainability and resilience.

“...and its unique amenities and environment...”

The Trust Area is valued and unique, not because of any one quality or feature, but rather because of its particular combination of characteristics and location. These include elements such as the Trust Area’s: 450+ islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea; a mild climate; extensive coastline; sheltered waters; sensitive, rare, and biodiverse ecosystems that are home to hundreds of terrestrial and aquatic species-at-risk; almost continuous tree cover and large undeveloped areas; abundant recreational opportunities; scenic natural beauty and tranquil rural atmospheres; a clean and healthy environment; compact marine-oriented settlements; and the combination of self-sufficiency and interdependence that island living entails. There is also a duty to preserve and protect the rich and unique Indigenous cultural heritage and archaeological significance in the region including, but not limited to cultural sites, ancestral remains, artifacts, petroglyphs, pictographs, place names, culturally significant species, medicinal plants, and traditional harvesting areas.

“... for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally ...”

The Islands Trust is responsible to the present and future residents of the Trust Area and British Columbia, as well as to First Nations who have resided in the area since time immemorial. All residents and visitors to the Trust Area derive benefit from the protection of the region, its extraordinary natural beauty and biodiversity, rich Indigenous cultural heritage, and tranquil rural island atmosphere. Further benefits include the preservation and protection of one of the most ecologically sensitive and biodiverse regions in the country, the safeguarding of natural carbon sinks to sequester greenhouse gas emissions, and opportunities for nature connection in close proximity to major urban centres.

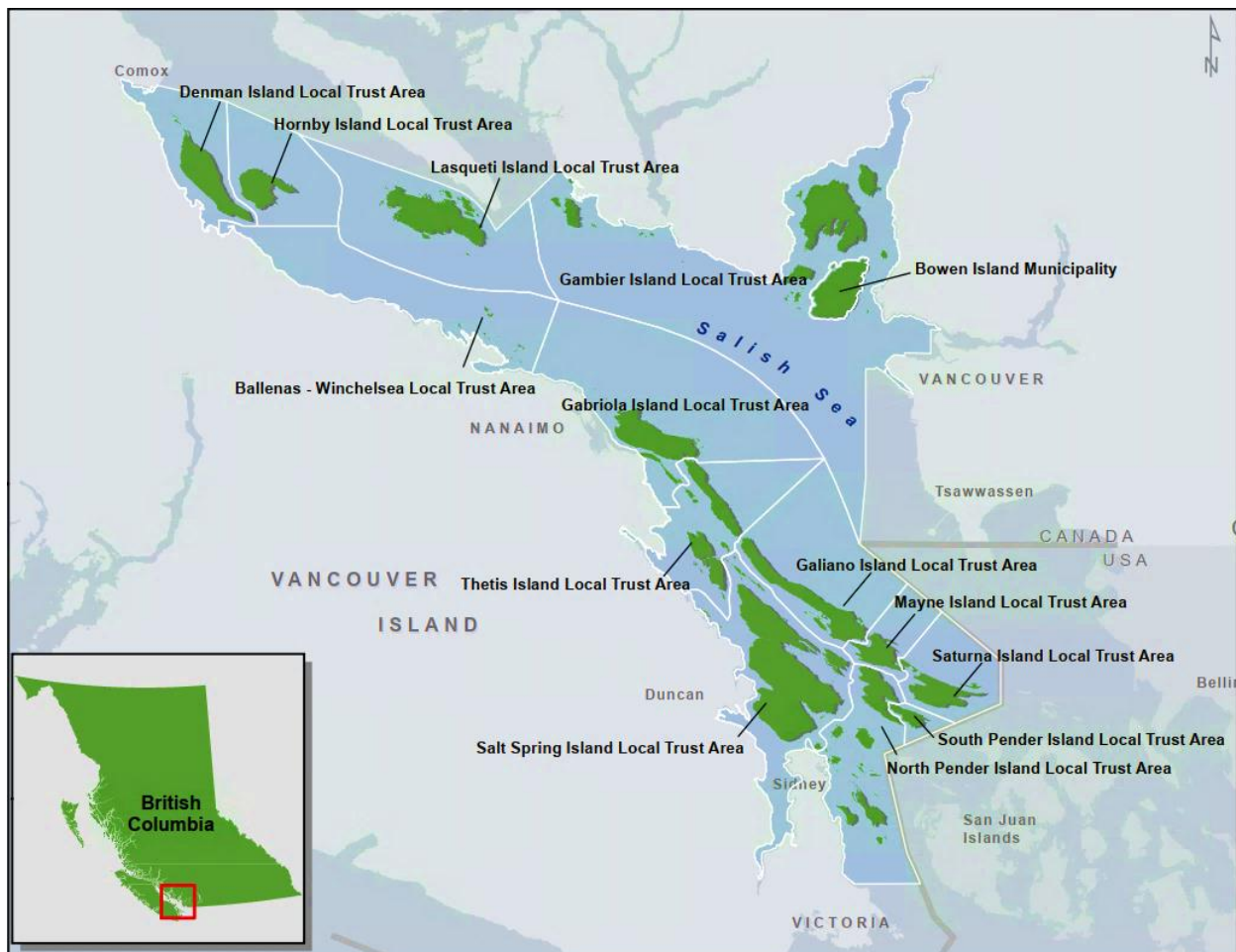
“... in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the Government of the Province ...”

Islands Trust Council seeks to fulfill its mandate in cooperation with others and works collaboratively to ensure that the preserve and protect mandate is recognized by all jurisdictional bodies. Trust Council further recognizes that meaningful engagement and cooperation with First Nations is critical to the preservation and protection of the region, to Trust Council’s reconciliation commitments, and to implementation of the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. To fulfill its mandate, Islands Trust must be an educator, coordinator, collaborator, and initiator, guiding individuals, organizations and other government agencies to uphold and support the Islands Trust Object. While Islands Trust can provide the necessary leadership, responsibility for the preservation and protection of the Trust Area rests with many. Many provincial agencies, regional districts, improvement districts, and municipalities also have responsibilities and interests in the Trust Area. Strategic coordination with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, communities, property owners, residents, and visitors, is needed to effectively govern the region.

1.5 LOCATION OF THE ISLANDS TRUST AREA

The “Trust Area” is a unique and special place -- an archipelago of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea, situated between the mainland of British Columbia and southern Vancouver Island. Located within the sensitive Coastal Douglas-fir and Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zones, the Trust Area is home to an exceptional variety of rare and culturally significant species, including over 100 federally-listed and over 300 provincially-listed species at risk. The region is home to more than 26,000 residents and is the homeland of more than 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples.

(new map)



PART 2: PURPOSE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE ISLANDS TRUST POLICY STATEMENT

Section 15 of the *Islands Trust Act* stipulates that Trust Council must, by bylaw, adopt a Trust Policy Statement that applies to the Trust Area. The purpose of the Policy Statement is to establish a general statement of policies of Trust Council to carry out the Islands Trust Object to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area.

The Policy Statement is a visionary statement. It aims to establish a vision for the future of the Trust Area that reflects the values and interests of residents, First Nations, and British Columbians, for this generation and for generations to come. It provides a framework for Trust Council to assume a leadership role in regional place protection planning for the Trust Area as a whole, which includes a combination of conservation-oriented land-use planning, engagement with First Nations, inter-agency coordination and advocacy, as well as public engagement and education.

As the Trust's overarching policy document, the Policy Statement guides the formulation of regional strategic plans, official community plans and regulatory bylaws, protocol agreements and other cooperative arrangements with First Nations, inter-agency coordination and advocacy strategies, as well as public engagement and education initiatives.

The Policy Statement bylaw becomes effective upon the date of adoption. It is not retroactive and has no effect on any local trust committee or municipal bylaw in effect before its adoption.

2.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Islands Trust Council cannot effectively implement the Policy Statement without the support of First Nations and a wide range of partners. The original 1974 vision was that the Trust would be a "fully representative co-coordinating body", whose task it was to bring together each group, agency, or government partner to act in the best interests of the islands and residents, with due regard for the broader and Province-wide interest. Assistance, cooperation, and collaboration are required from local trust committees, island municipalities, Islands Trust Conservancy, First Nations and their associations and organizations, the provincial government, other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, communities, property owners, residents and visitors. In the spirit of the *Islands Trust Act*, it is expected that all corporate entities of the Trust will coordinate and advocate to other agencies on matters involving potential conflict between the legislated Islands Trust Object and the legislated mandates of other agencies.

Role of the Minister of Municipal Affairs

The Minister of Municipal Affairs of the Government of British Columbia (or the designated provincial minister responsible for municipal affairs) approves the Policy Statement bylaw and provides an avenue of appeal for municipalities if neither the Executive Committee nor Trust Council approves a bylaw that has been submitted to them. The Minister and Ministry staff can also facilitate communication between the Islands Trust and other government agencies on policy matters.

Role of Islands Trust Council

The *Islands Trust Act* assigns to Islands Trust Council the responsibility for development, adoption, amendment, and implementation of the Policy Statement. Recognizing the varying roles and responsibilities of other parties to help fulfill the Islands Trust Object, Trust Council has included three types of policies in the Policy Statement:

a) Commitments of Trust Council

These policies reflect Trust Council's high-level regional commitments, positions, priorities, and approaches related to the Islands Trust Object and its implementation. They help clarify Trust Council's regional governance approach and offer interpretive context to guide decision-making at all levels.

b) Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

These policies direct local trust committees and island municipalities to include certain types of policies and approaches in their official community plans and bylaws, unless explicit reasons are given to justify not doing so. Directive policies generally commence with the phrase "Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws..." These policies strive for a harmonized regional approach while also leaving flexibility for more detailed, locally-appropriate implementation tools and strategies.

c) Coordination Policies for Trust Council

These policies reflect Trust Council's role in coordinating, advocating, and engaging with a host of other parties (including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, property owners, residents and visitors) regarding decisions or actions they can undertake in support of the Policy Statement and the Islands Trust Object. In some cases, these can form the basis of protocol agreements between the Trust and other agencies. Sections 8 and 9 of the *Islands Trust Act* stipulate that Trust Council may enter into coordination agreements and make recommendations to other parties for the purpose of carrying out the Islands Trust Object.

Trust Council may review the Policy Statement annually to prioritize actions, assess progress, and consider possible amendments. Trust Council also serves as an avenue of appeal for local trust committees and island municipalities if a bylaw submitted to the Executive Committee is not approved.

Role of Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of Trust Council is required to review all bylaws of local trust committees and those bylaws of island municipalities that deal with the adoption of an official community plan. Such bylaws have no effect unless approved by Executive Committee, and the Committee cannot approve such a bylaw if it is "contrary to or at variance with" the Policy Statement. If there is no official community plan in place for an island municipality, Executive Committee is required to review all bylaws of the municipality and no bylaw that is contrary to the Policy Statement can be approved. Executive Committee also monitors the progress of Trust Council in achieving the goals defined in the Policy Statement, and makes recommendations to Trust Council in this regard.

Role of Local Trust Committees

As set out in the *Islands Trust Act*, bylaws of local trust committees cannot be "contrary to or at variance with" the Policy Statement. The Policy Statement contains policies that direct local trust committees to address certain matters in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, but generally does not stipulate the specific policies, planning tools, or regulations to be used because the social and environmental characteristics of islands vary. Official community plans must contain policies relating to Trust Council's directives or must explicitly state the reasons and justifications for not doing so. Each local trust committee works with its island community to develop policies and regulations to fulfill the Islands Trust Object and Policy Statement in ways that are suitable to local needs and conditions.

Role of Island Municipalities

Municipalities in the Trust Area, like local trust committees, are directed to address certain matters in their official community plans. Where a particular policy requires an island municipality to address a particular matter, the official community plan must contain policies that implement Trust Council's directive unless the island municipality sets out explicitly in the plan the reasons and justifications for local policies that do not do so.

Role of Islands Trust Conservancy

The *Islands Trust Act* assigns the Islands Trust Object to the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, as well as to Trust Council, local trust committees and island municipalities. Although the Islands Trust Conservancy Board does not take direction from Trust Council, it plays an essential role in helping to support the Policy Statement objectives and the fulfillment of regional place protection planning in the Trust Area through science-based conservation planning, engagement with First Nations, identification and protection of core conservation areas, as well as education and communication initiatives. To support the Islands Trust Object, the Islands Trust Conservancy also plays a key role in accepting voluntary donations of property and covenants and purchasing lands.

Role of First Nations

First Nations play an integral role in governance and cooperative decision-making in the Trust Area. Trust Council acknowledges the treaty and territorial rights and title of First Nations in the Trust Area and is committed to aligning Islands Trust policies and processes with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Trust Council is further committed to ensuring that it seeks meaningful engagement with First Nations now and into the future. Cooperative mechanisms such as protocol agreements and mutually supportive strategies and action plans provide frameworks for effective communication, information sharing, and cooperative decision-making.

Role of Other Government and Non-Governmental Organizations

Other government agencies and non-governmental organizations play an important role in contributing to the preservation and protection of the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area through cooperative actions based on the Policy Statement and the Islands Trust Object. Cooperative mechanisms such as protocol agreements and mutually supportive strategies and action plans support the sustainability of the Trust Area and fulfillment of the Islands Trust Object.

Role of Property Owners, Residents, Visitors and Communities

The assistance and cooperation of property owners, residents, visitors, and communities is vital to the preservation and protection of the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area and to the implementation of the Policy Statement in each local planning area. Individuals have many opportunities to participate in local planning decisions and to work with other members of their communities to support the Islands Trust Object. The Trust can also empower communities and individuals with education and tools to help support the preserve and protect mandate and specific policies contained in the Policy Statement.

2.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND AMENDMENTS

The Policy Statement bylaw may be amended by Trust Council with the approval of the **minister responsible for municipal affairs**. Regardless of the source, all proposals for amendments to the Policy Statement are compiled by Executive Committee and brought forward for the consideration of Trust Council. Trust Council may, from time to time, initiate a review of the entire Policy Statement.

Trust Council's Policies 1.2.1 (Policy Statement Amendment Policy) and 1.3.1 (Policy Statement Implementation Policy) guide the use and amendment of the Policy Statement. These are separate policies approved by Trust Council and do not require a legislative approval process.

PART 3: REGIONAL GOVERNANCE (new)

GOAL: To foster regional governance approaches that uphold the Islands Trust Object and honour regional commitments to reconciliation and climate action.

CONTEXT:

Establishing Priorities and Limitations: Advancing the Islands Trust Object is the preeminent duty of Trust Council, its committees, and all locally elected trustees in the Trust Area. This unique statutory mandate, unlike any other governance system in the country, specifically names the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area as being worthy of priority attention. (See Section 1.4 for a detailed description of the Islands Trust Object.) When enacting policies locally across the region, potential for conflict exists. In order to maintain focus on the special-purpose mandate of Islands Trust now and into the future, regional priorities, values, principles, and approaches should be guided by area-based mapping of significant ecosystems and cultural heritage, along with evidence-based understandings of each island's carrying capacity.

Reconciliation: Trust Council has adopted a Reconciliation Declaration acknowledging that First Nations have resided in the lands and waters that encompass the Trust Area since time immemorial and honouring the rich history and cultural heritage of this special region. Trust Council acknowledges that it has a duty to seek meaningful engagement with First Nations in the Trust Area. Trust Council further strives to be guided by the specific reconciliation principles and recommendations of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, that fall within Trust Council's jurisdiction.

Climate Action: The global climate and biodiversity crises are necessitating reimagined and dynamic approaches to regional governance in the Trust Area. Trust Council has adopted a Climate Emergency Declaration committing to urgent and equitable climate action across the region. Ecosystems, communities, and the built environment will continue to face the increasingly adverse impacts of a changing climate, including rising sea levels, warmer and more acidic oceans, extreme weather events, and temperature changes. It will be necessary to identify, monitor, mitigate, and adapt to the ripple effects of these impacts on the integrity of the environment and the sustainability and resilience of Trust Area communities. In this context, Trust Council will benefit from being guided by the best available science and Indigenous ways of knowing. Uncertainties around the rate and scale of climate change impacts are also requiring more precautionary and adaptive management approaches across the region. Precautionary approaches emphasize caution, pausing, and review before leaping into innovations which may cause harm due to scientific uncertainty. Adaptive approaches are structured, iterative processes of decision-making intended to reduce uncertainty over time through periodic monitoring and evaluation, and evidence-based policy adjustments.

3.1 Regional Governance Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 3.1.1 Trust Council holds that its primary responsibility is to provide leadership for the preservation, protection, stewardship, and restoration of the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area. (Guiding Principle #1)
- 3.1.2 Trust Council commits to place priority on preserving and protecting the integrity of the environment and Indigenous cultural heritage in all decision-making. (Guiding Principle #2)
- 3.1.3 Trust Council holds that, to achieve the Islands Trust Object, the rate and scale of growth and development in the Trust Area must be carefully managed and may require limitation. (Guiding Principle #4)
- 3.1.4 Trust Council holds that decision-making should be guided by an evidence-based understanding of the carrying capacity of each island, or group of islands, informed by the best available science and area-based mapping tools, and respectful of Indigenous ways of knowing. (Guiding Principle #3)
- 3.1.5 Trust Council commits to seek meaningful engagement with First Nations in the Trust Area, recognizing First Nations' treaty and territorial lands and waters, and will be guided by the specific reconciliation principles and recommendations of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, that fall within Trust Council's jurisdiction. (new)
- 3.1.6 Trust Council commits to coordinate and advocate to other government agencies and non-governmental organizations to uphold the Islands Trust Object. (new)
- 3.1.7 Trust Council commits to seek open, consultative public participation, acknowledging its importance to effective decision-making in the Trust Area. (Guiding Principle #5)
- 3.1.8 Trust Council commits to implement a plan for the advancement of the Policy Statement as part of its annual budget process, and the Executive Committee of Trust Council commits to report to Council on progress in achieving the goals of the Policy Statement. (Guiding Principle #6)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 3.1.9 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, place priority on the integrity of the environment and Indigenous cultural heritage in all decision-making and, where necessary, limit the rate and scale of growth and development. (new)
- 3.1.10 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, seek evidence-based understandings of the carrying capacity of their planning areas, informed by the best available science, area-based mapping tools, and respectful of Indigenous ways of knowing. (new)
- 3.1.11 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, seek meaningful engagement with First Nations and strive to align decision-making with the principles of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act that fall within their jurisdiction. (new)

PART 4: ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION

GOAL: To Preserve, Protect, **Restore,** and **Sustainably Steward** Trust Area Ecosystems

CONTEXT:

Environmental Integrity: Ecosystems are the interconnected combinations of living and non-living components present in a particular location. They are made up of living elements such as plants, animals, and people, and non-living elements such as topography, water, and climate. Ecosystems are dynamic and their characteristics can change over time. An ecosystem has environmental integrity when its dominant characteristics, natural composition, structure, function, and processes occur within their natural ranges of variation and can withstand and recover from most disruptions imposed by human activity or environmental dynamics such as climate change.

Climate and Biodiversity Crises: Trust Council acknowledges that ecosystems in the Trust Area today are subject to escalating pressures from the built environment and human use and from the global climate and biodiversity crises. Climate change impacts such as increasing storm surge flooding, windstorms, droughts, wildfires, invasive species, and ocean acidification are threatening ecosystems in the Trust Area like never before. Biodiversity - understood as the diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems - is declining at an alarming rate. The Trust Area holds the highest density of species of concern in the country, making the region locally, nationally and globally significant. It also plays an important role in provincial and national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by capturing and storing carbon in natural areas such as forests, soils, mycelium, wetlands, and eelgrass meadows.

Restoration and Adaptive Management: With the climate and biodiversity crises in mind, it has never been more critical to preserve and protect ecosystems in the Trust Area. In addition, there is now an imperative to restore these fragile ecosystems and assist in their recovery due to the cumulative impacts of development and human use of natural resources amidst growing climate change impacts. Restoration can happen in many ways, such as active reforestation or by removing pressures so that nature can recover and adapt on its own. The specific impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises and their policy implications may be difficult to predict in exact detail, timing, and scope. Within this context, Trust Council commits to undertake adaptive management processes across the Trust Area which include regular monitoring, evaluation, and modification of policies and plans, as needed. The establishment and protection of networks of protected areas and unfragmented forest reserves that are large enough to contain and sustain native Trust Area species will also be critical. On small islands, well-connected natural corridors are essential supports for the preservation of biodiverse, healthy ecosystems.

Precautionary and Sustainable Stewardship: With responsible, precautionary stewardship and sustainable, regenerative use, ecosystems will be more healthy and resilient and better able to support human well-being in a variety of ways. These include, but are not limited to, the provision of clean drinking water, carbon capture and storage, and the safeguarding of local and Indigenous food security and harvesting. Sustainability, in this context, is defined as the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Stewardship, in this context, refers to the responsible use and protection of natural systems, through conservation and sustainable use. In the long term, Trust Council acknowledges that it is far less costly to steward natural systems sustainably than to have to replace or rehabilitate them once they are depleted.

4.1 Environmental Integrity Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.1.1 Trust Council holds that proactive land use planning is essential to the preservation and protection of Trust Area ecosystems. (3.1.1 first bullet)
- 4.1.2 Trust Council holds that protection must be given to the natural processes, habitats, and species of the Trust Area, including those of old forests, Coastal Douglas-fir forests, Coastal Western Hemlock forests, Garry Oak/Arbutus forests, wetlands, open coastal grasslands, the vegetation of dry rocky areas, lakes, streams, estuaries, tidal flats, salt water marshes, drift sectors, lagoons, kelp forests, eelgrass meadows, glass sponge reefs, and spawning areas. (3.1.1 second bullet)
- 4.1.3 Trust Council commits to establishing a network of protected areas throughout the Trust Area, acknowledging that unfragmented connectivity is necessary to preserve ecosystems in their natural state and in sufficient size and distribution to sustain their environmental integrity. (3.1.2)
- 4.1.4 Trust Council shall strive to identify and monitor the cumulative effects of existing and proposed development to avoid detrimental effects on the watersheds, groundwater regions, and the Trust Area's fragile species and their habitats, informed by the best available science and respectful of Indigenous ways of knowing. (3.1.1 third bullet)
- 4.1.5 Trust Council shall strive to identify and monitor the impacts of climate change on ecosystems through climate vulnerability assessments and adaptive management processes that are informed by the best available science and respectful of Indigenous ways of knowing. (new)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 4.1.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify, establish, and maintain a network of protected areas in their planning area that serves to preserve representative ecosystems in their natural state and in sufficient size and distribution to sustain their environmental integrity. (3.1.4)
- 4.1.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify, preserve, protect, and support the restoration, of the following components of their planning area: (3.1.3)
- sensitive ecosystems
 - contiguous, unfragmented forests
 - freshwater networks and groundwater recharge areas
 - eelgrass meadows, sponge glass reefs, kelp forests, and spawning areas
 - species and ecosystems at risk
 - Indigenous cultivation and harvesting areas such as clam gardens, camas meadows, and other areas as identified by First Nations
- 4.1.8 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, regulate land use and development to restrict emissions to air, land, and water. (3.1.5)

- 4.1.9 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify means to reduce climate vulnerability and support climate adaptation measures for ecosystems within their planning area. (new)

Coordination Policies for Trust Council

- 4.1.10 Trust Council shall seek the best available science and traditional ecological knowledge regarding ecosystem preservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable stewardship in the Trust Area through respectful, culturally-sensitive and collaborative approaches with First Nations, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, the Province, other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and communities. (new)
- 4.1.11 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to other government agencies to foster actions, programs, and incentives that: (3.1.9)
- place priority on the integrity of the environment in the Trust Area
 - protect the diversity of native species and habitats in the Trust Area; and
 - prevent pollution of the air, land, freshwater networks, and marine waters of the Trust Area
- 4.1.12 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to other government agencies to:
- regulate and monitor the harvesting of fish, wildlife, and vegetation in the Trust Area so as to protect terrestrial and aquatic species populations and habitats (4.3.1)
 - consult with First Nations, local trust committees, island municipalities, and Trust Area communities prior to decisions regarding regulation of hunting or harvesting of wildlife or vegetation in the Trust Area (4.3.1)
 - consult with First Nations to preserve First Nations' traditional harvesting areas; and (new)
 - to protect, for public use, areas supporting naturally occurring shellfish populations and other marine life, and to establish public shellfish reserves in the Trust Area. (4.3.2)
- 4.1.13 Trust Council shall advocate to the provincial government to enforce standards for the control of emissions polluting the air, lands, and waters of the Trust Area. (3.1.10)
- 4.1.14 Trust Council shall, in cooperation with First Nations, encourage other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, Crown corporations, municipalities, regional districts, non-governmental organizations, property owners and residents, to protect natural areas in the Trust Area through education, stewardship tools, acquisitions, conservation covenants and careful management. (3.1.11)

4.2 Freshwater Stewardship Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.2.1 Trust Council commits to take a precautionary and strategic approach to the stewardship of watershed ecosystems, freshwater networks, and groundwater recharge areas in the Trust Area, in cooperation with First Nations, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, other government agencies, the public, and on the basis of the best available science. (new)
- 4.2.2 It is Trust Council's policy that: (3.3.1)
- the watershed ecosystems, freshwater networks, and groundwater recharge areas of the Trust Area should be identified, protected, and where possible, restored or rehabilitated; and
 - the natural wetlands of the Trust Area, including those in the Agricultural Land Reserve that have not been altered in the past for agriculture, should not be drained, filled, or degraded.
- 4.2.3 It is Trust Council's policy that islands in the Trust Area should be self-sufficient in their supply of freshwater.¹ (4.4.1)
- 4.2.4 It is Trust Council's policy that desalination plans should not be permitted in the Trust Area due to their high energy demands and adverse impacts to coastal and marine ecosystems. (new)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 4.2.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify means to prevent further loss or degradation of watershed ecosystems, freshwater networks, groundwater recharge areas, and freshwater aquatic species at risk in their planning area. (3.3.2)
- 4.2.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, ensure: (4.4.2, 4.4.1)
- that freshwater quality is maintained;
 - that neither the density nor intensity of land use is increased in groundwater regions where the quality or quantity of the supply of freshwater is likely to be inadequate or unsustainable;
 - that existing, anticipated, and seasonal water demand and supply projections are considered and allowed for; and
 - that islands are self-sufficient in their supply of freshwater¹.
- 4.2.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, ensure that freshwater use is not to the detriment of in-stream uses such as: fish and fish habitat uses; Indigenous cultural and spiritual use; aesthetic and recreational uses; and, the maintenance of water quality in lakes, streams, and wetlands. (4.4.3)
- 4.2.8 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, prohibit desalination plants in the Trust Area. (new)

¹ ...with the sole exception of Piers Island which is already piped into the Capital Regional District water supply.

Coordination Policies for Trust Council

- 4.2.9 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to the provincial government, regional districts, improvement districts, and other agencies to enact legislation protecting freshwater sustainability, watershed ecosystems, freshwater networks, groundwater recharge areas, and freshwater aquatic species at risk in the Trust Area, in accordance with the Islands Trust Object. (4.4.6)
- 4.2.10 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to the provincial government to implement property tax incentives for the retention of groundwater and watershed recharge areas and freshwater wetlands in the Trust Area. (4.4.5)
- 4.2.11 Trust Council shall encourage, educate, and advocate to government agencies and non-governmental organizations, property owners, residents, and visitors to adopt water conservation practices in the Trust Area, including through the use of innovative technologies such as rainwater harvesting, above-ground water cisterns, alternative sewage disposal systems, reuse of water, the treatment and use of grey water, and the use of water saving devices. (4.4.4, 4.4.7)
- 4.2.12 Trust Council shall encourage government agencies, non-governmental organizations, property owners, residents, and visitors to protect watershed ecosystems through voluntary donations, acquisitions, conservation covenants, and careful management. (3.3.3)

4.3 Forest Stewardship Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.3.1 Trust Council commits to take a precautionary and strategic approach to the stewardship of forest ecosystems in the Trust Area, in cooperation with First Nations, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, other government agencies, the public, and on the basis of the best available science. (new)
- 4.3.2 It is Trust Council's policy that:
- forest ecosystems in the Trust Area should be protected; (3.2.1)
 - the remaining stands of relatively undisturbed Coastal Douglas-fir, Coastal Western Hemlock, Garry Oak, and Arbutus, and their associated ecosystems, should be preserved and protected; (3.2.1)
 - forest cover is a representative characteristic of the Trust Area and should be maintained; and (4.2.4)
 - the aesthetic value of forest land should be protected. (4.2.5)
- 4.3.3 It is Trust Council's policy that forest harvesting in the Trust Area should be limited, small-scale, sustainable, regenerative, supportive of climate action, respectful of Indigenous harvesting areas, and protective of the environmental integrity of the Trust Area. (new, replacing 4.2.1 - 4.2.2)
- 4.3.4 It is Trust Council's policy that management plans related to sustainable forest harvesting in the Trust Area should include appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to uphold the long-term environmental integrity of forest ecosystems, and should preserve and protect the inherent rights of First Nations to harvest forest resources for cultural purposes. (4.2.3 + new)
- 4.3.5 It is Trust Council's policy that the clear-cutting of forests and logging of old-growth trees is inappropriate anywhere in the Trust Area, acknowledging the multiple adverse impacts these activities incur on the fragile ecosystems, environmental integrity, and carbon capture and storage potential of the Trust Area. (new)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 4.3.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, prioritize the environmental integrity of the Trust Area by protecting unfragmented forest ecosystems, on a scale of forest stands and landscapes, from the potentially adverse impacts of growth, development and land use. (3.2.2, 4.2.6)
- 4.3.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, retain large land holdings and parcel sizes to enable sustainable forest harvesting practices and direct the location of roads and utility corridors to minimize the fragmentation of forests. (4.2.7)
- 4.3.8 Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities shall, in their Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws, designate protected forest ecosystem reserves where the preservation of native biodiversity and corridors is especially critical and where there should be no extraction. (4.2.8)

Coordination Policies for Trust Council

- 4.3.9 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to the provincial government to grant Islands Trust the necessary jurisdictional authority to preserve and protect forest ecosystems, including:
- legislation to prohibit clear-cutting and logging of old-growth in the Trust Area; and
 - authority to regulate tree cutting in the Trust Area. (new)
- 4.3.10 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to the provincial government to adopt legislation establishing sustainable forest harvesting practices that protect environmental integrity on a scale of forest stands and landscapes by preserving, protection, and restoring: (4.2.11)
- the diversity of forest structure and composition;
 - the physical, chemical, and biotic diversity of soils;
 - natural aquatic and wetland ecosystems;
 - the full range of natural habitats in the forest landscape, including old-growth; and
 - connectivity of forest habitats sufficient for the dispersal needs of native species.
- 4.3.11 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to the provincial government to:
- implement engagement mechanisms that ensure the full and meaningful participation of First Nations and Trust Area communities in decisions concerning the use of forest lands; (4.2.9)
 - provide education and extension programs to promote sustainable forest harvesting and the protection of forest ecosystems; (4.2.10)
 - adopt statutes and guidelines to reduce invasive non-native species in forest ecosystems; (4.2.12)
 - designate forest ecosystem reserves where no extraction shall take place in order to promote the preservation of native biodiversity; (4.2.13)
 - require that applicants identify the protective actions needed to maintain sustainable forest land use and environmental integrity, prior to approval of tree cutting plans; and (4.2.14)
 - implement property tax incentives for the practice of sustainable forest harvesting. (4.2.15)
- 4.3.12 Trust Council shall encourage the Province, when developing specific forest tenures, to assign to Trust Council or to the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, the holding of areas not to be harvested. (4.2.16)
- 4.3.13 Trust Council shall encourage government agencies, non-governmental organizations, property owners, residents, and visitors to protect forest ecosystems through voluntary donations, acquisitions, conservation covenants, and careful management. (3.2.3)

4.4. Agricultural Land Stewardship Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.4.1 Trust Council commits to take a precautionary and strategic approach to the stewardship of agricultural lands in the Trust Area, in cooperation with First Nations, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, other government agencies, the public, and on the basis of the best available science. (new)
- 4.4.2 It is Trust Council's policy that agricultural activity in the Trust Area should be small-scale, sustainable, regenerative, supportive of climate action, respectful of Indigenous harvesting areas, and protective of the environmental integrity of the Trust Area. (new, 4.1.2, 4.1.3)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 4.4.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify and preserve appropriate areas for agricultural land to support small-scale, sustainable, regenerative agriculture, while carefully considering downstream impacts, wildlife habitat, and adjacent properties. (4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.6)
- 4.4.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, direct the location and construction of roads and utility corridors to minimize fragmentation of agricultural lands. (4.1.7 simplified)
- 4.4.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, encourage sustainable farming consider and land uses and activities that support the economic viability of farms without compromising the agricultural capability of agricultural land. (4.1.5, 4.1.8)

Coordination Policies for Trust Council

- 4.4.6 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to the provincial government to ensure:
- that where a road must sever agricultural land to provide access to lands beyond, the road is built to the minimum standard necessary to service that land; (4.1.10)
 - that farming in the Agricultural Land Reserves in the Trust Area does not adversely impact Indigenous food security and traditional harvesting practices, cultural heritage, or the environmental integrity of protected area networks in the Trust Area; (new)
 - that legislation, guidelines, and incentives are established to support local farmers in adopting the highest standards of environmental protection of ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and native species diversity, in accordance with the Islands Trust Object; (new)
 - that support is given to small-scale sustainable farmers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions emanating from agriculture and adapt to climate variability in the Trust Area; (new)
 - retain a separate farm class to provide property tax incentives; (4.1.12)
 - that the threshold for farm income necessary for farm class status is appropriate to the small scale of sustainable agriculture within the Trust Area; and (4.1.12)
 - that the total land area subject to the farm class may include land that is left uncultivated to protect environmental integrity. (4.1.12)

4.5 Soil and Mineral Stewardship Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.5.1 Trust Council holds that the preservation and protection of healthy and productive soils is integral to the environmental integrity, food security, and carbon capture and storage capacity of the Trust Area. (new)
- 4.5.2 It is Trust Council's policy that there should be no extraction of peat, metals, minerals, or petroleum resources in the Trust Area. (4.6.1)
- 4.5.3 It is Trust Council's policy that there should be no extraction of aggregate from the foreshore or the sea floor of the Trust Area. (4.6.2)
- 4.5.4 It is Trust Council's policy that there should be no removal or excavation of soil or fill from middens or foreshore areas that have been identified as culturally significant areas. (new)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 4.5.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their regulatory bylaws related to soil removal and deposit, include policies that foster the preservation, protection, and restoration of productive soils in the Trust Area. (4.6.3)

4.6 Coastal and Marine Stewardship Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.6.1 Trust Council commits to take a precautionary and strategic approach to the stewardship of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Trust Area, in cooperation with First Nations, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, other government agencies, the public, and on the basis of the best available science. (new)
- 4.6.2 It is Trust Council's policy that coastal and marine food harvesting and aquaculture in the Trust Area should be small-scale, sustainable, regenerative, supportive of climate action, respectful of Indigenous harvesting areas, and protective of the environmental integrity of the Trust Area. (new/4.5.1)
- 4.6.3 It is Trust Council's policy that development, activity, buildings, or structures should not result in a loss of significant marine or coastal habitat, restrict public access to, from or along the marine shoreline, or interfere with natural coastal processes. (4.5.3, 4.5.4)
- 4.6.4 It is Trust Council's policy that development should be directed to sites away from: (4.5.5)
- areas of environmental sensitivity;
 - areas of naturally occurring stocks of clams or oysters; and
 - First Nations' traditional harvesting areas, middens, and other archaeologically significant resources.
- 4.6.5 It is Trust Council's policy that aquaculture should be directed to sites away from: (4.5.6)
- areas of recreational significance;
 - areas where an aquaculture operation would conflict with established or designated upland land uses; and
 - areas where an aquaculture operation would conflict with established or designated anchorage or moorage.
- 4.6.6 It is Trust Council's policy that aquaculture related development, activity, buildings, or structures should not result in site alteration including, but not limited to, substrate modification or the use of metal pipes or plates. (4.5.7)
- 4.6.7 It is Trust Council's policy that the following restrictions are necessary in order to preserve and protect the sensitive coastal and marine waters of the Trust Area:
- artificial reefs should not be developed;² (3.4.3)
 - finfish farms should not be permitted; (4.5.2)
 - seawalls and other hard shoreline armouring should not be developed; (new)
 - private docks should be limited to boat access only properties; (new)
 - freighter anchorage sites in the Southern Gulf Islands should be eliminated; and (new)
 - oil tankers should not be permitted to transit through Trust Area waters. (new)

² Interpretive Note: Small scale habitat enhancement structures known as 'reef balls', which are placed in marine areas with the approval of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, are not considered to be artificial reefs for the purposes of this policy.

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 4.6.8 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify appropriate locations for marine dependent land uses and means to prevent further loss or degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems in their planning area. (3.4.4, 4.5.8)
- 4.6.9 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, include policies that preserve, protect, and support the restoration of seagrass meadows and kelp beds, acknowledging their multifaceted roles in supporting carbon capture and storage, soft shoreline protection, and the provision of habitats and spawning areas for coastal and marine aquatic species. (new)
- 4.6.10 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, direct the location of buildings and structures such that they do not: (4.5.5, 4.5.10)
- adversely impact sensitive coastal and marine ecosystems, naturally occurring stocks of shellfish, spawning areas, kelp forests, seagrass meadows, middens, or archaeological sites;
 - interfere with natural coastal processes;
 - restrict First Nations' access to traditional coastal and marine harvesting sites;
 - restrict public access to, from, or along the marine shoreline
- 4.6.11 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, direct the location and operation of commercial aquaculture tenures away from:
- areas of cultural, spiritual, archaeological, or recreational significance;
 - areas where an aquaculture operation would conflict with established or designated upland land uses, anchorages or moorages. (new, based on 4.5.6)
- 4.6.12 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, direct the location, size, and nature of marinas such that they do not compromise the environmental integrity of the coastal and marine environment, Indigenous cultural heritage, or community character in their planning area. (4.5.9)
- 4.6.13 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify opportunities for the sharing of facilities such as docks, wharves, floats, jetties, boathouses, boardwalks, and causeways. (4.5.11)
- 4.6.14 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, prohibit private docks except where properties are boat access only. (new)
- 4.6.15 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, consider the current and anticipated impacts of sea level rise and determine shoreline buffers and setbacks accordingly. (new)
- 4.6.16 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, prohibit the use of seawalls and other hard shoreline armouring in the Trust Area and include policies that foster soft shoreline protection. (new)

Coordination Policies for Trust Council

4.6.17 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to federal and provincial government agencies to:

- establish a network of protected coastal and marine areas and implement statutes and guidelines for sustainable coastal zone management (3.4.2)
- adopt legislation establishing sustainable aquaculture practices that protect environmental integrity and First Nations rights to traditional shellfish harvesting in the Salish Sea; (new)
- develop existing and new programs such as “harvest refugia”, which protect and enhance the populations of native marine species of the Trust Area; (3.4.6)
- research the impacts of the introduction of new marine species into the coastal and marine waters of the Trust Area before such species are introduced; (3.4.7)
- prohibit finfish farms in the marine waters of the Trust Area; (4.5.2)
- prohibit the development of artificial reefs in the Trust Area². (3.4.3)

4.6.18 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to federal and provincial government agencies to:

- develop legislation to regulate sewage discharge from shoreline areas and boats; and (3.4.8)
- support the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels, plastics, ghost fishing gear, and other marine debris from the sensitive coastal and marine waters of the Trust Area; (new)
- eliminate and prohibit the use of commercial freighter anchorage sites in the Trust Area, acknowledging the multiple adverse impacts this practice incurs on the sensitive coastal and marine ecosystems, environmental integrity, and carbon capture and storage potential in the Trust Area; and (new)
- prohibit oil tankers from transiting through the sensitive coastal and marine waters of the Trust Area. (new)

PART 5: HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION (new)

GOAL: To Preserve and Protect Natural, Cultural, and Community Heritage in the Trust Area

CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Area is a place of exceptional cultural heritage and has been home to the BOKEĆEN, K'ómoks, Lək'wəḡən, Lyackson, MÁLEXET, Qualicum, Quw'utsun Tribes, scəwəθən məsteyəxʷ, Scia'new, səliłwətaḡt, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Spune'luxutth, SÁUTW, Stz'uminus, ɬaḡəmen, toq qaymıxʷ, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOŁŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwxu/ḡop qaymıxʷ, and xʷməθkʷəḡəm Peoples since time immemorial. The relationship of First Nations to these lands, waters, and place is intrinsically linked to the preservation and protection of the Trust Area.

Heritage Preservation: Trust Council recognizes heritage as a 'unique amenity' of the Trust Area that is to be preserved and protected under the Islands Trust Object. In this context, heritage includes places, objects, knowledge, artistic expressions, or events that are of historical, cultural, aesthetic, educational, or scientific significance. In the Trust Area, heritage preservation includes the Indigenous cultural heritage of First Nations who have called these lands and waters home since time immemorial, in addition to the extraordinary natural landscapes and community heritage buildings on each island.

Indigenous Cultural Heritage: Indigenous cultural heritage in the Trust Area includes, but is not limited to, areas utilized and occupied by Indigenous Peoples such as village sites, cultural and spiritual areas, known and unknown archaeological areas, objects and artifacts, culturally modified trees, cultivation areas, harvesting areas on land and marine foreshores, fish weirs and clam gardens, medicinal plants and culturally significant species and landmarks. Indigenous cultural heritage also includes ancestral loved ones' resting places, trees used for burial boxes, cairns, caves used for cultural purposes, petroglyphs and pictographs, and place names. First Nations have an inherent right to identify their own cultural heritage, interpret its meaning, and safeguard its value. This inherent right exists outside of the colonial frameworks that have traditionally regulated and defined heritage.

Community Heritage:

Community heritage in the Trust Area can include buildings, settlement areas, places, objects, artistic expressions, or events identified by the community as having heritage character or heritage value to the community, to be protected for future generations.

Natural Heritage:

Natural heritage in the Trust Area is understood to include natural features, geological and physiographical formations, and delineated natural areas which are of outstanding universal value from an aesthetic, conservation, or scientific perspective.

5.1 Heritage Preservation and Protection Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 5.1.1 Trust Council holds that the preservation, protection, and restoration of natural, cultural, and community heritage in the Trust Area is essential to the Islands Trust Object and must be guided by meaningful, respectful, and culturally sensitive engagement with First Nations. (5.6.1)
- 5.1.2 It is Trust Council's policy that local and regional planning decisions should not incur adverse impacts to the natural heritage, Indigenous cultural heritage, or community heritage in the Trust Area. (new)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 5.1.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify, preserve, protect, and support the restoration of natural heritage sites in their planning area. (new)
- 5.1.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify, preserve, protect, and support the restoration of Indigenous cultural heritage in their planning area in cooperation with First Nations and other government agencies. (5.6.3)
- 5.1.5 Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities shall, in their Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws, identify, preserve, protect, and support the restoration of local community heritage in their planning area. (5.6.2)

Coordination Policies for Trust Council

- 5.1.6 Trust Council shall engage with First Nations, First Nation organizations and societies, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and Trust Area communities to seek the best available archaeological inventory data, Indigenous Knowledge, and local knowledge regarding natural heritage, Indigenous cultural heritage, and local community heritage in the Trust Area. (new)
- 5.1.7 Trust Council shall engage and advocate to other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, property owners, residents, and visitors with educational materials and tools to help preserve and protect natural heritage, Indigenous cultural heritage, and local community heritage in the Trust Area. (new)
- 5.1.8 Trust Council shall encourage other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, property owners and residents to protect natural, cultural, and community heritage in the Trust Area through tax incentive programs, voluntary donations, acquisitions, conservation covenants and careful management. (new)

PART 6: SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

GOAL: To Foster Sustainable and Resilient Communities in the Trust Area

CONTEXT:

Sustainability and Resilience: Sustainable and resilient communities can be understood to be communities that are able to meet their own needs and adapt to new environmental, social, and economic pressures without compromising the integrity of the environment or the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Resilience, in this context, refers to the capacity of communities to continue to function in the face of external stressors such as climate change, while also learning to adapt, reorganize and evolve into new modes of sustainability.

Rural Island Planning: Islands within the Trust Area are rural and contrast markedly with surrounding urban areas, as do their respective resident communities. Traditional land use planning approaches are often ill-suited or insufficient in addressing the limited carrying capacities of Trust Area ecosystems or the higher standards of environmental integrity mandated by the Islands Trust Object. In the face of the climate emergency and housing crisis throughout the Province, business as usual is no longer viable. The climate and biodiversity crises are compromising the sustainability and resilience of communities and the ecosystems they depend on in unprecedented ways. It is also increasingly difficult for people from differing age groups and income levels to find safe, secure, and affordable housing in the region. In order to respond to these crises and safeguard the sustainability and resilience of Trust Area communities, Trust Council needs to advance integrated approaches that address the vulnerabilities of rural island communities while also safeguarding the environmental integrity and cultural heritage that make the Trust Area so special.

Regional and Localized Approaches: Underpinning the Islands Trust regional governance approach is a strong acknowledgment that a degree of local autonomy supports effective governance in the Trust Area. Each island within the Trust Area has unique characteristics and has developed in its own unique way over the years. While the preeminent duty of all locally elected officials is to uphold the Islands Trust Object and regional mandate in all aspects of local planning and decision-making, they are to do so in a way that is sensitive and suitable to local circumstances, and guided by open, consultative public participation.

6.1 Rural Island Planning Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 6.1.1 It is Trust Council's policy that the rural characteristics of islands in the Trust Area, including the scenic value of rural landscapes, opportunities for nature connection, and low levels of noise and light pollution, are unique amenities that are to be preserved and protected in accordance with the Islands Trust Object. (5.1.1-5.1.3)
- 6.1.2 Trust Council shall strive to identify and monitor the impacts of climate change on Trust Area communities through climate vulnerability assessments and adaptive management approaches that are informed by the best available science and respectful of Indigenous ways of knowing. (new)
- 6.1.3 It is Trust Council's policy that growth, residential and commercial development, and economic opportunities in the Trust Area should be small scale, sustainable, climate resilient, and in alignment with the Islands Trust Object. (5.2.1, 5.7.1)
- 6.1.4 It is Trust Council's policy that recreational activities, trails, and active transportation networks in the Trust Area should be small scale, sustainable, and should not compromise the integrity of protected areas, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, or Indigenous cultural heritage. (5.5.1)
- 6.1.5 Trust Council holds that destination gaming facilities such as casinos and commercial bingo halls are not appropriate to and should not be located in the Trust Area. (5.5.2)
- 6.1.6 Trust Council holds that there should be public access, on each island in the Trust Area, to beaches and areas of recreational significance, while not compromising Indigenous cultural heritage or First Nations access to coastal and marine harvesting areas. (5.5.5)
- 6.1.7 Trust Council holds that open, consultative public participation, is vital to effective decision-making in the Trust Area. (5.8.1-5.8.2)
- 6.1.8 Trust Council holds that island communities within the Trust Area are themselves best able to determine the most effective local government structure to support their local autonomy and specific community needs in accordance with the Islands Trust Object. (5.8.3)
- 6.1.9 Trust Council holds that island municipalities shall, in all of their actions, have regard for the Islands Trust Policy Statement and the Islands Trust Object. (5.8.4)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 6.1.10 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in the development and implementation of official community plans and regulatory bylaws, provide opportunities for public engagement and collaboration. (5.8.2)
- 6.1.11 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, prioritize the protection of views, tree cover, scenic areas and distinctive features contributing to the overall visual quality and scenic value of the Trust Area. (5.1.3, 5.2.2)

- 6.1.12 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, include policies related to the aesthetic, environmental, and social impacts of development. (5.2.3)
- 6.1.13 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, ensure that land use is compatible with preservation and protection of the environment, natural amenities, resources, and community character. (5.2.4)
- 6.1.14 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, strive for efficient and sustainable use of the land base without exceeding density limits defined in their official community plans. (5.2.5)
- 6.1.15 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify areas hazardous to development, including areas subject to flooding, erosion or slope instability, and strategies to direct development away from such hazards. (5.2.6)
- 6.1.16 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify appropriate locations, types, and safe public access to:
- recreational facilities;
 - bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian trail systems; and
 - community marinas, boat launches, docks, and anchorages that are small scale, sustainable, and that do not compromise the integrity of protected areas, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, Indigenous cultural heritage, or Indigenous access to coastal and marine harvesting areas. (5.5.4-5.5.7)
- 6.1.17 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, prohibit destination gaming facilities such as casinos and commercial bingo halls. (5.5.3)
- 6.1.18 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, include policies addressing economic opportunities that are compatible with sustainability and protection of community character. (5.7.2)
- 6.1.19 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, include policies addressing their community's long-term needs for educational, institutional, community, and health-related facilities and services, as well as cultural and recreational facilities and services. (5.8.6)
- 6.1.20 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify means to reduce the climate vulnerability of communities, including by prioritizing:
- protection of the carbon capture and storage capacity of natural areas;
 - low-carbon housing, buildings, transportation, and agriculture;
 - preservation, protection, and restoration of biodiversity;
 - groundwater sustainability;
 - shoreline and foreshore protections; and
 - wildfire risk mitigation (new)

Coordination Policies for Trust Council

- 6.1.21 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to regional districts, improvement districts, and provincial and federal government agencies to understand and adapt policies and support systems to safeguard the rural island nature, sustainability, and resilience of Trust Area communities, in accordance with the Islands Trust Object. (new)
- 6.1.22 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to government agencies, non-governmental organizations, property owners, residents, and visitors to help develop and adopt evidence-based climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, action plans, and measures that are appropriate to the unique strengths and vulnerabilities of rural islands in the Trust Area. (new)
- 6.1.23 Trust Council shall encourage provincial government agencies to work with local communities through public consultation processes to evaluate and modify road construction and road system proposals to encompass the environmental, economic, and social values of the community. (5.3.9)
- 6.1.24 Trust Council shall encourage property owners, residents, and visitors to reduce the burning of wood and fossil fuels by adopting sustainable alternative technologies. (5.1.4)
- 6.1.25 Trust Council shall encourage government agencies, non-governmental agencies, property owners, residents, and visitors to use renewable sources of energy within the Trust Area. (5.8.8)

6.2 Housing Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 6.2.1 Trust Council holds that community sustainability and resilience are supported by the availability of diverse housing options that cater to a range of age groups and income levels, and that respect the environmental integrity, Indigenous cultural heritage, and carrying capacity of islands in the Trust Area. (5.8.6)
- 6.2.2 Trust Council holds that where residential development must occur, it should be compact, energy-efficient, and appropriately situated in order to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, safeguard protected area networks, sustainably steward groundwater regions, and preserve and protect Indigenous cultural heritage in the Trust Area. (new)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 6.2.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, ensure that development, of any scale or for any purpose, prioritizes the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, safeguards protected area networks, respects the carrying capacity of groundwater regions, and protects Indigenous cultural heritage. (new)
- 6.2.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, strive to address housing needs by identifying appropriate locations where density increases to support safe, secure, and affordable housing developments would not adversely impact protected area networks, Indigenous cultural heritage, or the carrying capacity of groundwater regions. (new)
- 6.2.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify and assess the impacts of short term rentals of residential dwellings on the availability of safe, secure, and affordable housing in their planning area and, where necessary, regulate and limit the number of short term rentals accordingly. (new)
- 6.2.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify appropriate floor area and lot coverage limits for new residential development in their planning area, in order to effectively minimize greenhouse gas emissions, cumulative effects, biodiversity loss, climate vulnerability, and destruction of Indigenous cultural heritage. (new)

Coordination Policies for Trust Council

- 6.2.7 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and property owners, to foster safe, secure, and affordable housing in the Trust Area, in alignment within the Islands Trust Object, and respectful of protected area networks, Indigenous cultural heritage, and the carrying capacity of groundwater regions. (new)
- 6.2.8 Trust Council shall advocate to other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and property owners to foster safe, secure, and affordable housing for Indigenous Peoples in the Trust Area, in alignment with the Islands Trust Object and respectful of protected area networks, Indigenous cultural heritage, and the carrying capacity of groundwater regions. (new)

6.3 Transportation Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 6.3.1 Trust Council holds that community sustainability and resilience are supported by appropriately situated public and active transportation networks that serve to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote health and well-being. (new)
- 6.3.2 Trust Council holds that no island in the Trust Area should be connected to Vancouver Island, the mainland or another island by a bridge or tunnel³. (5.3.2)
- 6.3.3 Trust Council holds that local trust committees and island municipalities should be consulted and involved in decision-making related to the provision of transportation and ferry services, utilities, or facilities that may affect the sustainability and resilience of communities in their planning areas. (5.3.1)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 6.3.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, foster the establishment of appropriately situated public and active transportation networks, including but not limited to bicycle paths and other local and inter-community transportation systems that reduce dependency on private automobile use. (5.3.7)
- 6.3.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, strive to ensure that road location, design, construction, and systems do not adversely impact the integrity of protected area networks, contiguous forests, freshwater networks, groundwater regions, agricultural lands, coastal and marine areas, or Indigenous cultural heritage in the Trust Area. (5.3.5)
- 6.3.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, develop a classification system of rural roadways, including scenic or heritage road designations, in recognition of the Islands Trust Object. (5.3.4)
- 6.3.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify appropriate areas for the landing of emergency helicopters. (5.3.6)

Coordination Policies for Trust Council

- 6.3.8 Trust Council shall advocate to provincial and federal agencies to ensure safe shipment of materials that are hazardous to the environment. (5.3.8)
- 6.3.9 Trust Council shall coordinate provincial government agencies and local communities to work together to evaluate and modify road construction, road system proposals, and active transportation networks to address the needs of rural island communities in the Trust Area. (5.3.9)
- 6.3.10 Trust Council shall advocate to provincial government agencies in support of the electrification of ferries in the Trust Area. (new)

³ ...with the sole exception of the existing bridge between North and South Pender Islands

6.4 Waste Disposal Policies

Commitments of Trust Council

- 6.4.1 It is Trust Council's policy that it is acceptable for waste originating in the Trust Area to be safely disposed of within the Trust Area. (5.4.1)
- 6.4.2 It is Trust Council's policy that:
- neither hazardous nor industrial waste should be disposed of in the Trust Area;
 - local recycling operations should be established; and
 - local programs for chipping of wood waste and disposal of hazardous wastes should be established. (5.4.2)
- 6.4.3 It is Trust Council's policy that there should be minimal burning of solid waste in the Trust Area. (5.4.3)

Directive Policies for Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

- 6.4.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, identify acceptable locations for the disposal of solid waste. (5.4.4)

Coordination Policies for Trust Council

- 6.4.5 Trust Council shall coordinate and advocate to government agencies, corporations, property owners, and residents to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by reducing waste, and to use innovative technologies and safe alternatives for disposal of sewage effluent. (5.4.5)



Islands Trust

ISLANDS TRUST

POLICY STATEMENT

Commented [DH1]: This annotated version of the 2003 Policy Statement highlights policies that have been significantly moved or excluded in the new draft Policy Statement. Policies or sections that have been removed/excluded have been highlighted in yellow in the comments below. Other amendments/updates to the transferred text and new additions are highlighted in the new document.

CONSOLIDATED - APRIL, 2003

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL

BYLAW NO. 17

**AS AMENDED BY ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL
BYLAW NOS. 42, 48, 53 AND 87**

**THIS BYLAW IS CONSOLIDATED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND IS NOT
TO BE CONSTRUED AS A LEGAL DOCUMENT**

Commented [DH2]: Due to the number of amendments required, the new Policy Statement will be an entirely new Bylaw No. 183 (not a series of amendments to the former Policy Statement)

This copy is consolidated for convenience only and is amended by the following:

Bylaw No.	Amendment No.	Adoption Date
Bylaw No. 42	Amendment No. 1/96	November 4, 1996
Bylaw No. 48	Amendment No. 1/97	March 6, 1998
Bylaw No. 53	Amendment No. 1/98	December 4, 1998
Bylaw No. 87	Amendment No. 1/02	December 6, 2002

Commented [DH3]: The new Policy Statement will be a new Bylaw No. 183

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL

BYLAW NO. 17

A BYLAW TO ADOPT A POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE TRUST AREA

The Islands Trust Council, having jurisdiction in respect of the Trust Area in the Province of British Columbia pursuant to the *Islands Trust Act* S.B.C. 1989 c.68, enacts as follows:

TITLE

1. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "The Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw, 1993".

APPLICATION

2. This Bylaw applies to the Trust Area, as defined in Schedule A of the *Islands Trust Act* S.B.C. 1989 c.68.

ORGANIZATION

3. Parts I, II, III, IV, and V and Schedule 1 of the "Islands Trust Policy Statement" attached to and forming part of the bylaw are hereby adopted as the trust policy statement pursuant to S.13(1) of the *Islands Trust Act*.

READINGS

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 31ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 1993

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 31ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 1993

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 31ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 1993

APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS PURSUANT TO SECTION 13(2)(c) OF THE *ISLANDS TRUST ACT* THIS 9TH DAY OF JUNE, 1994

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED THIS 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 1994

Gordon McIntosh
Secretary

Graeme Dinsdale
Chairperson

Commented [DH4]: The new Policy Statement will be a new Bylaw No. 183

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL BYLAW NO. 17: A BYLAW TO ADOPT A POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE TRUST AREA

Commented [DH5]:

A new Table of Contents and slightly amended organizational structure to the new Policy Statement document strives for a more streamlined and efficiently categorized approach, with new sections devoted to Heritage and Housing. Significant changes include:

- Introduction sections now included as Part 1 of the bylaw
- Moved 'The Islands Trust Object and its Meaning' to Part 1 'Introduction'
- Updated Part 2 'Purpose and Implementation'
- New Part 3 on 'Regional Governance' including former 'Guiding Principles for Trust Council'
- Updated Part 4 including consolidation of 'Ecosystem Preservation and Protection' policies with former 'Stewardship of Resources' policies
- New Part 5 on 'Heritage Preservation and Protection'
- Updated Part 6 'Sustainable and Resilient Communities' including new section on Housing Policies

INTRODUCTION.....	i
HISTORY AND CONTEXT	i
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLANDS TRUST POLICY STATEMENT	iii
LOCATION OF THE TRUST AREA	iv
PART I: PURPOSE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRUST POLICY STATEMENT	1
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	1
Role of the Minister of Community Services.....	1
Role of the Islands Trust Council.....	2
Role of the Executive Committee	3
Role of Local Trust Committees	3
Role of Island Municipalities	3
Role of the Islands Trust Fund Board	3
Role of Other Government and Non-Government Organizations	4
Role of First Nations	4
Role of Property Owners, Residents and Visitors	4
AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW	4
PART II: THE ISLANDS TRUST'S OBJECT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES	5
THE ISLANDS TRUST OBJECT AND ITS MEANING	5
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	6
PART III: ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION.....	7
POLICIES FOR ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION	7
3.1 Ecosystems	7
3.2 Forest Ecosystems	9
3.3 Freshwater and Wetland Ecosystems and Riparian Zones	9
3.4 Coastal and Marine Ecosystems	10
PART IV: STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES.....	11
POLICIES FOR STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES	11
4.1 Agricultural Land.....	11
4.2 Forests	12
4.3 Wildlife and Vegetation	14
4.4 Freshwater Resources.....	14
4.5 Coastal Areas and Marine Shorelands.....	15
4.6 Soils and Other Resources.....	16
PART V: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	17
POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	17
5.1 Aesthetic Qualities	17
5.2 Growth and Development.....	17
5.3 Transportation and Utilities	18

5.4	Disposal of Waste.....	19
5.5	Recreation	19
5.6	Cultural and Natural Heritage	20
5.7	Economic Opportunities	21
5.8	Health and Well-being	21
SCHEDULE I.....		22
DEFINITIONS		22

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND CONTEXT

History of the Trust Area

The “Trust Area” encompasses, generally, the islands and waters between the Mainland and British Columbia and Southern Vancouver Island, with the exception of lands and waters within adjacent municipal boundaries and boundaries of Indian Reserves.

The Trust Area is a unique and special place -- a scenic archipelago of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands. The Area is drier and warmer than most surrounding areas, and is rich in resources and cultural history. The Trust Area provides habitats for an exceptional variety of species: more than 200 types of migratory and resident birds, numerous species of fish and diverse marine and intertidal life, terrestrial wildlife and vegetation. Outstanding scenery and recreational resources include panoramic viewpoints, sheltered bays with warm sand or pebble beaches and protected marine waterways and anchorages that contribute to the Trust Areas beauty and appeal.

This unique combination of resources and amenities has attracted people to the Trust Area since the end of the Ice Age. Aboriginal peoples used the Area extensively for summer encampments and for fishing, hunting and berry-picking. Sunny valleys and suitable soils later supported homesteading and agriculture-related settlement. Eventually, the traditional activities of fishing and shellfish harvesting were supplemented by more extensive farming, logging, recreation-related activities and, most recently, increased residential settlement.

Surrounding areas have also attracted growing populations. By 1960s, 50 per cent of the total population of British Columbia resided in areas adjacent to the Trust Area. Pressure for residential development of islands in the Trust Area escalated. In 1969, when it became apparent that the Trust Area’s highly-valued environment could be irreversibly damaged by unrestrained residential development, the provincial government imposed a temporary freeze on subdivision of land until the island communities could adopt plans and regulations to control growth.

Establishment of the Islands Trust

The significance and sensitivity of the Trust Area, and the need for protective measures was internationally recognized more than 20 years ago. In 1973, an International Joint Commission proposed that the islands and waters adjacent to the British Columbia-Washington State border be protected as an international park in order to maintain water quality and to preserve and protect marine and land-based wildlife habitats and archaeological and historical sites.

At the same time, concerns were being raised at the provincial level. In 1972 an all-party special committee of the legislature was established to investigate the unique problems facing the Trust Area. The committee concluded that pressures arising from the Area’s proximity to major urban centres were damaging the very features that made the Trust Area so attractive to residents and visitors.

In response to these findings, the provincial government enacted the *Islands Trust Act* in 1974. The Act established the Islands Trust as a unique land-use planning agency, acting for residents of both the Trust Area and the province generally, and having a special conservation-oriented responsibility - to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.

Commented [DH6]: Moved to 1.5 Location of the Trust Area and updated

Commented [DH7]: Removed inaccurate and offensive language related to the history of First Nations in the area.

Commented [DH8]: Moved to 1.2 Establishment of the Islands Trust

Increasing Pressure and Amendments to the *Islands Trust Act*

Pressure for development of the Trust Area islands continued. Between 1974 and 1987, the Area's resident population increased by 60 per cent, far exceeding the growth rate of adjacent areas. Several amendments were made to the Act during this period, giving the Islands Trust community planning and land-use authority comparable to that of a regional district under the *Municipal Act*. Aware of the urgent need for plans to guide decisions on growth management and land-use, the Trust Area's island communities developed Official Community Plans. Pressure for residential development continued, however, as did public concern for the future of the Trust Area.

In 1987, the provincial government initiated a second review related to the Trust Area. That review focused on public opinion of the Islands Trust and its role. The results showed overwhelming public support for both the Islands Trust and its object, and suggested ways in which the Trust and its legislation could be strengthened. In response, a redrafted *Islands Trust Act* was put into effect in 1990, reaffirming the Province's commitment to careful planning and development in the Trust Area. In the redrafted Act, the Islands Trust retained its original authority and its dual responsibility to both Trust Area residents and other British Columbians. The new legislation also amended the structure of the Islands Trust and greatly broadened its functions and responsibilities.¹ One of the most notable changes was the assignment of a regional-level planning function to the Islands Trust Council.

Commented [DH9]: Simplified and combined with 1.2 Establishment of the Islands Trust

Present Context

The Trust Area is situated in the heart of the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound bioregion. Sustainability of the region's physical environment, native species and quality of life are threatened by low-density urban sprawl and rapid population growth.² Approximately five million people presently live in the areas surrounding the Trust Area. Populations on the Lower Mainland, on Southern Vancouver Island and around Puget Sound are growing much more rapidly than in other regions of the United States and Canada.³ Projections indicate that if trends continue, the total population of the region will double in 25 years to over 10 million.

The Trust Area continues to experience extreme pressure from population growth and tourism. With a population increase of 26 per cent between 1986 and 1991, it is one of the fastest-growing areas in the Province and Canada. Increasing numbers of tourists are also travelling to and through the Trust Area. The number of passengers on the main ferry routes through the Area increased by 44 percent between 1986 and 1992, and by 37 per cent on routes to Trust Area islands. Most visitors come to islands during the summer months when demand for fresh water is highest and water supplies are lowest, placing pressure on limited water supplies.

Public and private concern continues for the long-term well-being of the Trust Area. Increasing numbers of people from the rapidly growing surrounding urban areas can be expected to be attracted to the Trust Area as a place of residence and recreation. Accelerating negative impacts accompanying development in the surrounding urban regions - pollution of air and marine waters, discharge of pulp mill effluent, disposal of waste, ocean dumping and spills associated with marine shipping - threaten the Trust Area's environment, amenities and fragile ecosystems.

Commented [DH10]: Updated and removed time sensitive statistics

Commented [DH11]: GENERAL AMENDMENTS: REMOVED ALL FOOTNOTES except where there was an exception to a policy to be noted. DEFINITIONS were moved to the preamble sections of each chapter for ease of reference and fuller interpretive context. TIME SPECIFIC REFERENCES were removed throughout the document.

¹ The present structure of the Islands Trust and the functions of its corporate bodies are described in a brochure available from the offices of the Islands Trust.

² 1993 report of the BC Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

³ BC Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, Sustainability in the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Region, 1992.

The Challenge

The Islands Trust today faces a major challenge. While populations, numbers of visitors and the demand for intensified use and residential development of the Trust Area can be expected to continue to grow, capacities of the Area's resources and systems are limited. Potential for conflict exists: conflict between short and long-term interests and between unlimited use of the Trust Area and ongoing stewardship.

To keep everything in the Trust Area exactly as it is today is impossible. Changes will occur. If the Area's environment and unique character are to be preserved and protected, priorities must be defined and management strategies established. The *Islands Trust Act* identifies the need for leadership in addressing this task and assigns this role to the Islands Trust. The policies of the Islands Trust established today and in the years ahead will be of fundamental importance to the well-being of this highly valued area.

Commented [DH12]: Updated and moved to Part 3.1 Regional Governance preamble sections

The Islands Trust Policy Statement

The Islands Trust Policy Statement has been developed in response to the need for preservation and protection of the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment, to the need for leadership in achieving this objective, and to the legislated requirements of the *Islands Trust Act*. Goals and policies contained in the Policy Statement reflect values and concerns for the future of the Trust Area expressed by the public and Trust Council's belief that not only this generation, but also future generations, should have the continued opportunity to enjoy the environment and amenities of this very special place.

Commented [DH13]: Simplified and moved to 1.3 Present Context

ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLANDS TRUST POLICY STATEMENT

The Islands Trust Policy Statement is comprised of Islands Trust Council Bylaw No. 17, and Parts I to V and Schedule 1 of that Bylaw. The introduction is not part of the Islands Trust Policy Statement Bylaw, and is intended simply to provide some background related to the Trust Area, the Islands Trust and the context for development of the Policy Statement.

Part I of the document outlines the purpose of the Policy Statement and the means by which it will be implemented. The important roles of individuals, Trust Council, its Executive Committee, Trust Area communities and municipalities, the Islands Trust Fund Board, other government and non-government agencies, First Nations, property owners, residents and visitors, in implementation of the Policy Statement also clarified in Part I.

Part II of the document defines the Islands Trust's legislated object, provides an interpretation of that object, and identifies principles by which the Islands Trust will be guided in fulfillment of its object.

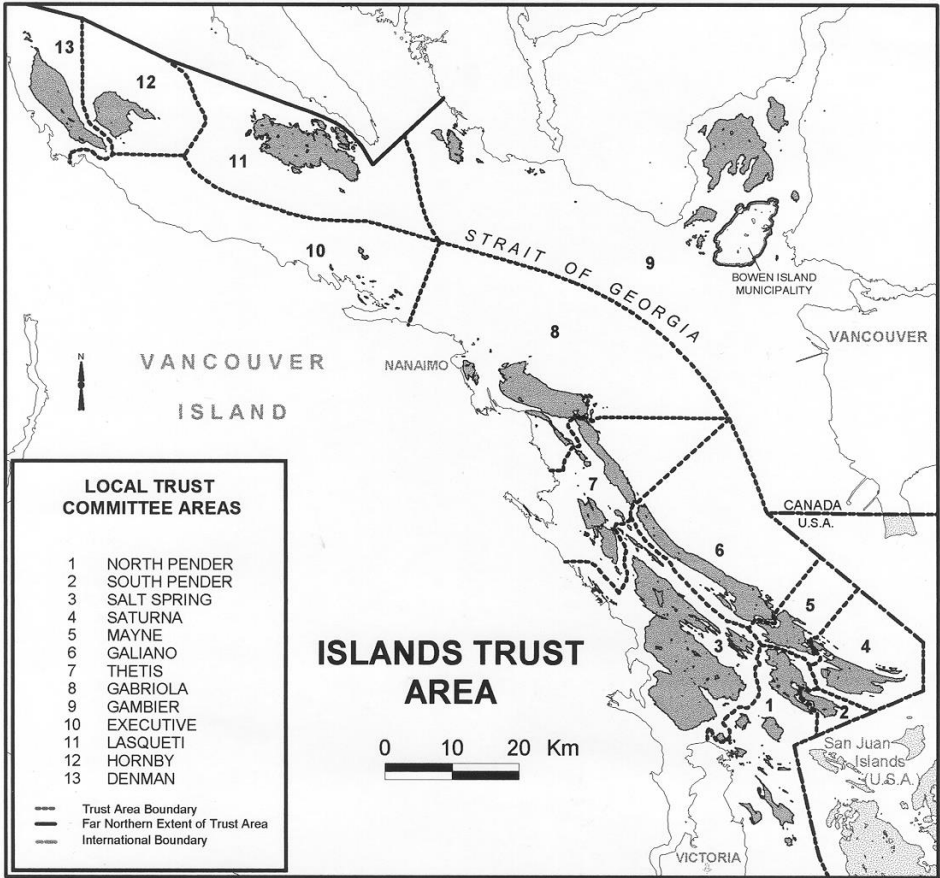
Parts III, IV, and V discuss Trust Council's vision for the future of the Trust Area in terms of goal and policies. Part III focuses on ecosystem preservation and protection, Part IV on stewardship of resources, and Part V on sustainable communities.

Schedule 1 provides definitions for some of the terms used in the document.

Commented [DH14]: REMOVED – extraneous; table of contents provides overview

LOCATION OF THE TRUST AREA

Commented [DH15]: Updated map to reflect 'Salish Sea' and clearer identification of local trust areas and island municipalities



PART I: PURPOSE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRUST POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of the Policy Statement is to establish a vision for the future of the Islands Trust Area that reflects the values of residents of the Trust Area and of the Province generally. Achieving this vision depends on the actions of many stakeholders. The Policy Statement provides a general strategy for land use planning which translates the broad goals of the Province and the Islands Trust into specific actions to preserve¹ and protect² the Trust Area.

The Policy Statement clarifies the positions and policies of the Islands Trust and provides guidance for the formulation of bylaws, plans and policies. It is a document to be utilized by local trust committees and island municipalities when they are formulating local bylaws, by the Executive Committee of Trust Council when it is reviewing plans and bylaws of local trust committees and island municipalities, and by the Province and other agencies when they are reviewing their own plans and policies for compatibility with those of the Islands Trust.

The Policy Statement bylaw becomes effective upon the date of adoption. It is not retroactive and has no effect on any local trust committee or municipal bylaw in effect before its adoption.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Islands Trust Council cannot effectively implement the Policy Statement without the support of all stakeholders. Assistance, cooperation and collaboration are required from local trust committees, island municipalities, the Trust Fund Board, the Provincial Government, other government agencies, non-government organizations, communities, First Nations, property owners, residents and visitors. In the spirit of the legislated object of the Islands Trust, it is expected that all corporate entities of the Islands Trust will consult with other agencies on matters involving potential conflict between the legislated object of the Trust and the legislated mandate of other agencies.

Role of the Minister of Community Services

The Minister approves the bylaw and provides an avenue of appeal for municipalities if neither the Executive Committee nor Trust approves a bylaw that has been submitted to them. And the Minister and Ministry staff can facilitate communication between the Islands Trust and other government agencies on policy matters.

¹ Preserve - to maintain in a given condition. Preservation often requires maintaining the processes that generate the desired condition.

² Protect - to maintain over the long-term by managing, or if necessary limiting, the type and intensity of development or activity to ensure that valued attributes are not compromised or destroyed.

Role of the Islands Trust Council

The *Islands Trust Act* assigns to the Islands Trust Council the responsibility for development and adoption of the Trust Policy Statement. Recognizing the varying roles and responsibilities of the many stakeholders and its own jurisdiction, Trust Council has included three types of policies in the Policy Statement bylaw:

a) Commitments of Trust Council

These policies state the position or philosophy of Trust Council on various matters. For this category of policy, several introductory phrases are used, for example, "Trust Council holds that", "It is the position of Trust Council that", and "It is Trust Council's policy that"

b) Policies that Direct Local Trust Committees and Island Municipalities

These policies direct local trust committees and island municipalities to address³ certain matters in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws. Where a policy requires a local trust committee or island municipality to address a particular matter, the official community plans must contain policies that implement the policy stated by Trust Council, unless the plan sets out explicitly the reasons and justifications for local policies that do not implement that policy. Directive policies commence with the phrase "Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address"

c) Recommendations to Other Government Agencies, Non-Government Organizations, Property Owners, Residents and Visitors

These policies serve as recommendations from Trust Council to government agencies, non-government organizations, property owners, residents and visitors regarding decisions or actions that they might undertake in support of the Policy Statement and the Islands Trust object, and specify principles of guidance for protocol agreements between the Trust and other agencies. These policies begin with the phrase "Trust Council encourages"

Trust Council may review the Policy Statement annually to prioritize actions, assess progress, and consider possible amendments. **Council also serves as an avenue of appeal for local trust committees and island municipalities if a bylaw submitted to the Executive Committee is not approved.**

Commented [DH16]: REMOVED: The term "address" was removed/edited throughout the document such that the specific intent of each policy and directive verbs could be more clearly expressed (without changing the intent or prescriptiveness of the policy). Note definition of 'address' in footnote below.

Commented [DH17]: Updated to "Coordination Policies for Trust Council" to reflect the role Trust Council plays in coordination and/or advocacy; more directive verbs used for clarity.

³ Address - direct attention to matters in a way that implements the policy of Trust Council.

Role of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of Trust Council is required to review all bylaws of local trust committees and those bylaws of island municipalities that deal with the adoption of an official community plan. Such bylaws have no effect unless approved by the Executive Committee, and the Committee cannot approve such a bylaw if it is "contrary to or at variance with" a directive policy. If there is no official community plan in place for an island municipality, then the Executive Committee is required to review all bylaws of the municipality, and no bylaw that is contrary to a directive policy in the Policy Statement can be approved.

The Executive Committee also monitors the progress of Trust Council in achieving the goals defined in the Policy Statement, and makes recommendations to Council in this regard.

Role of Local Trust Committees

As set out in the *Islands Trust Act*, bylaws of local trust committees cannot be "contrary to or at variance with" the Trust Policy Statement. The Policy Statement contains policies that direct local trust committees to address certain matters in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws. While directive policies identify matters that must be addressed in official community plans and regulatory bylaws, such policies do not stipulate the specific policies and regulations to be included because the social and environmental characteristics of the islands vary. However, where a certain policy requires a local trust committee to address a particular matter, the official community plan must contain policies that implement the policy stated by Trust Council or the plan must set out explicitly the reasons and justifications for local policies that do not do so. Each local trust committee works with its island community to develop policies and regulations to suit local needs, while still supporting the Islands Trust object and the Policy Statement. Local trust committees are not required to comply with any policy in the Policy Statement not stated as a directive policy.

Role of Island Municipalities

Municipalities in the Trust Area, like local trust committees, are directed to address certain matters in their official community plans. Where a particular policy requires a municipality to address a particular matter, the official community plan must contain policies that implement the policy stated by Trust Council unless the municipality sets out explicitly in the plan the reasons and justifications for local policies that do not do so.

Role of the Islands Trust Fund Board

The *Islands Trust Act* assigns the Islands Trust object to the Trust Fund Board, as well as to Trust Council and the local trust committees. Although the Board does not take direction from Trust Council, it can support the policies of the Policy Statement through, for example, the acceptance of voluntary donations of property and covenants, the purchase of lands and through education and communication initiatives.

Role of Other Government and Non-Government Organizations

Government agencies and non-government organizations can contribute greatly to the preservation and protection of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area through cooperative actions based on the Policy Statement. Cooperative actions such as protocols and mutually supportive strategies and action plans are necessary for the sustainability of the Trust Area.

Role of First Nations

First Nations consider the Trust Area to be within their traditional territory. As such, they may have rights to and interests in the Trust Area. Proposed regulations that may affect aboriginal rights will be preceded by meaningful consultation and negotiation of conflicts with known claims.

Role of Property Owners, Residents and Visitors

The assistance and cooperation of property owners, residents and visitors is vital to the preservation and protection of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area and the implementation of the Policy Statement. Individuals have the opportunity to participate in local planning and to work with other members of the community and the trustees to develop official community plans and bylaws that address local needs and support the object of the Islands Trust.

AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW

The Policy Statement bylaw may be amended by the Islands Trust Council with the approval of the Minister of Community Services. Regardless of the source, all proposals for amendments to the Policy Statement are compiled by the Executive Committee and brought forward for the consideration of Trust Council.

The Islands Trust Council may, from time to time, initiate a public review of the entire Policy Statement.

PART II: THE ISLANDS TRUST'S OBJECT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE ISLANDS TRUST OBJECT AND ITS MEANING

The *Islands Trust Act* provides the following definition of the purpose of the Islands Trust, which is referred to in the legislation as its “object”:

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

“The object of the Trust is to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.”

The Islands Trust has responsibility for conservation⁴ through land use planning and regulation and for leadership in stewardship — that is, voluntary, cooperative actions that nurture and take responsibility for the long-term integrity of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area. It is in this context that the word “stewardship” is used within this document. The Islands Trust seeks to integrate ecosystem preservation and protection, sustainable communities and stewardship of resources.

The *Islands Trust Act* provides special legislation for preservation and protection of the Georgia Strait-Howe Sound geographic area and creates a conservation-oriented agency to work towards this objective. The object establishes the value of the Trust Area by identifying the need for preservation and protection of the Area. The following sections provide a fuller explanation of the key phrases in the legislated object of the Trust.

“... to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment...”

The area of jurisdiction of the Islands Trust is established by Schedule A of the *Islands Trust Act*. The Trust Area is valued and is unique, not because of any one quality or feature, but rather because of its particular combination of characteristics and location.

“... for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally ...”

The Islands Trust is responsible to the present and future residents of both the Trust Area and the Province of British Columbia. Their needs can only be met and sustained within the limitations of the natural environment and the island communities of the Trust Area. A balance must be established between the needs of all stakeholders.

“... in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the Government of the Province ...”

To achieve its object, the Islands Trust must be an educator, coordinator, and initiator, guiding individuals, organizations and other agencies in support of the object. While the Islands Trust can provide the necessary leadership, responsibility for stewardship of the Trust Area rests with many. Individuals, other government agencies, organizations, and the Province itself all have important roles to play. Cooperative actions are required of other agencies, organizations and individuals to

⁴ Conservation - actions, legislation or institutional arrangements that lead to the protection or preservation of a given species, group of species, habitat, natural area, or property or area of human heritage value or character.

ensure that activities are carried out in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of Trust Area ecosystems⁵ and island communities.

Commented [DH18]: Moved section on "The Islands Trust Object and its Meaning" to 1.4

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles, derived from the Islands Trust object and from input received from the public during public forums, will guide Trust Council in its day-to-day planning and decision-making.

- * The primary responsibility of the Islands Trust Council is to provide leadership for the preservation, protection and stewardship of the amenities, environment and resources of the Trust Area.
- * When making decisions and exercising judgment, Trust Council will place priority on preserving and protecting the integrity of the environment and amenities in the Trust Area.
- * Trust Council will seek information from a broad range of sources in its decision-making processes, recognizing the importance of local knowledge in this regard.
- * Trust Council believes that to achieve the Islands Trust object, the rate and scale of growth and development in the Trust Area must be carefully managed and may require limitation.
- * Trust Council believes that open, consultative public participation is vital to effective decision making for the Trust Area.
- * Trust Council will implement a plan for the advancement of the Policy Statement as part of its annual budget process, and the Executive Committee of Trust Council will report to Council on progress in achieving the goals of the Policy Statement.

Commented [DH19]: Moved to new Part 3: Regional Governance and turned into Regional Governance Policies – i.e. Commitments of Trust Council and some Directive Policies for local trust committees and island municipalities – to give prominence to these regional governance approaches that are critical to the Islands Trust Object and regional commitments to reconciliation and climate action.

⁵ Ecosystem - complexes of living organisms interacting with the non-living environment that sustains them. All ecosystems have three fundamentals: composition, structure and function. The composition of ecosystems is defined as an inventory of the living components including humans. The structure of an ecosystem is the physical arrangement of its living and non-living components. Function refers to the exchanges and flows of energy, material or information within and among the living and non-living components of an ecosystem.

PART III: ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION

Commented [DH20]: COMBINED PART III and PART IV for clarity and cohesion.

GOAL: TO FOSTER PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE TRUST AREA'S ECOSYSTEMS

As humans occupy and modify the Trust Area, ecosystems are subject to various pressures. Protection of these ecosystems is essential if they are to remain healthy and productive for the benefit of future generations.

The principle of sustainability⁶ must be upheld. Protective measures are varied and can include actions ranging from preservation of natural areas⁷ in the form of parks and ecological reserves, to increasing public awareness and understanding of the need for sustainable use⁸ and stewardship⁹ by all landowners.

The task of protecting the Trust Area is particularly challenging because ecosystems do not stop at political boundaries. Cooperative management programs are required to coordinate the actions of all stakeholders. Government, property owners, residents and visitors share responsibility for the preservation and protection of the Trust Area ecosystems.

POLICIES FOR ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION

3.1 Ecosystems

Commitments of Trust Council

3.1.1 Trust Council holds that:

- proactive land use planning is essential for the protection of Trust Area ecosystems,
- protection must be given to the natural processes, habitats¹⁰ and species¹¹ of the Trust Area, including those of the old forests, Coastal Douglas-fir forests, Coastal Western Hemlock, Garry Oak/Arbutus forests, wetlands¹², open coastal grasslands, the vegetation of dry rocky areas, lakes, streams, estuaries, tidal flats, salt water marshes, drift sectors¹³, lagoons, and kelp and eel grass beds, and

⁶ Sustainable - capable of being maintained indefinitely; capable of meeting the environmental, economic and social needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

⁷ Natural Areas - areas that have experienced minimal modification by humans.

⁸ Sustainable Use - use of renewable resources which is within the capability of those resources for renewal and which conserves the ecological processes that support the use.

⁹ Stewardship - voluntary, cooperative actions that nurture and take responsibility for the long-term integrity of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area.

¹⁰ Habitat - the place or situation in which a human, animal or plant lives.

¹¹ Trust Area Species - species native to the Trust Area, dependent on the Trust Area for all or part of their life cycle, or using the Trust Area seasonally or for migratory purposes.

¹² Wetland - land that has the water table at, near, or above the land's surface or which is saturated for a long enough period to promote aquatic processes.

¹³ Drift Sector - an integrated and independently operating beach system or erosion-transportation-accretion operating along the coastline.

- planning must account for the cumulative effects of existing and proposed development to avoid detrimental effects on watersheds, groundwater supplies and Trust Area species and habitats.

3.1.2 It is Trust Council's policy to work towards the establishment of a network of protected areas that preserves representative ecosystems in their natural state and in sufficient size and distribution to sustain their ecological¹⁴ integrity.

Directive Policies

3.1.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification and protection of the environmentally sensitive areas and significant natural sites, features and landforms in their planning area.

3.1.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the planning, establishment, and maintenance of a network of protected areas that preserve the representative ecosystems of their planning area and maintain their ecological integrity.

3.1.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the regulation of land use and development to restrict emissions to land, air and water to levels not harmful to humans or other species.

Recommendations

3.1.6 Trust Council encourages all government agencies and non-government organizations to consider both monetary and non-monetary costs when making resource management and land use decisions.

3.1.7 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government and the government of Washington State to proceed with their proposal for a joint environmental monitoring system for the Georgia Basin Region.

3.1.8 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to establish property tax incentives for conservation or habitat protection.

3.1.9 Trust Council encourages actions and programs of other government agencies which:

- place priority on the side of protection for Trust Area ecosystems when judgment must be exercised,
- protect the diversity of native species and habitats in the Trust Area, and
- prevent pollution of the air, land and fresh and marine waters of the Trust Area.

3.1.10 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to enforce standards for control of emissions polluting the air of the Trust Area.

¹⁴ Ecological - related to the interrelations among plants, animals (including humans) and their environment.

Commented [DH21]: REMOVED as per direction from TPC working group on climate change and engagement feedback – general desire to move away from commodification and/or monetization of nature

Commented [DH22]: REMOVED – time sensitive project, inappropriate for general nature of Policy Statement

Commented [DH23]: REMOVED – accomplished through NAPTEP

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

- 3.1.11 Trust Council encourages agents of the government of British Columbia or the government of Canada, Crown corporations, municipalities, regional districts, non-government organizations, property owners and occupiers to protect environmentally sensitive areas and significant natural sites, features and landforms through voluntary stewardship, acquisitions, conservation covenants and careful management.

3.2 Forest Ecosystems

Commitment of Trust Council

- 3.2.1 It is Trust Council's policy that:

- forest ecosystems in the Trust Area should be protected, and
- the remaining stands relatively undisturbed Coastal Douglas fir, Coastal Western Hemlock, Garry Oak and Arbutus should be preserved.

Directive Policy

- 3.2.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the protection of unfragmented forest ecosystems¹⁵ within their local planning areas from potentially adverse impacts of growth, development and land-use.

Recommendation

- 3.2.3 Trust Council encourages government agencies, non-government organizations, property owners and occupiers to protect forested areas through voluntary donation, acquisition, conservation covenants and careful management.

3.3 Freshwater and Wetland Ecosystems and Riparian Zones¹⁶

Commitment of Trust Council

- 3.3.1 Trust Council holds that:

- the freshwater wetlands, bodies of surface water, natural drainage patterns, water courses, fish-bearing streams, watershed and groundwater recharge areas of the Trust Area should be identified, protected and, where possible, restored or rehabilitated, and
- the natural wetlands of the Trust Area, including those in the Agricultural Land Reserve that have not been altered in the past for agriculture, should not be drained, filled or degraded.

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

Directive Policy

- 3.3.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address means to prevent further loss or degradation of freshwater bodies or watercourses, wetlands and riparian zones and to protect aquatic wildlife.

¹⁵ Unfragmented Forest Ecosystem - areas of forested land that are large enough to contain and sustain the forests' characteristic species.

¹⁶ Riparian Zone - relating to the bank of a river, lake, stream or watercourse.

Recommendation

- 3.3.3 Trust Council encourages government agencies, non-government organizations, property owners and occupiers to protect freshwater bodies, watercourses, wetlands, riparian zones and aquatic wildlife habitats through voluntary donation, acquisition, conservation covenants and careful management.

3.4. Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

Commitments of Trust Council

- 3.4.1 It is the position of Trust Council that development should not be allowed within a line drawn 300 metres offshore or mid-channel (whichever is less) of any island or islet in the Trust Area owned entirely by the Crown or affected by Order in Council 467¹⁷.

Commented [DH24]: REMOVED: concerns relating to First Nations rights

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

- 3.4.2 It is Trust Council's policy that marine areas be protected and coastal zone management principles be defined in consultation with agents of the government of British Columbia, the government of Canada, Crown corporations, municipalities, regional districts, non-government organizations, property owners and occupiers.

Commented [DH25]: Moved to coordination policy

- 3.4.3 Trust Council holds that artificial reefs should not be developed in the Trust Area.

Interp. Memo
Mar 7/03

Interpretation Note: Small scale habitat enhancement structures known as 'reef balls', which are placed in marine areas with the approval of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, are not considered to be artificial reefs for the purposes of this policy.

Directive Policies

- 3.4.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the protection of sensitive coastal areas.
- 3.4.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the planning for and regulation of development in coastal regions to protect natural coastal processes.

Recommendations

- 3.4.6 Trust Council encourages the Provincial and Federal governments to develop existing and new programs such as "harvest refugia", which protect and enhance the populations of native marine species of the Trust Area.
- 3.4.7 Trust Council encourages the Provincial and Federal governments to research the impacts of the introduction of new marine species into the marine water of the Trust Area before such species are introduced.
- 3.4.8 Trust Council encourages the Federal and Provincial governments to develop and adopt legislation that regulates sewage discharge from shores and boats and addresses its detrimental impact on marine or coastal ecosystems.

¹⁷ Order in Council 467 - Provincially established legislation that reserves certain Crown lands, including lesser islands and islets in the Trust Area from disposition under the *Land Act*.

PART IV: STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

GOAL: TO ENSURE THAT HUMAN ACTIVITY AND THE SCALE, RATE AND TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE TRUST AREA ARE COMPATIBLE WITH MAINTENANCE OF THE INTEGRITY OF TRUST AREA ECOSYSTEMS.

With responsible management, the natural resources of the Trust Area can be used long into the future. In the long term, it is less costly to use resources sustainably than to have to replace or rehabilitate them once they are depleted. Indiscriminate use or development of natural resources can threaten the island lifestyles and environments that are valued by the people who live in and visit the Trust Area.

Commented [DH26]: COMBINED PARTS III and IV; Feedback from engagement processes and TPC working groups to reframe notion of "natural resources" to more integrated ecosystem stewardship.

POLICIES FOR STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

4.1 Agricultural Land

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.1.1 Trust Council recognizes that agriculture is a traditional and valuable activity in the Trust Area.
- 4.1.2 Trust Council shall consult with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the British Columbia Land Reserve Commission to request that agriculture policies applied to the Trust Area are appropriate to the nature of agriculture within the Trust Area, including, but not limited to, the smaller island scale of agricultural activities.
- 4.1.3 It is Trust Council's policy to encourage agricultural management practices that are compatible with sustaining wildlife habitat.

Commented [DH27]: REMOVED: A statement of concern for some First Nations; Feedback that agriculture is not a "traditional" activity for First Nations and has had adverse impacts on First Nations interests (environmental impacts compromising Indigenous food harvesting in coastal and marine areas, impacts to traditional hunting grounds, etc.). Other general concerns expressed by Islands Trust Conservancy staff about impacts of agricultural activity and livestock on sensitive ecosystems, noting downstream effects, invasive species, impacts to natural areas, etc.

Directive Policies

- 4.1.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification and preservation of agricultural land for current and future use.
- 4.1.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the preservation, protection and encouragement of farming, the sustainability of farming, and the relationship of farming to other land uses.
- 4.1.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the use of adjacent properties to minimize any adverse affects on agricultural land.
- 4.1.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the design of road systems and servicing corridors to avoid agricultural lands unless the need for roads outweighs agricultural considerations, in which case appropriate mitigation measures shall be required to derive a net benefit to agriculture.
- 4.1.8 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address land uses and activities that support the economic viability of farms without compromising the agriculture capability of agricultural land.

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

- 4.1.9 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the use of Crown lands for agricultural leases.

Commented [DH28]: REMOVED: Obscure policy that has not been applied; intent unclear

Recommendations

- 4.1.10 Trust Council encourages the Ministry of Transportation to ensure that, where a road must sever agricultural land to provide access to lands beyond, the road is built to the minimum standard necessary to service that land.
- 4.1.11 Trust Council encourages the British Columbia Land Reserve Commission to approve applications from property owners for inclusion of their land with potential for agriculture in the Provincial Agricultural Land Reserve.
- 4.1.12 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government and the British Columbia Assessment Authority to:
- retain a separate farm class to provide significant property tax incentives;
 - ensure that the threshold for farm income necessary for farm class status is appropriate to agriculture within the Trust Area; and
 - acknowledge that the total land area subject to the farm class may include land left uncultivated.

Commented [DH29]: REMOVED: due to First Nations concerns and feedback from Islands Trust Conservancy staff regarding ALR lands sometimes compromising First Nations interests, protected area networks and conservation-oriented land securement strategies.

Amend
Dec
4/98
BL 53

4.2 Forests

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.2.1 Trust Council recognizes that forestry is a traditional land use in the Trust Area, and supports sustainable forestry as an appropriate form of land use.
- 4.2.2 It is the position of Trust Council that sustainable forestry depends on maintaining and, where necessary, restoring the ecological integrity of forests.
- 4.2.3 It is the position of Trust Council that to achieve sustainable forestry, forest owners should undertake planning to address the integrity of forest ecosystems, including monitoring and evaluation to modify forestry plans and activities as needed.
- 4.2.4 It is the position of Trust Council that forest cover is a representative characteristic of the Trust Islands and should be maintained.
- 4.2.5 It is the position of Trust Council that the aesthetic value of forest land should be protected.

Commented [DH30]: REMOVED: similar concerns as in agriculture section to framing as "traditional" or "appropriate"; generally reframing forestry references to "sustainable forest harvesting".

Directive Policies

- 4.2.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the need to protect the ecological integrity on a scale of forest stands and landscapes.
- 4.2.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address:
- the retention of large land holdings and parcel sizes for sustainable forestry use, and
 - the location and construction of roads, and utility and communication corridors to minimize the fragmentation of forests.

- 4.2.8 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the designation of forest ecosystem reserves where no extraction will take place to ensure the preservation of native biological diversity.

Recommendations

- 4.2.9 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to adopt mechanisms that will ensure full and meaningful participation of communities in decisions concerning the use of forest land.
- 4.2.10 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to implement education and extension programs to promote sustainable forestry and the protection of forest ecosystems.
- 4.2.11 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to adopt Provincial statutes and guidelines that establish forestry practices to protect the ecological integrity on a scale of forest stands and landscapes by maintaining and, where necessary, restoring:
- the diversity of forest structure and composition;
 - the physical, chemical, and biotic diversity of soils;
 - natural aquatic and wetland ecosystems;
 - the full range of natural habitats in the forest landscape, including old growth; and
 - connectivity of forest habitats sufficient for the dispersal needs of native species.
- 4.2.12 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to adopt Provincial statutes and guidelines that will reduce invasive non-native plant species in the forests.
- 4.2.13 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to designate forest ecosystem reserves, where no extraction will take place, to promote the preservation of native biological diversity.
- 4.2.14 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government, prior to giving approval to cutting plans, to require that the applicant identify those elements of the forest needed to maintain sustainable forest land use.
- 4.2.15 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to implement property tax incentives for the practice of sustainable forestry.
- 4.2.16 Trust Council encourages the Provincial Ministry of Forests, when developing specific forest tenures, to assign to Trust Council or Trust Fund Board the holding of areas not to be harvested.

4.3 Wildlife and Vegetation

Recommendations

4.3.1 Trust Council encourages Provincial and Federal government agencies to:

- regulate and monitor the harvesting of the fish, wildlife and vegetation of the Trust Area so as to protect populations and habitats, and
- consult with local trust committees, island municipalities, the communities of the Trust Area and First Nations prior to decisions regarding regulation of hunting or harvesting of Area wildlife or vegetation.

4.3.2 Trust Council encourages Provincial and Federal government agencies to protect, for public use, areas supporting naturally occurring shellfish populations and other marine life and to establish public shellfish reserves in the Trust Area.

Commented [DH31]: Moved Recommendations from this section to Coordination Policies of 4.1.1 – Environmental Integrity Policies

4.4 Freshwater Resources

Commitment of Trust Council

4.4.1 It is Trust Council's policy that islands in the Trust Area should be self-sufficient in regard to their supply of freshwater.

Directive Policies

4.4.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address measures that ensure:

- neither the density nor intensity of land use is increased in areas which are known to have a problem with the quality or quantity of the supply of freshwater,
- water quality is maintained, and
- existing, anticipated and seasonal demands for water are considered and allowed for.

4.4.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address measures that ensure water use is not to the detriment of in-stream uses¹⁸.

Recommendations

4.4.4 Trust Council encourages island property owners, residents and visitors to adopt conservation practices in their use of freshwater.

4.4.5 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to implement property tax incentives for the retention of groundwater and watershed recharge areas and freshwater wetlands.

4.4.6 Trust Council encourages the Provincial government to adopt legislation that protects the sustainability and quality of the groundwater of the Trust Area.

4.4.7 Trust Council encourages government agencies, corporations, property owners and residents to use innovative technologies that promote efficient use of freshwater resources, including cisterns, alternative sewage disposal systems, reuse of water, the treatment and use of grey water, and the use of water saving devices.

¹⁸ Instream Uses - include water uses such as fish and habitat uses, aesthetic uses, recreational opportunities and the maintenance of water quality in lakes and streams and wetlands.

4.5 Coastal Areas and Marine Shorelands¹⁹

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.5.1 It is Trust Council's policy that aquaculture²⁰ is a valuable activity in the Trust Area if compatible with maintenance of ecosystems and community character.
- 4.5.2 Trust Council holds that finfish farms should not be located in the marine waters of the Trust Area.
- 4.5.3 It is the position of Trust Council that development, activity, buildings or structures should not result in a loss of significant marine or coastal habitat, or interfere with natural coastal processes.
- 4.5.4 It is the position of Trust Council that development, activity, buildings or structures should not restrict public access to, from or along the marine shoreline.
- 4.5.5 It is Trust Council's policy that development should be directed to sites away from:
- areas of environmental sensitivity, and
 - areas of naturally occurring stocks of clams or oysters.
- 4.5.6 It is Trust Council's policy that aquaculture should be directed to sites away from:
- areas of recreational significance,
 - areas where an aquaculture operation would conflict with established or designated upland land uses, and
 - areas where an aquaculture operation would conflict with established or designated anchorage or moorage.
- 4.5.7 It is the position of Trust Council that aquaculture related development, activity, buildings or structures should not result in site alteration²¹.

Directive Policies

- 4.5.8 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the needs and locations for marine dependent land uses.
- 4.5.9 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the compatibility of the location, size and nature of marinas with the ecosystems and character of their local planning areas.
- 4.5.10 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the location of buildings and structures so as to protect public access to, from and along the marine shoreline and minimize impacts on sensitive coastal environments.

¹⁹ Marine Shorelands - lands immediately adjacent to the marine shorelands.

²⁰ Aquaculture - the growing and cultivation of aquatic plants or shellfish, for commercial purposes on or under the foreshore or in the sea.

²¹ Site Alteration - includes, but is not limited to substrate modification or the use of metal plates or pipes.

- 4.5.11 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address opportunities for the sharing of facilities such as docks, wharves, floats, jetties, boat houses, board walks and causeways.

4.6 Soils²² and Other Resources

Commitments of Trust Council

- 4.6.1 Trust Council holds that there should be no extraction of peat, metals, minerals, coal or petroleum resources in the Trust Area.
- 4.6.2 Trust Council holds that there should be no extraction of aggregate from the foreshore or the sea floor of the Trust Area.

Directive Policy

- 4.6.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in local bylaws relating to soil removal and deposit, address the protection of productive soils.

²² Soils - the entire layer of unconsolidated material above bedrock other than minerals as defined in the *Mineral Tenure Act* or the *Mining Placer Act*.

PART V: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES²³

GOAL: TO SUSTAIN ISLAND CHARACTER AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Communities within the Trust Area are predominantly rural in character and contrast markedly with surrounding urban areas. Each island community has developed somewhat independently of other communities. Residents of all island communities value the safe and supportive nature of their island and their quality of life. Most feel strongly that people of differing age groups and income levels should continue to have the opportunity to reside in island communities.

The health of a community is influenced by numerous factors such as economic security, education, social support systems, the cleanliness and safety of the environment, and the availability of such necessities as educational and social services, transportation, affordable food and housing. Public involvement in decisions that affect a community is also critical to the health of that community. Participation in the decision-making process influences whether an individual or group is able to realize aspirations, satisfy needs or cope with change.

POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

5.1 Aesthetic Qualities

Commitments of Trust Council

- 5.1.1 Trust Council holds that the overall visual quality of the Trust Area and its scenic values should be protected from disturbance, particularly those areas that have distinctive features or are highly visible.
- 5.1.2 It is Trust Council's policy that the intensity of noise and lighting in and through the Trust Area should be compatible with community character.

Directive Policy

- 5.1.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the protection of views, scenic areas and distinctive features contributing to the overall visual quality and scenic value of the Trust Area.

Recommendation

- 5.1.4 Trust Council encourages property owners, residents and visitors to reduce the burning of wood and fossil fuels by adopting alternative or innovative technologies.

5.2 Growth and Development

Commitments of Trust Council

- 5.2.1 Trust Council holds that growth and development in the Trust Area should be compatible with preservation and protection of the environment, natural amenities, resources and community character.
- 5.2.2 Trust Council holds that tree cover on the islands is of great importance and should be preserved.

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

Commented [DH32]: Moved policies to 6.1 Rural Island Planning Policies

Commented [DH33]: Moved policies to 6.1 Rural Island Planning Policies

²³ Sustainable Communities - human communities that have achieved a balance between environmental, economic and social systems and which respect the carrying capacity of the supporting environment.

Directive Policies

- 5.2.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address policies related to the aesthetic, environmental and social impacts of development.
- 5.2.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address any potential growth rate and strategies for growth management that ensure that land use is compatible with preservation and protection of the environment, natural amenities, resources and community character.
- 5.2.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address means for achieving efficient use of the land base without exceeding any density limits defined in their official community plans.
- 5.2.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification of areas hazardous to development, including areas subject to flooding, erosion or slope instability, and strategies to direct development away from such hazards.

5.3 Transportation and Utilities

Commitments of Trust Council

- 5.3.1 Trust Council holds that local trust committees and island municipalities should be consulted and involved in the decision-making process regarding provision of utilities, transportation services or facilities that might affect land use in their local planning areas.
- 5.3.2 It is Trust Council's policy that no island in the Trust Area should be connected to Vancouver Island, the mainland or another island by a bridge or tunnel, notwithstanding the existing bridge between North and South Pender Islands.

Directive Policies

- 5.3.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws address the development of a classification system of rural roadways, including scenic or heritage road designations, in recognition of the object of the Islands Trust.
- 5.3.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the impacts of road location, design, construction and systems.
- 5.3.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the designation of areas for the landing of emergency helicopters.
- 5.3.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the development of land use patterns that encourage establishment of bicycle paths and other local and inter-community transportation systems that reduce dependency on private automobile use.

Recommendations

Commented [DH34]: REMOVED "and Utilities" as all of the policies pertain to Transportation

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

5.3.8 Trust Council encourages Provincial and Federal agencies to ensure safe shipment of materials hazardous to the environment.

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

5.3.9 Trust Council encourages the Ministry of Transportation and local communities to work together through a public consultation process to evaluate and modify road construction and road system proposals to encompass the environmental, economic and social values of the community.

5.4 Disposal of Waste

Commitments of Trust Council

5.4.1 It is Trust Council's policy that the safe disposal in the Trust Area of waste originating in the Trust Area is acceptable.

5.4.2 It is Trust Council's policy that:

- neither hazardous nor industrial waste should be disposed of in the Trust Area,
- local recycling operations should be established, and
- local programs for chipping of wood waste and disposal of hazardous wastes should be established.

5.4.3 It is Trust Council's policy that there should be a reduction in the burning of solid waste in the Trust Area.

Directive Policy

5.4.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification of acceptable locations for the disposal of solid waste.

Recommendation

5.4.5 Trust Council encourages government agencies, corporations, property owners and residents to use innovative technologies and safe alternatives for disposal of sewage effluent.

5.5 Recreation

Commitments of Trust Council

5.5.1 It is Trust Council's policy that recreational activities in the Trust Area should be compatible with preservation and protection of the environment, natural amenities, resources and community character.

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

5.5.2 Trust Council holds that destination gaming facilities such as casinos and commercial bingo halls are not appropriate to and should not be located in the Trust Area.

Commented [DH35]: Moved policies to 6.1 Rural Island Planning Policies

Directive Policies

Amend
Mar 6/98
BL 48

- 5.5.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the prohibition of destination gaming facilities such as casinos and commercial bingo halls.
- 5.5.4 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address:
- the location and type of recreational facilities so as not to degrade environmentally sensitive areas, and
 - the designation of locations for marinas, boat launches, docks and anchorages so as not to degrade sensitive marine or coastal areas.
- 5.5.5 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address:
- the identification of sites providing safe public access to beaches,
 - the identification and designation of areas of recreational significance, and
 - the designation of locations for community and public boat launches, docks and anchorages.
- 5.5.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification and designation of areas for low impact recreational activities and discourage facilities and opportunities for high impact recreational activities.
- 5.5.7 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the planning for bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian trail systems.

5.6 Cultural and Natural Heritage²⁴**Commitment of Trust Council**

- 5.6.1 Trust Council holds that the natural and human heritage of the Trust Area — that is the areas and property of natural, historic, cultural, aesthetic, educational or scientific heritage value²⁵ or character²⁶ — should be identified, preserved, protected and enhanced.

Directive Policies

- 5.6.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of local heritage.
- 5.6.3 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address the preservation and protection of the heritage value and character of historic coastal settlement patterns and remains.

²⁴ Heritage - a place, feature or event of cultural, biological, archaeological, paleontological or geological significance.

²⁵ Heritage Value - historical, cultural, aesthetic, educational or scientific worth or usefulness of property or an area.

²⁶ Heritage Character - the overall effect produced by traits or features which give property or an area a distinctive quality or appearance.

Commented [DH36]: Moved policies to NEW PART 5: Heritage Preservation and Protection

5.7 Economic Opportunities**Commitment of Trust Council**

- 5.7.1 Trust Council holds that economic opportunities should be compatible with the conservation of resources and protection of community character.

Directive Policy

- 5.7.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address economic opportunities that are compatible with conservation of resources and protection of community character.

Commented [DH37]: Moved policies to 6.1 Rural Island Planning Policies

5.8 Health and Well-being**Commitments of Trust Council**

- 5.8.1 Trust Council holds that public participation should be part of the decision-making processes of all levels of government.
- 5.8.2 It is the position of Trust Council that local trust committees and island municipalities should, in establishing their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, provide opportunities for public input.
- 5.8.3 Trust Council holds that island communities within the Trust Area are themselves best able to determine the most effective local government structure to support their local autonomy and specific community needs within the object of the Islands Trust.
- 5.8.4 Trust Council holds that island municipalities shall, in all of their actions have regard for the Trust Policy Statement and the object of the Islands Trust.
- 5.8.5 It is the position of Trust Council that the development and maintenance of healthy communities in the Trust Area through the process described in the Provincial Ministry of Health's "Healthy Communities Program" should be encouraged.

Commented [DH38]: Moved policies to 6.1 Rural Island Planning Policies

Directive Policies

- 5.8.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address their community's current and projected housing requirements and the long-term needs for educational, institutional, community and health-related facilities and services, as well as the cultural and recreational facilities and services.

Commented [DH39]: REMOVED: time-sensitive project, inappropriate to general nature of the Policy Statement

Commented [DH40]: Moved to new section 6.2 devoted to Housing Policies

Recommendations

- 5.8.7 Trust Council encourages Provincial, Federal and local governments to provide information and databases to local trust committees and communities to assist them in land use planning.
- 5.8.8 Trust Council encourages government agencies, corporations, property owners, residents and visitors to use renewable sources of energy within the Trust Area.

Commented [DH41]: REMOVED: unclear what the intent of this policy is

Amend
Nov 4/96
BL 42

SCHEDULE I

DEFINITIONS

Address - direct attention to matters in a way that implements the policy of Trust Council.

Aquaculture - the growing and cultivation of aquatic plants or shellfish, for commercial purposes on or under the foreshore or in sea.

Conservation - actions, legislation or institutional arrangements that lead to the protection or preservation of a given species, group of species, habitat, natural area, or property or areas of human heritage value or character.

Drift Sector - an integrated and independently operating beach system of erosion-transportation-accretion operating along the coastline.

Ecological - related to the interrelations among plants, animals (including humans) and their environment.

Ecosystem - complexes of living organisms interacting with the non-living environment that sustains them. All ecosystems have three fundamentals: composition, structure and function. The composition of ecosystems is defined as an inventory of the living components including humans. The structure of an ecosystem is the physical arrangement of its living and non-living components. Function refers to the exchanges and flows of energy, material or information within and among the living and non-living components of an ecosystem.

Habitat - the place or situation in which a human, animal or plant lives.

Heritage - a place, feature or event of historical, cultural, aesthetic, educational or scientific significance.

Heritage Character - the overall effect produced by traits or features which give property or an area a distinctive quality or appearance.

Heritage Property - property or areas that have historical, cultural, aesthetic, educational or scientific value or character.

Heritage Value - historical, cultural, aesthetic, educational or scientific worth or usefulness of property or an area.

Instream Uses - include water uses such as fish and habitat uses, aesthetic uses, recreational opportunities and maintenance of water quality in lakes and streams and wetlands.

Marine Shorelands - lands immediately adjacent to the marine shoreline.

Natural Areas - areas that have experienced minimal modification by the human species.

Order in Council 467 - Provincially established legislation that reserves certain Crown lands, including lesser islands and islets in the Trust Area, from disposition under the *Land Act*.

Preserve - to maintain in a given condition. Preservation often requires maintaining the processes that generate the desired condition.

Protect - to maintain over the long term by managing, or if necessary limiting, the type and intensity of development or activity to ensure that valued attributes are not compromised or destroyed.

Renewable Resources - resources that are capable of being replaced by natural ecological cycles within reasonable human time frames.

Riparian Zone - relating to the bank of a river, lake, stream or watercourse.

Site Alteration - includes, but is not limited to substrate modification or the use of metal plates or pipes.

Soil - the entire layer of unconsolidated material above bedrock other than minerals as defined in the *Mineral Tenure Act* or the *Mining Placer Act*.

Stewardship - voluntary, cooperative actions that nurture and take responsibility for the long-term integrity of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area.

Sustainable - capable of being maintained indefinitely; capable of meeting the environmental, economic and social needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Sustainable Communities - human communities that have achieved a balance between environmental, economic and social systems and that respect the carrying capacity of the supporting environment.

Sustainable Use - use of renewable resources which is within the capacity of those resources for renewal and which conserves the ecological processes that support the use.

Trust Area Species - species native to the Trust Area, dependent on the Trust Area for all or part of their life cycle, or using the Trust Area seasonally or for migratory purposes.

Unfragmented Forest Ecosystems - areas of forested land that are large enough to contain and sustain the forests' characteristic species.

Wetland - land that has the water table at, near, or above the land's surface or which is saturated for a long enough period to promote aquatic processes.

Commented [DH42]: REMOVED SCHEDULE 1 – DEFINITIONS; instead included key definitions in the preamble to each chapter or in policies themselves for clarity.

Top Priorities Report

Trust Programs Committee

1. Policy Statement Amendment Project

Implement Policy Statement engagement plan and project charter (in support of Strategic Plan strategies #10,16,22,23)

Responsible

Clare Frater
Dilani Hippola
Gillian Nicol
Lisa Wilcox

Dates

Rec'd: 21-Jun-2017
Target: 13-Dec-2022

2. Secretariat Role to Forums within the Trust Area

Administer Secretariat Services program

Responsible

Clare Frater
Gillian Nicol

Dates

Rec'd: 20-Jun-2018
Target: 31-Mar-2021

3. Stewardship Education Program

Develop and implement a stewardship education program directed towards the public, industry and stakeholders in the Trust Area. (Strategic Plan strategy #15). This includes the Living in the Trust Area project guided by the project charter endorsed by TPC on Feb 5, 2021

Responsible

Clare Frater

Dates

Rec'd: 13-Aug-2020
Target: 31-Mar-2021

Projects Report

Trust Programs Committee

1. *Update Crown Land Agreements*

Engage Bowen Island Municipality and the Province of B.C. in updating and consolidating existing agreements into one.

Responsible

Clare Frater
Lisa Wilcox

Date Received

19-Jun-2014

2. *Community Benefit Land Trust Concept*

Further consideration of the Community Benefit Land Trust Concept briefing presented to TPC on February 5, 2021.

Responsible

Date Received

05-Feb-2021