

**ISLANDS TRUST
BRIEFING****DATE:** February 23, 2011

TOPIC: RIPARIAN AREA REGULATION UPDATE**DIRECTED TO:** Trust Council**CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE: To update the Trust Council, through the Local Planning Committee, on the status of implementation of the Riparian Area Regulation in the Islands Trust Area.

BACKGROUND: The provincial Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) was enacted in 2005 to protect fish and fish habitat in riparian areas. The Islands Trust has been working collaboratively with the BC Ministry of Environment (MoE) to expedite the implementation of the RAR in the Islands Trust Area. This work has consisted of interpretative mapping of over 700 watersheds by UBC and the subsequent categorization by MoE of which watersheds fall under the requirements of the RAR.

Due to a lack of confirmed data on three islands (Lasqueti, Hornby and Mayne) the Ministry has introduced a temporary category of "unverified" for a few specific watersheds until such time as they are able to confirm whether these watersheds fall under the RAR. Subsequent work is also required with the Ministry to complete this work for the Gambier Local Trust Area.

As a function of recent meetings with MoE, a letter from MoE Vancouver Island Region confirming the designation of which watersheds fall under the RAR in their region and within the Islands Trust Area is expected in the near future. The letter will also outline the ongoing process to update and sustain this data base for years to come. This arrangement is unique in British Columbia and the letter will state that, upon completion of the associated local government legislative action required by the RAR, the Islands Trust will be considered compliant with the RAR.

On February 10th, 2011 the planners of the Islands Trust met to review a model staff report for Local Trust Committees on RAR implementation. This model will now be used by Island Planners to request Local Trust Committee consideration of bylaw amendments to facilitate appropriate development permit area designations as soon as possible.

ATTACHMENT: No

FOLLOW-UP: DLPS will;

1. monitor and report upon the completion of legislative action to fully implement the RAR in the Local Trust Areas;
2. in collaboration with the Vancouver Island Region of MoE, expedite the final categorization of all "unverified" watersheds in the Islands Trust Area; and
3. in collaboration with the Lower Mainland Region of MoE, expedite the designation of watersheds falling under the RAR in the Gambier Local Trust Area.

PREPARED BY: Mac Fraser, DLPS

SUBMITTED BY: Local Planning Committee

REVIEWED BY: 
(Chief Administrative Officer)

REVIEWED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

February 22, 2011

OTHER REVIEW:

LPC – February 17, 2011