



LEGISLATIVE MONITORING REPORT February 2020

This document is intended to advise Trust Council about past or proposed external regulatory changes that could directly affect Islands Trust operations, local trust committee/island municipality bylaws or regulations, or Strategic Plan projects. The chart captures changes made in the last four months and is organized according to the following categories:

- **PLANNED LEGISLATION** – the intention to draft and pass new legislation is being developed and may be in a consultation or draft stage. No bill has been introduced to legislature/parliament yet.
- **LEGISLATION IN PROCESS** – a bill has been introduced to legislature/parliament and is awaiting Royal Assent, or Royal Assent has been issued but the new law or regulation has not come into force yet.
- **NEW LEGISLATION IN EFFECT** – legislation has received Royal Assent and any specified timeline for it to come in effect has occurred.
- **COURT DECISIONS** – a ruling from any level of court that affects the Islands Trust.
- **NEW RESOURCES** – publically available reports or websites that provide information relevant to Islands Trust work.
- **DISCUSSION, PLANNING, CONSERVANCY, and ADVOCACY TOPICS** – information related to topics of interest to Islands Trust.

PLANNED LEGISLATION	STATUS	BACKGROUND / KEY IMPLICATIONS TO TRUST AREA	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – PAST	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – FUTURE
<p>Proposed Aquaculture Act and Regulations (Federal)</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Public Consultation ran Mar 1 – Dec 21, 2019.</p> <p>“What We Heard” report is expected in early 2020.</p> <p>Public engagement is expected to resume in early 2020 to solicit further advice.</p> <p>Drafting of new bill expected in mid-to-late 2020</p> <p>Royal Assent expected in 2022.</p>	<p>The proposed <i>Aquaculture Act</i> is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define the term aquaculture in legislation • recognize the need for clarity and stability for responsible economic growth of the aquaculture sector • ensure environmental protections enshrined in the <i>Fisheries Act</i> are included and specific to aquaculture • develop enforcement mechanisms specific to aquaculture • respect provincial and territorial jurisdictions • respect roles and responsibilities articulated in treaties and other rights reconciliation arrangements <p>Highlights from proposed <i>Aquaculture Act</i> outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning section would provide the authority to designate areas for the culturing of aquatic organisms, such as finfish, shellfish, and other aquatic plants • Regulations section would provide the authority to incorporate standards into regulations • Leases, licenses and fees section would specify authorities, conditions and fees for issuing and cancelling leases and licences • Environmental management section would provide the authorities and prohibitions related to fish habitat protection and the deposit of deleterious substances, as well as the authorities to require plans from industry to better assess impact of proposals • Sections outlining aquaculture-specific offences, punishment and enforcement powers 	<p>Jan 2018 Chair letter to Minister of DFO requesting ecosystem-based study of potential impacts of the Integrated Geoduck Management Framework 2017 on the health of the Salish Sea.</p> <p>2018 UBCM resolution calling for DFO to conduct an ecosystem-based study of potential and cumulative impacts of increased geoduck clam aquaculture and consider increased monitoring and enforcement.</p> <p>Nov 2019 staff attendance at Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel Ecosystems Forum.</p> <p>Dec 2019 Chair letters to Ministers of DFO and FLNRORD requesting more resources for enforcement of shellfish regulations and tenure licenses.</p>	<p>Staff are working with WWF to co-sponsor Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel Ecosystems Forum in May 2020.</p> <p>The Province has responsibility for issuing tenures for aquaculture. Local governments have zoning authority. This generally does not include regulating anything covered through aquaculture licenses from DFO.</p> <p>Once the amendments are complete, a review should be undertaken to determine any necessary zoning amendments.</p>

PLANNED LEGISLATION	STATUS	BACKGROUND / KEY IMPLICATIONS TO TRUST AREA	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – PAST	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – FUTURE
<p>Proposed new residential flexibility for Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) landowners</p>	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture outlined its proposal in a policy intentions paper released Jan 27, 2020.</p> <p>A technical review committee will further refine policy options until April 17, 2020.</p> <p>Grandfathering period for manufactured homes in the ALR for immediate family members extended to Dec. 31, 2020.</p>	<p>In order to support farmers and non-farmers living in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), the Ministry of Agriculture is considering a change to regulations that will enable landowners in the ALR to have both a principal residence and a small secondary residence on their property, provided they have approval from their local government. In other words, there would be no required application to the ALC. Further, the province would not impose restrictions to require this secondary residence be a manufactured home, or be for an immediate family member, or be part of a farming plan. The primary use of ALR land is, and will continue to be, for agriculture.</p> <p>The Ministry has created a technical review committee that includes the Ministry of Agriculture, ALC, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Union of BC Municipalities, and the BC Agriculture Council. As part of the technical review committee process, the Ministry also works directly with local governments from across British Columbia.</p> <p>Feedback is invited at: ALR_ALCRevitalization@gov.bc.ca (Send comments in advance of April 17, 2020, when the Technical Review Committee will be providing recommendations to the Minister.)</p>	<p>Currently, a second dwelling on ALR property is not permitted without Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) approval.</p>	<p>If adopted, this proposal would allow LTCs to zone for second dwellings, within the limits of the proposed legislative change, without needing to seek ALC approval.</p> <p>Trustees may wish to note that requirement for manufactured home registration has been extended to Dec. 31, 2020.</p>

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<p>Proposed amendment to Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) under the Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA)</p>	<p>Public consultations began in January 2020 and will run until May or October 2020 (depending on the species in question).</p>	<p>On October 9, 2019, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) submitted 56 assessments of species at risk to the federal Minister of the Environment.</p> <p>The federal government departments of Environment and Climate Change Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are now launching public consultations on the potential amendment of Schedule 1, the List of Wildlife Species at Risk under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (SARA).</p> <p>Of particular interest is the listing of several Chinook populations as endangered or threatened. Many of these Chinook species occupy the waters of the Islands Trust Area and are the favored food of the Southern Resident Killer Whale. At the same time, Chinook diets feed heavily on sandlance and surf smelt, two forage fish that spawn on Islands Trust beaches and whose habitat ITC has been working to map.</p>	<p>Oct 2019 Chair letter to DFO Minister re call for moratorium on herring fishery (lists Chinook as critical to marine food web and SRKW).</p> <p>Nov 2016 Chair letter to federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Canada providing comment on federal government policies on implementation of SARA.</p> <p>2016 Chair letter to BC Ministry of Environment re provincial SAR measures.</p>	<p>ITC staff will provide input on the potential amendments listed in Schedule 1, particularly on listings of Chinook species.</p> <p>ITC and TAS staff will consider recommending an advocacy letter from the Chair highlighting the importance of Chinook to marine food webs in the Trust Area.</p>

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Provincial Species and Ecosystems at Risk Legislation	<p>On hold.</p> <p>Anticipated 2020 SAR legislation is off the table, confirmed by Ministry of Environment with no details as to why or when/if it will be reintroduced.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change had begun the process of developing legislation for protecting and recovering species at risk in BC and had begun an active consultation process until work was put on hold in 2019. BC staff working in this area are waiting for further direction. ITC staff are monitoring.</p> <p>A Species and Ecosystems at Risk (SEAR) Local Government Working Group (LGWG), established in Fall 2009, consisted of representatives from municipal, regional and provincial governments, and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). A jointly prepared discussion paper was completed in January 2011.</p> <p>In 2016, the Working Group struck a SEAR Charter Advisory Committee to help develop a SEAR Charter between the province and local governments to provide greater clarity on roles and responsibilities of both parties. The Charter was expected to compliment the anticipated provincial SAR legislation.</p> <p>Consultation with local governments on a draft Charter began in May 2018. If the process resumes, it is expected that local governments will be asked to sign on to the Charter.</p>	<p>Islands Trust Staff participate in the provincial Species and Ecosystems at Risk (SEAR) Local Government Working Group (LGWG).</p> <p>2016 Chair letter to BC Ministry of Environment regarding provincial SAR measures.</p>	<p>Staff attending Spring/Summer 2020 SEAR LGWG webinars on topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Understanding the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (SARA), critical habitat screening and the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> (MBCA)” • “Bat Friendly Communities” • “Federal Ecological Gifts Program”

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<p><u>Proposed changes to hunting regulations that affect the Gulf Islands.</u></p>	<p>Decision statement pending.</p> <p>Public consultation closed on January 19, 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Closure of Salt Spring Island General Open Season for Ravens:</u> this proposed regulatory change would remove the opportunity to hunt raven on Salt Spring Island (private lands). Farmers could still apply for a nuisance permit in cases where there is a need to hunt raven for the protection of property/livestock. • <u>Change Mule Deer (antlerless and any buck) Seasons on Denman and Hornby Island:</u> this proposed regulatory change would add approximately one more month to the mule deer hunting season for both islands (from Oct 5 – Dec 10 to Sept 10 – Dec 10). The intention would be to increase hunting opportunities, reduce the need for early season deer kill permits, and reduce regulatory complexity. There are reportedly no conservation concerns for deer on these islands. Rather, a reduction in overabundant deer populations may help ecosystems to recover. • <u>Implement Mule Deer Bow Only Season on all islands in the Trust Area (excepting Bowen Island Municipality and Gambier Island Local Trust Area):</u> this proposed regulatory change would establish a bow only season for mule deer hunting from Aug 25 – Sept 9. As there was previously no bow only season in these areas, this change lengthens the hunting season on these islands. 		<p>Staff will continue to monitor the passage of the legislation and any impacts to Islands Trust.</p>

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<p>Review of Marine Liability Act</p>	<p>Early invitation to AVICC Members to discuss the current ship-source oil pollution liability and compensation regime.</p>	<p>Transport Canada has advised they will be launching a review of the <i>Marine Liability Act</i> which covers compensation for victims of ship-source oil pollution. An email from Marc-Yves Bertin, Director General of Marine Policy notes that:</p> <p>“as part of the reconsideration of the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion, the Canada Energy Regulator (formerly the National Energy Board) recommended that we review the ship-source oil spill compensation regime to consider a broader scope of eligible claims. As a result, we are preparing to talk to coastal communities and other interested stakeholders throughout Canada.”</p> <p>Transport Canada is open to meeting and discussing the current ship-source oil pollution liability and compensation regime with AVICC Members. Interested Members are asked to contact MarineLiability-ResponsabiliteMaritime@tc.gc.ca.</p>	<p>Apr 2019 Chair submission to Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project Review Panel.</p> <p>Oct. 2018 Chair submission to Transport Canada re: Transport Canada’s Strengthening Marine Environmental Protection and Response Potential Legislative Amendments Discussion Paper.</p>	<p>Staff will continue to monitor.</p>

LEGISLATION IN PROCESS	STATUS	BACKGROUND/ KEY IMPLICATIONS TO TRUST AREA	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – PAST	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – FUTURE
<p><u>Bill 15 - Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act, 2019</u></p>	<p>Royal Assent given on May 30, 2019.</p> <p>Pending development of regulations to come into force.</p>	<p>Bill 15 restores some of the legal protections for the BC Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) that were lost under the previous BC Liberal government in 2004. It proposes to remove regional panels, giving a province-wide Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) the power to determine what happens on ALR lands for the first time since the early 2000s.</p> <p>Regional panels were previously criticized for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delegating ALC powers to other government agencies including the Oil and Gas Commission; • inconsistent decisions between regions, resulting in a lack of provincial consistency and oversight; and • susceptibility to regional political pressures to remove land. <p>Proposed new powers under Bill 15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Province-wide ALC with “administrative regions” that has at least one commissioner from each region to ensure representation; • ALC Chair could strike a regional or expert panel to assess applications; • Removal of the ability of individual landowners to apply to exclude their land from the ALR. Applications would need to go through the area’s local government or First Nation. The government suggests this will better integrate requests into local planning. This option exists in the current Act but Bill 15 removes the option for landowners to deal with the ALC and their local government or First Nation separately; • ALC itself can apply to remove land from the ALR; • requires the ALC to prioritize “protecting and enhancing the size, integrity and continuity” of the ALR and its use for farming; and, • improves the ALC’s enforcement powers. 	<p>Currently, a landowner must make two separate applications to remove land from the ALR: one to the ALC, and one to the local government.</p> <p><u>Fees</u> Currently, Islands Trust charges \$1,500 for an exclusion request. The ALC keeps \$1,200 and Islands Trust keeps \$300. The ALC sets the fee structure, not Islands Trust.</p> <p>Islands Trust had one exclusion request in the last three years, on Salt Spring Island, which was not supported by the Local Trust Committee.</p> <p>If Bill 15 comes into force and the ALC does not change the fee structure, Islands Trust will likely be required to pay the \$1,200 fee for an exclusion request unless it is part of a rezoning application.</p>	<p>Staff will continue to monitor developments on Bill 15 regulations and fee structures.</p>

LEGISLATION IN PROCESS	STATUS	BACKGROUND/ KEY IMPLICATIONS TO TRUST AREA	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – PAST	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – FUTURE
Bill 28 - Zero-Emission Vehicles Act	<p>Royal Assent given on May 30, 2019.</p> <p>Pending development of regulations to come into force.</p>	<p>Bill 28 sets into law the zero-emission vehicle mandate that was announced in Fall 2018 as part of the Clean BC economic agenda. It further outlines a credit/debit system, similar to what exists in California, in that it will allow new vehicle car dealers to meet the provincial compliance targets. In particular, the bill legislates that:</p> <p>“(a) in 2025 and in each subsequent year, at least 10% of all new light-duty motor vehicles sold or leased in British Columbia must be zero-emission vehicles;</p> <p>(b) in 2030 and in each subsequent year, at least 30% of all new light-duty motor vehicles sold or leased in British Columbia must be zero-emission vehicles;</p> <p>(c) in 2040 and in each subsequent year, 100% of all new light-duty motor vehicles sold or leased in British Columbia must be zero-emission vehicles.”</p>		<p>LTCs and BIM could establish parking standards for uses, including requiring number and design of parking stalls for EVs.</p> <p>Update bylaws to specify number of parking stalls for EV’s.</p> <p>Advocate with BC Ferries to designate electric car parking and charging facilities at terminals.</p>

LEGISLATION IN PROCESS	STATUS	BACKGROUND/ KEY IMPLICATIONS TO TRUST AREA	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – PAST	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – FUTURE
Bill 14 - Heritage Conservation Amendment Act, 2019	<p>Royal assent given May 30, 2019.</p> <p>Pending development of regulations to come into force.</p>	<p>Amendments to the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i>, mean greater protection for areas with heritage and archeological values in the province. Under the proposed changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people will be legally required to report discoveries of specified sites or objects with potential heritage value; • a person may be required to obtain and pay for a heritage inspection or investigation prior to obtaining a permit to alter a heritage site in some circumstances. For example, if a person wants to alter a site to develop land, but there is little or no information about the site, they may be required to complete archeological studies to gather required information; • the ministry will have enhanced powers to refuse, amend, suspend and cancel permits; and • compliance and enforcement tools will be improved. <p>The amendments also bring BC’s heritage legislation into alignment with other jurisdictions. While changes to reporting requirements will come into effect through regulation, expected within the next year, the remainder of the changes came into effect when the bill received royal assent.</p> <p>Local governments have separate powers for heritage protection under s.15 of the <i>Local Government Act</i>. This section is not impacted by the new legislation.</p>	<p>Does not affect local planning. Planning staff already advise landowners of the process if there is a potential archeological site in the area.</p>	<p>No current action planned.</p>

LEGISLATION IN EFFECT	STATUS	BACKGROUND/ KEY IMPLICATIONS TO TRUST AREA	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS-PAST	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – FUTURE
<u>Bill 41 – Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, 2019</u>	Royal Assent given Nov 26, 2019.	The legislation states that “the government must take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with” United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). To achieve this, it sets in place a requirement that the Province prepare and implement an action plan, in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples. To ensure progress and accountability, it also requires the Province to file an annual report outlining progress that has been made towards achieving the goals of the action plan.	In Mar 2019, Islands Trust Council passed a <u>First Nations Reconciliation Declaration</u> and has prioritized reconciliation efforts in its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan and the <u>Reconciliation Action Plan</u> . In July 2019, the Islands Trust Conservancy Board passed a <u>First Nations Reconciliation Declaration</u> .	Staff will continue to monitor the legislation and any impacts to Islands Trust.
<u>Bill 38 – Climate Change Accountability Amendment Act, 2019</u>	Royal Assent given Nov 28, 2019	Amendments introduced intend to strengthen the Act by mandating annual reporting requirements on reduction of carbon emissions by the BC Government and public sector organizations (Crown corporations, school districts, health authorities, etc). Progress will be assessed by an independent body of experts (to be established by the Province). The government released its <u>2019 Climate Change Accountability Report for CleanBC</u> in Feb 2020, which details a range of actions over the past year to reduce emissions and build a cleaner economy.	Islands Trust is committed to the actions agreed to under the <u>BC Climate Action Charter</u> . The Islands Trust <u>reports</u> annually on its carbon emissions via the Climate Action Revenue Incentives Report and its Greenhouse Gas Emissions report.	Staff will continue to monitor.
<u>BC Building Code Amendments - Changes to Design and Construction Requirements for Secondary Suites</u>	Approved. Will apply to building permit applications on or after December 12, 2019.	Previous BC Building Code limited secondary suites to a floor area of not more than 90 square metres and a floor space of less than 40% of the habitable building space; suites also had to be located within a building of residential occupancy containing only one other dwelling unit and located in and part of a building which was considered a single real estate entity. The changes (effective Dec 12, 2019) redefine a secondary suite as a “self-contained dwelling unit located within a building or portion of a building”; the new codes remove the floor area limitations, allow for common spaces and require complete fire separation between units.	LTCs and BIM may have regulations regarding size of secondary suites. The proposed Act change will lift building code limitations, providing more freedom to LTCs/BIM to establish different sizes for secondary suites.	LTCs/BIM may wish to review their secondary suite regulations and amend as required.

COURT DECISIONS	STATUS	BACKGROUND/ KEY IMPLICATIONS TO TRUST AREA	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – PAST	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – FUTURE
		No court decisions affecting Islands Trust identified this quarter.		

NEW RESOURCES	STATUS	SUMMARY	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – PAST	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS - FUTURE
Addressing Abandoned Vessels, Marine Debris and Marine-Sourced Plastics in B.C.	<p>Progress Report released Nov 2019.</p> <p>“What we Heard” report released in February 2020.</p>	<p>In April 2019, Premier Horgan asked Sheila Malcolmson, MLA for Nanaimo, Special Advisor for Marine Debris Protection and Parliamentary Secretary for Environment to find solutions to the issues of abandoned vessels, marine debris, and marine-sourced plastics. Malcolmson will present her findings and recommendations to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, to help develop an action plan.</p> <p>In order to fully understand the gaps, barriers and opportunities, Malcolmson met with interested parties affected by marine debris during the summer and early fall of 2019. These groups included coastal governments, Indigenous Nations, industry, and environmental organizations.</p>	<p>Trustee Rogers will attend the Howe Sound Vessels of Concern / Marine Debris workshop led by Howe Sound BRI on Feb 28, 2020 (speakers from Transport Canada will be present).</p> <p>Feb 2020 - Chair letter to DFO expressing support for Dead Boats Disposal Society application for ghost gear funding.</p> <p>July 2019 – Staff spoke extensively with Ministry staff and provided history of past advocacy.</p> <p>2017 – Islands Trust resolution to UBCM on preventing Polystyrene Foam Pollution in the Marine Environment.</p>	Staff will continue to monitor.

DISCUSSION, PLANNING, CONSERVANCY, ADVOCACY TOPICS	STATUS	SUMMARY	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – PAST	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS - FUTURE
Federal Court of Appeals Ruling on Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project	On Feb 4, 2020, the Federal Court of Appeal rejected claims from several First Nations in BC that the Government of Canada failed to adequately consult First Nations on TMX expansion.	In a 3-0 decision, the Federal Court of Appeals rejected four challenges from First Nations in British Columbia who claimed that federal officials failed to adequately consult them on the proposed Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion, removing the final major barrier hanging over the long-delayed project. The decision also sought to establish a firm line against Indigenous claims that they should have a veto over major natural resource projects deemed to be in the public interest. The judges ruled that “reconciliation does not dictate any particular substantive outcome” on a given resource project. They wrote that requiring a “perfect” level of consultation would in turn create a kind of de facto veto on major projects, and said First Nations “cannot tactically use the consultation process as a means to try to veto it.”	<p>In March 2019, Islands Trust Council unanimously passed the First Nations Reconciliation Declaration and has prioritized reconciliation efforts in its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.</p> <p>At its June 18, 2019 meeting on Galiano Island, the Islands Trust Council expressed its disappointment on learning that the Federal Government planned to continue with the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project.</p> <p>Substantial advocacy since 2011.</p>	Staff will continue to monitor impacts on First Nations relations.
BC Hydro and Clean BC Rebates for EV Charging Stations	Rebates available until March 31, 2020	BC Hydro and CleanBC are offering up to \$4M in rebates to buy and install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at home and at work. Homeowners can get a \$350 provincial rebate and a \$2,000 rebate is available for condominiums, apartments and workplaces.		
Joint UBCM-Provincial Short Term Rental (STR) Committee	Committee will run November 2019 to April 2020	A new provincial – UBCM advisory group will provide the province with policy options to strengthen the regulation of short-term rentals. The committee will outline key considerations and ideas for the Province and local governments for potential STR related policy options to support STR strategies.	Multiple LTCs and Bowen Island Municipality regulate short-term rentals.	Chair Luckham and Vice-Chair Rogers will represent Islands Trust Council.

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BC Coastal Ferry Vision Engagement	Public engagement open Feb 2 – Mar 20.	<p>The government intends to develop a broad provincial vision to ensure the right ferry services are in place in the future. The visioning process may include exploring additional ways of connecting coastal communities, such as: supplementing current services with passenger-only ferries; expanding transportation choices; and innovations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Between October and November 2019, the Province engaged with more than 130 stakeholders in seven communities throughout coastal BC. A Pre-Engagement Regional Forums Summary of Feedback report was posted online in February 2020.</p>	<p>The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure hosted five community meetings in early November 2019 to gather feedback on ferry services, which some Trustees attended.</p> <p>Jan 2020 Chair letter re BC Ferries planning – active transportation and electrification.</p>	Staff will continue to monitor.
CleanBC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy	<p>Public engagement Nov 7, 2019 – Jan 10, 2020.</p> <p>“What We Heard” report to be released early 2020.</p> <p>Additional opportunities for public input expected in early 2020.</p>	<p>The Province is in the process of developing a Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change. In response to record wildfires, extreme weather, increased drought and more frequent flooding, BC is looking to develop policies and programs to support climate resilient communities. The strategy is expected to be finalized in late 2020.</p>	<p>Islands Trust declared a climate emergency in March 2019 and identified climate change as a key pillar in its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Nov 2019 Chair letter re request for greater support for solar energy in rural and remote communities.</p>	<p>Islands Trust has proposed a climate action focussed budget for 2020/21 and will work to apply a climate lens to the Policy Statement Amendment Project, OCPs, and LUBs.</p>

DISCUSSION, PLANNING, CONSERVANCY, ADVOCACY TOPICS	STATUS	SUMMARY	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS – PAST	ISLANDS TRUST ACTIONS - FUTURE
BC Expert Panel on the Future of Housing Supply & Affordability	Public engagement open from Jan 22 – Apr 3, 2020.	<p>The Province hosted conversations about housing with the provincial government on topics like rental housing, poverty reduction, money laundering in real estate and accessibility. The themes from those public engagements are available to the panel.</p> <p>This Expert Panel is specifically looking at housing supply. The Expert Panel will be meeting with local governments, housing experts, and stakeholders in Spring 2020.</p> <p>Ways to provide feedback:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private citizens are encouraged to complete the online feedback form. 2. Organizations and groups can complete the online feedback form or make a 5-page written submission (see written submission guidelines) and send it to: experthousingpanel@gov.bc.ca 		
Trail Strategy Review for British Columbia	Public engagement open Jan 13 – Feb 28, 2020.	<p>Managed by a Provincial Trails Advisory Body (PTAB), the Trail Strategy for B.C. is a collaboration of provincial agencies, recreation organizations, local governments, land users, First Nations, and others from across the province.</p> <p>In 2019, the PTAB, in collaborations with Recreation Sites and Trails B.C., began a process to complete a formal review of the Trails Strategy for B.C. to ensure the continued relevance and importance of the Trails Strategy to recreationists, communities, First Nations, tourism proponents and the province as a whole.</p>		

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BC Old Growth Strategic Review	Public engagement Oct 23, 2019 – Jan 31, 2020. “What we Heard” report expected in Spring 2020.	<p>In July 2019, the Government of British Columbia announced that an independent, two-person panel had been appointed as part of an Old Growth Strategic Review, to undertake public engagement on old growth and provide a report to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.</p> <p>Garry Merkel (professional forester, natural resource expert and member of the Tahltan Nation) and Al Gorley (professional forester and former chair of the Forest Practices Board) will report back to government in spring 2020 with recommendations expected to inform a new approach to old-growth management in British Columbia.</p>		