

Status of Spartina monitoring and control in Burrard Inlet for 2015

Following consultation with Burrard Inlet Stakeholders earlier this year the City of Port Moody became an active member of the British Columbia Spartina Working Group (BCSWG). Together we developed a 2015 Action Plan for Spartina patens within Port Moody Arm. Signage was installed on the Shoreline Trail to increase public awareness about Spartina along with the installation of three cover plots on the north shore of eastern Port Moody Arm.

In late March of 2015, an archaeological survey of eastern Port Moody with Tsleil-Waututh Nation was conducted. This one-day field assessment of eastern Port Moody Arm was undertaken on behalf of the BCSWG to document archaeological sites, features, and artifacts in relation to Spartina control and monitoring activities. The assessment indicated that as long as we maintain mapping and manual control without using machines, there should be no negative impact.

In mid and late summer we completed Spartina mapping by foot in eastern Port Moody Arm to confirm location and extent of Spartina patens. Spartina mapping along the North and South shores of Burrard Inlet (west of the Indian Arm) were done by boat and foot. In summary, no new Spartina locations were found outside of Port Moody Arm.

Assessment of cover trials to date have demonstrated some degree of control of Spartina patens by limiting seedhead production and reducing overall plant biomass, but rapid re-establishment of Spartina always prevails. A pilot study was initiated this year at the Pacific Coast Terminals (PCT) marsh to evaluate the use of cover trials compared to herbicide on Spartina patens as part of our integrated pest management approach for Spartina. The study is lead by BC SWG members (Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Port Metro Vancouver) and it consists of twelve 2m x 2m plots. We initiated the small plot pilot study since cover trials have not had the ideal control we had hoped for and since Washington State recommended the use of herbicide on Spartina patens based on their success. However, we will continue to incorporate an integrated approach with Spartina where we only use herbicide when manual methods e.g. cover trials do not prove effective.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

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