



Tragedy of the Stakeholders: 21 Years of Canada's Ocean Act and STILL NO FULLY PROTECTED MARINE RESERVES IN CANADA: What the Marine Life Sanctuaries Society (MLSS BC) is Doing About It

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INTRODUCTION

In 1990, the Canadian Federal Government passed the Oceans Act, which committed to the designation of significant amounts of Canada's coastline and undersea habitat as special areas **FULLY PROTECTED** from detrimental human impacts.



Early success: What has MLSS done to create marine reserves in Canada?

- 1991: MLSS with the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada and the Born Free Foundation staged the **first ever International Marine Protected Areas conference in Vancouver**
- keynote speaker Dr. Bill Ballantine of Leigh Marine Laboratory, New Zealand
- 1993: MLSS made Whytecliffe Park in West Vancouver a fully protected Marine Protected Area (MPA)
- despite 20 years of process, **Whytecliffe remains the only permanent fully protected marine reserve in Canada**

MLSS Marine Stewardship:

- community based "Neighborhood watch at sea"
- voluntary infraction observation and reporting, voluntary no take program
- recognizes that governing authorities have limited resources to prevent poaching and habitat damage
- local stewardship pilot project by the **Rendezvous Dive Lodge** to protect Rainy Bay, Barclay Sound
- "Just say no to harvest", a voluntary no take initiative for divers and fishers

Marine Conservation and Education:

- Outreach to Youth
- **MLSS conducts seashore outreach workshops** for youth in marine ecology
- teaching kids to value the sea and its inhabitants
- interact with marine life in a respectful, non-consumptive fashion

MPAs: PROCESS OR PROGRESS?

In the words of MPA guru Dr. Bill Ballantine:
"You can go there, you can look, but you can't kill anything or remove anything."

No harvesting
No dumping
No pollution
No industrial activities

EVER

"Anything else is NOT a real marine reserve. It's what was left after someone went for a profit."

Citizen Science and Advocacy: What does MLSS do?
Works at a community level:
LOBBY for fully protected marine reserves in Canada
EDUCATE the young in care of the marine environment
DISCOVER marine species distribution and diversity
INVENT technology for non-invasive study of marine life
INFORM the public and legislators through social media
STEWARD marine environment for future generations
PROTECT marine environment from poaching and damage

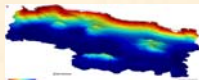


MLSS Discoveries:

- Glass sponge bioherms and soft coral in Howe Sound
 - new sites and range extensions for the *Approcralistes vastus* sponge reef and sponge bioherm
 - the first evidence in Howe Sound of gorgonian soft corals *Swilia pacifica* colonies (shown above off the shore of Bowen Island)
- You can view MLSS discoveries on YouTube at**
http://www.mlssbc.com/media_gallery/video_gallery

www.mlssbc.com
604-700-4656

- MLSS Mooring Buoys Program:**
- Marine organisms in cold temperate oceans such as the Salish Sea tend to be slow growing
 - For example, the red sea urchin illustrated here could be up to 140 years old
 - Fragile life is frequently damaged by boat anchoring
 - Mooring buoys provide an alternative to using anchors
 - By putting mooring buoys on popular dive sites, MLSS and UCBC have preserved long lived marine organisms that could take centuries to reach back



MLSS Undersea Technology Development:

- MLSS marine technology wizards DIY **underwater technology and bathymetry surveys** to create three dimensional GPS charts of critical rockfish habitats and sponge bioherms in Howe Sound



"Making the world a better place and making yourself a better person."

Marine Life Sanctuaries Society
Conservation, Science, Outreach to Protect BC's Oceans

MLSS

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