


February 5, 2025

Dear Salt Spring Trustees and Planners,

I am writing to assure you that I am one of many who are still concerned about the protection of Baker Beach and Application file # 1415573. I am not the only one who continues, virtually on a daily basis, to do research, reach out to expert individuals either in Environmental Societies or Universities, walk the beach, and talk and worry with others.

Here are some new things I've learned:

- According to our local Island Wildlife Rescue Centre's last magazine, "75% of young herons don't survive to see their first birthday. Most young herons that leave the nest successfully, die of starvation due to *lack of foraging shallow water fish* and as a result of severe weather". We know the Plainfin Midshipman fish that spawn on Baker Beach are an essential source of fledgling heron food. I believe that it is essential that the spawning grounds of these fish, a vital source of food, is not jeopardized.
- Two new terms have been added to my 'beach protection vocabulary'. They are:
  - o Degree of Certainty – the likelihood of something happening. According to a UNBC Environmental professor I spoke with, usual projections are to the year 2050; sometimes, to 2080.
    - How does this relate? I believe the application makes predictions for the year 2100 for sea level rise. I wonder if this extreme projection then corresponds to the extreme measure of importing a barge-load of aggregate onto Baker Beach, creating 5m. 'loaves' and placing large rocks over 20% of the ½ km. of beach in the proposal?
    - We know there are examples of more natural mitigation. Why aren't they being used?
  - o Probability and Impact – a tool used in qualitative risk analysis to evaluate the probability and impact of identified risks. I learned about this from a marine biologist and environmentalist. She suggested that all mitigation should be seen through this lens.
    - I have included a matrix below. Although the language relates to construction projects, the concept is applicable to environmental projects.
    - How does this relate? I learned that Salt Spring has 133 km. of shoreline. As climate changes, storms become more extreme, we know that more property owners along the shoreline will be concerned about their assets. How do we find the right balance between the concern for personal property and concern for dynamic and naturally healthy beaches?
    - Shoreline mitigation must be as environmentally cautious as possible. At every opportunity, best practices, suitability and the least (or zero) impact should be employed.
- The BC government has a very clear stance on the protection of estuaries and Baker Beach is part of one of the largest estuaries on Salt Spring. It deserves special consideration.
  - o Enhancing BC Estuaries
    - <https://www.naturetrust.bc.ca/our-projects/enhancing-bc-estuaries>

- Ecosystems in BC at Risk
  - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/species-ecosystems-at-risk>
  - CRD Estuary Ecosystems
  - BC Conservation Data Centre Ministry of Environment PO Box 9338, Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9M2 <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/> 
- CRD Estuary Ecosystems
  - <https://www.crd.bc.ca/education/protection-stewardship/biodiversity>

I am also curious about what information the Salt Spring LTC received from the Trust Conservancy and the Trust Executive Committee on this issue?

And, lastly, I know there have been changes to the application as they work with the planner. What I do not see changed are the 2 spaces in the application that has information about First Nation consultation. Again, I will say that I sincerely hope that there will be no decision until there is First Nation's assessment of this project.

I have other information pending replies from several other sources. I will report in after I learn more.

Thank you for your continued good work and care for preserving and protecting Baker Beach,  
Debbie Magnusson


## Difference Between Probability and Impact Matrix – (Although the language used is regarding construction projects, I believe the concept can be applied to environmental projects. D. Magnusson)

By [Arul Moses](#)

<https://www.knowledgehut.com/blog/project-management/probability-and-impact-matrix>

Updated on Oct 17, 2023

Probability	Impact
How likely the risk is to occur	What would happen if the risk materialized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discoverability</li> <li>Reproducibility</li> <li>Exploitability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affected users</li> <li>Damage Potential</li> </ul>
Uncertainty Dimension	Effect Dimension
Very Low probability – not worth considering	Very low impact – not significant to project
Low Probability – unlikely to occur	Low impact – can be managed without mitigation
Medium probability – realistic chance of occurrence	Medium impact – may require mitigation (in the case of the Baker Beach Project, it might mean changes to the proposed mitigation – eg. -Only proceeding after a 5-year study is done)
High probability – likely to occur	High impact – significant impact on cost / schedule (in the case of the Baker Beach Project, it might mean a different mitigation altogether)
Very high probability – almost certain to occur	Very high impact – can be a “project killer”