



Seal and wildlife feeding prohibited at Fisherman's Wharf

Harbour Authority moves to further protect safety and environment at popular attraction

April 12, 2017, Victoria, BC – As a steward of the sustainability of Victoria's harbour, in 2017 the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority will take steps to proactively limit public feeding of wildlife, including seals, at Fisherman's Wharf.

Research by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has shown that hand-feeding of marine mammals damages ecosystems, habituating wildlife and affecting their ability to thrive in natural environments. Seal feeding at Fisherman's Wharf has also become a public safety hazard, attracting other aggressive wildlife like river otters and gulls to the docks.

"We know that the practice of hand-feeding marine wildlife from our docks is dangerous and unsustainable," says Al-Nashir Charania, environmental projects coordinator at the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority. "Our goal with this is to help change public behaviour over time, in alignment with measures taken by regulators including Fisheries and Oceans."

Visitors to Fisherman's Wharf will see improved signage on the docks, and opportunities for interpretation and education through the summer season. A plan for permanent interpretation panels on the docks is underway. "Fisherman's Wharf is one of the most popular attractions in Victoria," Charania says. "We don't expect that to change."

A key destination on Victoria's David Foster Harbour Pathway, Fisherman's Wharf is owned and managed by the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority. It is a vibrant community of float homes, commercial fishing vessels, live-aboard moorage, and commercial businesses that attracts visitors year-round.

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About Greater Victoria Harbour Authority

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA) is a not-for-profit organization governed by a local Board of Directors. It owns and operates deep water, marina and upland holdings throughout Victoria's harbour including the large vessel Ogden Point port facility where a dynamic cruise tourism industry contributes over \$100 million annually to the regional economy; the Fisherman's Wharf float home community and small business hub; and the Inner Harbour's luxury yacht and marine tourism facility at Ship Point.

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