

From: KATHLEEN MASER [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 10:37 AM
To: SSInfo
Subject: Baker Beach Green Shoring Proposal
Attachments: Riches at Every Turn.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I believe that today is the last day for submissions opposing the Baker Beach Green Shoring proposal by Aurora Professional Group. The pertinent File # is 1415573.

Thank you for including both the attached letter and the copy of the letter in the email below.

Sincerely Kathleen Maser

on behalf of Nature Salt Spring

Genevieve Lemon

Sun, Nov 3,

to me

Hi, I signed the petition and wrote this but don't know where to send it. If it's useful, you can send it wherever you like. Hope it helps.

I am writing to oppose the plan for fortifying Baker Beach. While I understand the property owners' perspective, Baker Beach is more than just a platform for properties. It exists as an entity of its own, and one which is not in need of 'nourishment.' If ecosystem nourishment were needed, we would be framing the proposal with an environmental slant. To describe gravel as 'nourishment' is fundamentally and semantically wrong, anyways. Who are we kidding? We will destroy the beach for the sake of a few houses.

Baker Beach has been a tremendous source of nourishment for my family. We find many crabs, lovely blue chiton shells, flapping fish, bumpy starfish, and a sense of peace when we go there. Let us think of what an untouched ecosystem can do for us, and what will be lost if we carelessly fill it with unnatural materials. We know it is the wrong thing to do, so why are we considering it at all? When faced with a difficult choice, we want to be the one person who does the brave thing. Let's do that now.

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Genevieve

Genevieve Maser

Riches at Every Turn

“Astoundingly rich diversity!” exclaim members of our Club Nature Salt Spring as they marvel at what Baker Beach has to offer for nature outings. We have had shoreline seine pulls on other Salt Spring beaches, but nothing compares to those on Baker Beach where the eel grass beds abound. Pipe fish, flat fish, and an eclectic array of other species excited both children and adults on an outing last summer.

During the 2023 Christmas Bird Count our birders were astonished by the hundreds of Western Grebes and Surf Scoters, to name a few of the species observed just off the beach. These congregations of water birds weren't just riding out stormy weather on the east side of the island that day but were diving to feed and fuel up on the wealth of life below the surface.

In early summer the beach is alive with Kingfishers, Oyster Catchers, Great Blue Herons, and of course our emblematic Bald Eagles fishing to fill the hungry mouths of their nestlings. BC's renowned eagle expert, David Hancock informs us that 80% of the bones found in eagle nests around the Salish Sea are from the Plainfin Midshipman, a remarkable species of fish which itself, nests on these beaches.

Now this fall, to see signs posted along the beach that a few citizens living on properties above are requesting alteration of the foreshore for bank stabilization, is very disturbing!

Baffling too, are the assertions of the 'green shoring company' Aurora Professional Group, engaged by these residents, that the delivery of barge loads of rocks, gravel and sand will not harm the beach and that the works will prevent future storms and king tides from further eroding the slope on which their houses are perched, all the while simultaneously preserving critical habitats for wildlife! This is magical thinking and ecologically unsound. Our members know that these actions will bring irreparable harm to a magnificent ecosystem. This is NOT a beach to be tampered with.

Nature Salt Spring members: Kathleen Maser, David Denning, Pat Miller, Peter McAllister, Jean Wilkinson, Giselle Paquet and Gail Bryn-Jones