

CBCYC Meeting Summary for Region 1 – Dec 19.23 –

Council of BC Yacht Clubs Report Phil Aldrich

CBCYC convened a special meeting December 18 to discuss events involving the potential loss of dock facilities (private and commercial) throughout the Shíshálh First Nation's ancestral territories (Pender Harbour area). CBCYC is very concerned that precedents are being set province-wide that will unfavourably effect all clubs and marinas with moorage facilities.

PENDER HARBOUR and SURROUNDING AREA

The BC government and the Shíshálh First Nation have come up with a joint agreement on new rules and regulations in a Dock Management Plan (DMP) that will apply to all private and commercial docks within Pender Harbour and the surrounding area that now will include the coast from Roberts Creek north to Jarvis Inlet. Because of protests from many dock owners and commercial marinas, the deadline for comment on this proposed DMP has been delayed until January 12. CBCYC believes this period is still too short for proper review and comment before the plan is instituted. Key concerns are:

1. Private docks will be limited to safely handling only 30' boats. All boathouses will be deemed unacceptable.
2. Commercial docks will limit capacity to roughly 600' of dock space or 20 vessels 30' long, with a vessel maximum of 40'
3. Tenures proposed are for 10 years for private docks and 30 years for commercial marinas. Docks are to be inspected annually and professionally at significant expense, and tenure renewals require exhaustive submissions to meet new standards. No grandfathering of existing tenures will be permitted.
4. The regional economic impact resulting from a reduction in moorage capacity and an increase in costs will have a huge negative effect on the region.

CBCYC is working with several of the local groups to petition the government to extend the comment period and Council is proposing that BC and the shíshálh work with CBCYC to develop a more reasonable plan that will take boater's interests into consideration and apply more generally to other coastal locations. For details on the DMP now proposed visit comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications and click on 'Find' then enter 2412772

LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY

An injunction was filed on December 8 by LMS to prevent the ejection of numerous floating homes and 170 moored vessels from their slips by the end of this year. The injunction was filed against the Province, the township and the township's development company to prevent the eviction until at least the end of their lease in 2029. The Stz'uminus First Nation interceded as an interested party. A judge was assigned to hear the submissions from all parties on December 19, but concluded not enough time was available that day for adequate review of all submissions. LMS endeavoured to find an interim solution with other parties to preserve the status quo until a full court day was available, but an agreement could not be reached. LMS will thus refile this week with a new judge to ask that the status quo be held in place for moored tenants until the injunction could be heard in the new year. CBCYC is committed to keeping our member clubs informed on developments as they occur. Stay tuned!

More information about this saga can be provided by Richard Wiefelspuett, Executive Director – Ladysmith Maritime Society at Richard.Wiefelspuett@lmsmarina.ca

MOSQUITO CREEK MARINA

On December 6, the Squamish First Nation that owns the marina held a conference call with all its moored tenants. Tenants were informed that the 50-year-old docks were at the end of their serviceable life and now pose a potential safety hazard that can only be dealt with by their removal by May 31, 2024. Floating home tenants that are using the marina as a primary residence were told they would not be evicted, although possibly relocated. Several hundred boaters, on the other hand, were told they would have to find other moorage. This will place another huge demand on the little available moorage in the lower mainland. Surprisingly, spokesperson Gary Muuren confirmed no planning had been done to date to determine what will replace the existing moorage, nor would he say that tenants could be assured of any moorage for recreational boats in the future.

Your CBCYC executive is lobbying government and collaborating with these effected groups where possible to protect the interests of recreational boaters and to promote better, more practical decision-making by both the Province and the First Nations involved.