

Moving from Anarchic Destruction to Sustainable Management of our Beaches



Please help us manage them sustainably for ALL people of BC

Our local regulatory vacuum is part of BC's broken system of environmental management

- As in other places, “regulatory capture” by short-sighted industry results in weak/absent enforcement by federal (DFO), provincial (FLNRO), FN or local governments
- IT relinquishes control over beaches where tenures are controlled by mostly off-island shellfish growers who decide “Normal Farm Practices” = nets, rebar states, high berms, 5 ton trucks on beaches, abandoned derelict equipment, etc.

Our local regulatory vacuum is part of the BC's broken system of environmental management

- DFO does not enforce Conditions of License or Fisheries Act.
- Province accepts no responsibility for Crown Land issues.
- IT is powerless over tenures

How does it (not) work on Denman?

- IT jurisdiction to high water on VI; but LTC often trumped by DFO
- Foreshore (btwn high & low tides) mostly administered by province
- “Harmonised” aquaculture licensing = province assigns tenure + feds issue license
- Local govts (e.g., IT) regulate land use, including offshore, foreshore and nearshore areas within their zoning boundaries

How does it (not) work on Denman?

- Ignoring Denman zoning, province is processing new shellfish applications
- Referrals go out & if no LTC objections then tenure & license awarded
- Referrals don't always reach LTC



How does it (not) work on Denman?

- Misleading or incorrect applications accepted and approved
- Province does not inspect or control tenure boundaries
- DFO doesn't have capacity to enforce conditions of license



What happens in our regulatory vacuum?

- Anything/everything goes (especially during winter storms). Once beach or offshore area is tenured, IT has NO CONTROL, locals are at mercy of off-island tenure holders, sometimes foreign owners, numbered companies



What happens in (y)our regulatory vacuum?

- Overuse and abuse of plastics in aquaculture add to micro-plastics crisis
- Rocks moved to create berms = navigational hazards + destruction of fish habitat



Styrofoam breaks off rafts and crumbles on beaches, especially after storms,

What happens in (y)our regulatory vacuum?

- Nets over clams, proven ineffective, often come loose & now extending to oysters = threat to swimmers, death traps for fish, birds + more plastic waste
- Rebar spikes + plastic fences = lethal threats to swimmers, boaters, marine life
- DFO & FLNRO know but don't act—Do boaters/paddlers/swimmers have to





**(Y)OUR REGULATORY VACUUM =
AN INDUSTRY OUT OF CONTROL**



WE ARE DOING WHAT WE CAN BUT WE CANNOT DO IT ALONE. Islands Trust PLEASE GET INVOLVED



Denman Island Beach Clean up 2012



Denman Island Beach Clean up 2016. For over a decade we've removed 3-4 tons of mostly plastic waste from shellfish industry each year.

2016/10/01



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2016/10/01

What are we asking you for?

Acknowledge our crisis and get involved in solving it. Here are some ways:

- Moratorium on approval of shellfish applications until current problems are solved
- Use and enforce IT zoning to roll back this anarchic & destructive industrialization of shores & adjacent waters

What are we asking you for?

Acknowledge our crisis and get involved in solving it. Here are some ways:

- IT require FLNRO to ensure zoning regulations are met before tenures assigned (as in the past), ensuring respect of islanders Riparian Rights
- Focus IT expertise on addressing marine conservation issues, **not** on promoting shellfish industry and **not** simply deferring to FN who have not created these problems and do not have capacity to deal with them

What are we asking you for? (in handout, not in presentation)

IT mobilise help to protect/restore foreshore through, for example:

- IT ensure tenure boundaries are respected (by FLNRO spot checks)
- FLNRO “Sponsored Crown Grant” for parcels of land to protect (y)our foreshore
- FLNRO “Service Plan” to “Increase (foreshore) ecosystem health by working ...with multi-sector partner groups and FN to restore degraded ecosystems,” e.g., ecosystem restoration, remediation, best management practices”
- FLNRO “Partnership Agreements” in Recreation Sites and Trails BC to implement beach trails under local partnership agreements

THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF US

