

HOWE SOUND COMMUNITY FORUM

WEBINAR - *hosted by the Islands Trust*

Provincial Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF) & Planning for May 2014 Workshop on Vision & Values

February 21, 2014, 9:30-11:30

PARTICIPANTS: 40 participants, including local government officials and staff from 10 communities, and community organizations as observers.

ORGANIZERS: Aleksandra Brzozowski, Jan Hagedorn, Kate-Louise Stamford, David Beeston, with support from Ruth Simons, Future of Howe Sound Society, and the participation of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), including Kai Elmaur, Communications Coordinator for the CEF project team and Jeff Juthans, Land and Resource Specialist for FLNRO South Coast Region.

GOAL: To learn more about the B.C. Government's "Cumulative Effects Framework" (CEF) being proposed as a management planning tool for Howe Sound, and begin to design a productive and focused Vision and Values Workshop on May 2nd, 2014.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To allow B.C. Government staff to present more information on the CEF, share responses to key Forum questions and comments from the January meeting and answer additional questions.
2. To provide comments on a draft outline for a Forum "Vision and Values" workshop in May.

CONTEXT FOR THE WEBINAR: On January 14th, the Forum spent most of its time hearing about the Provincial Government response to the Forum's request to senior governments for comprehensive land and marine planning for Howe Sound. MLA Jordan Sturdy and staff of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) presented the BC Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF) as a possible tool for Forum consideration. See the meeting summary here:

<http://futureofhowesound.org/campaigns/howesoundfuture/howesoundfuture/> After the meeting, all questions raised by participants were sent to the FLNRO team, who then prepared a "Forum CEF Q & A Part 1" document outlining Provincial responses to the questions. FLNRO also sent a report to the Forum on how the CEF is being used in North-eastern BC. At the February 21st webinar, Kai Elmauer of FLNRO did a presentation clarifying aspects of the CEF, with a focus on the questions raised at the January meeting. Forum members then had another opportunity to ask questions and hear responses. These questions are summarized on page 2 below, along with a several questions from the January meeting that still need clarification.

At the January meeting, Forum members also agreed that a useful next step would be to hold a "Visions and Values Workshop" to show continued local government commitment and leadership, and to support their request for senior government collaboration and resources for Howe Sound management planning in fiscal year 2013/14. The aim of the May 2014 workshop is to identify common vision and values as a foundation for further collaboration, possibly using the CEF and other tools. Workshop discussions will build on the results of the April 2013 "Future of Howe Sound Forum", and other planning and management initiative in the area. Draft workshop Goals and Objectives were presented at the webinar for Forum feedback, revised in response to suggestions, and are listed on page 4 below, along with a very draft agenda. Please send additional feedback to ruth.simons@futureofhowesound.org by March 24th, 2014.

WEBINAR AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC
9:30-9:40	Welcome & Opening
9:40 – 10:20	CEA Framework: Presentation and Q & A - Forum members' response
10:20-10:35	Draft Outline for May Forum Workshop: Presentation & Feedback
10:35-11:10	Additional time for questions & discussion of Next Steps

WEBINAR QUESTIONS – GROUPED BY TOPIC

The FLNRO team will outline provincial responses to the more technical questions below in a “Forum CEF Q and A – Part 2”, to be sent later in March. Questions on process and how the CEF might be used in Howe Sound will be addressed during further discussions between FLNRO and the Forum.

A. Impacts of a CEA on decision-making?

- How will decisions be made differently after a CEA process is completed – at provincial, regional and municipal levels?
- Is there a legislative component to a CEA? What legislative outcomes could come as a result of the CEA information, e.g., could it be to preserve and protect certain areas in Howe Sound? Could it be used as a basis for zoning for tourism, industry, conservation?
- What impacts could a CEA have on current development initiatives in Howe Sound, particularly plans to log two new woodlots on Gambier and proposals for a gravel mine at McNab, a possible garbage incinerator and an LNG operation at Woodfibre?
- Could the goal of creating a marine and land management plan be realized through the CEA process? (Is this a replacement for an LRMP?)

B. What's included in the CEA process?

- What are the opportunities for creating new objectives that aren't included within current provincial legal policy objectives?
- How are species and ecosystems at risk (SEAR) incorporated into a CEA? This is a federal government program with provincial and regional implications.
- What is the value that captures local interests in a CEA, i.e., the people who live in this place – Howe Sound? (Activities in Howe Sound affects people – these affected people, local governments and First Nations have “Primacy of Place”.)
- Can we see any results from the pilot projects, including any marine data?
- Are there specific time frames for the assessment process?
 - Is there a reasonable amount of time that stakeholders can expect the assessment will take? (Timing is key so we can be proactive not reactive to proposed activities and land use decisions.)
 - Once the CEA is developed and being reviewed, what roles are possible for the Forum (collective of elected officials representing the local interests of citizens) and the public?

C. How are values treated in a CEA?

- In terms of environmental values, who is responsible for pulling together baseline studies/information to show the current status of any species or ecosystem?
- Who decides what species or ecosystems to “value”?
- Is there a draft list of marine values that the province is working with? NOTE:
 - The Sea to Sky Habitat Atlas (2003/04) has an excellent baseline of environmental data for Howe Sound <http://cmnbc.ca> - includes Provincial & Federal data plus local government and community based information.
- Are values in the assessment weighted, e.g., is a biodiversity value, or a threatened species value,

considered equal to a water quality, visual quality or employment value?

- In generating these “heat maps”, is each overlapping value considered to have a value of 1?
- If this is the case, is there a way for regions to suggest that some values are greater than others?
- This CEA framework sample is organized from a resource extraction point of view; would it be useful to organize it from a parks, conservation or recreation point of view?
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Additional questions from January Forum meeting that still need to be addressed during future discussions between FLNRO and the Forum.

- How will the CEA be resourced?
- Who makes the [eventual] decisions? It’s an assessment but who decides [on each step] within the CEA process?
- The process may include public consultation but what if identified local/regional values are not “in synch” with provincial and federal policies/directions?
- What are the science and research components of a CEA, if any?
 - What quantitative methods are used for analysis?
 - How is research funded as part of a CEA?
- What is done to monitor and evaluate the results of the CEA?

HOWE SOUND COMMUNITY FORUM

Vision and Values Workshop – May 2, 2014, 10:00 – 4:00 pm

DRAFT AGENDA #2, March 13, 2014 – revised based on February feedback

GOAL: To identify a common vision, goals and values to be used as the foundation for a focused management planning process for Howe Sound.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To review the values listed in the Provincial Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF), and suggest how they can be adapted to the Howe Sound context.
2. To review information on vision, values and goals found in existing policies and plans of organizations represented on the Forum as the basis for outlining a common vision and values for management planning in Howe Sound (based on a short compendium prepared in advance).
3. To identify information from other regional initiatives that can also be used to create the above vision, values and goals (e.g., Sea to Sky LRMP, April 2013 Future of Howe Sound Forum, research initiatives).
4. To decide if the Forum will formally commit to participation in a “Cumulative Effects Assessment” (CEA) for Howe Sound, to be conducted within the B.C. Government CEF, and if so, identify how the workshop results will feed into the CEA. [If not, what other tool could be used?]
5. To identify next steps in the process: What? Who? When? Funding options?

DRAFT AGENDA – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

TOPIC	ACTIVITY
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations Welcome & Opening Prayer • Participant introductions • Review of workshop goal, objectives and format
BC Cumulative Effects Framework: role of vision and values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on BC Government’s CEA Framework: current status • Interactive session/Discussion – small groups, then large?
Forum Organizations: vision and values in policies and plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on vision and values in current policies/plans that are relevant to Howe Sound management planning • Interactive session/Discussion – small groups, then large?
Other Area Initiatives: vision and values information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future of Howe Sound Forum April 2013 & other (Howe Sound Aquatic Forum, DSF, etc.) • Discussion – small groups, then large?
Forum decision on CEA participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on BC CEA Framework: list of values and steps • Discussion and decision
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop Report received by Forum members • Possible governance? collaborative structures/processes