



Howe Sound/ Átl'ka7tsem Marine Reference Guide

Supporting decision-making and stewardship of marine ecosystem health in Howe Sound/Átl'ka7tsem – within the ancestral and unceded territory of the Squamish Nation

Our vision is that First Nations, governments, stakeholders, and communities work together to achieve positive outcomes that benefit current and future generations of human and aquatic life in Howe Sound/Átl'ka7tsem

About Us

Our goal is to build capacity to restore, protect and be stewards of the Sound's marine health, biodiversity, and human values. To accomplish this goal, First Nations, governments, and marine sectors (tourism, industry, recreation, conservation and education) are collaboratively leading and implementing the initiative. The marine reference guide is non-binding and respects the rights and title, jurisdictions and processes of existing First Nations, governments, and sectors.

Deliverables

- An online interactive map that displays spatial data associated with the Sound's marine environment and watersheds and visualizes where values overlap
- Narrative resources that describe best practices to protect significant ecological and human values

Outcomes

- Healthy marine environment, informed decision-making and marine planning, and strengthened community relationships

Guiding principles

- Acknowledge that all groups have a **shared responsibility** to protect and preserve the Sound's marine environmental health
- Adopt an **ecosystem and watershed approach** that acknowledges the intrinsic relationship between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
- Recognize that knowledge gathering is an **adaptive process**
- Respect** the natural world, First Nations rights and title, and the rights and responsibilities of marine sectors and communities
- Ensure **transparency** with all decision-making and communication
- Ensure **inclusivity** of all groups impacted by this project and strengthen **trust** and respect within the Sound's community
- Transforming **knowledge into action**



*A coonstripe shrimp hides in a glass sponge.
Photo credit: Adam Taylor*

For more information on this project and ways you can become involved please see howesoundguide.ca or contact howesoundguide@gmail.com

